

Aladdin recovered from his fear and said: "Well, tell me what to do, and I will obey."—"Very well," replied the man; "take hold of this ring and lift up the stone." Aladdin quickly did so, and found that there was a small opening, at the bottom of which was a little door, with steps below. "Now," said the magician, "you must go to the bottom of these steps. There an open door leads into three great halls. In each of these, on both sides, you will see four bronze vases of great size, full of gold and silver. These you must not touch. Through all of these halls you must go, but be careful that your clothing does not brush against the walls, or you will die instantly. At the end of the last hall is a door through which you will enter a beautiful garden, filled with trees laden with wonderful fruit. Here you will see a path which will lead to the bottom of a flight of steps, above which is a terrace. Here also is a niche, and in it a lighted lamp. Take the lamp and turn out the light. Pour out the oil, and carry away the lamp in your bosom. If you desire any of the fruit, you may gather as much as you wish."

When he had finished, the magician took off a ring and gave it to his nephew. Aladdin jumped into the opening and began to carry out all the directions given him. He carefully walked through the halls, and, without stopping once, reached the niche and took out the lamp. On his way back, he picked great quantities of fruit. It was queer fruit—white pearls, sparkling diamonds, deep crimson rubies, and green emeralds.

At last he was at the bottom of the steps above which stood the magician. Aladdin called: "Help me up."—"Give me the lamp, first," said the magician; "for it will hinder you."—"No; it is all right. I will give it to you when I am out."

Despite the stranger's insistence, Aladdin refused to give up the lamp. The magician then became angry. He threw some perfume on the fire, uttered a few magic words, and the entrance to the cave was closed. Aladdin cried for help, but to no avail. For two days he remained there, without food or drink. Then suddenly, by accident, he touched the ring on his finger. Immediately a great spirit rose before him. "What dost thou wish? I am the slave of the owner of this ring, and, therefore, wait to obey thy command." So spoke the spirit, or genie. Aladdin then cried: "Take me out of this place." At once he found himself on the road home. Fainting with hunger, he reached his mother's door. She was overjoyed to see him, and gave him food. The next morning, when he awoke, Aladdin asked for more food, but his mother sadly replied: "My dear son, there is no food. I have, however, some cottons all spun which I will sell."