

"Very well, then," said the stranger, "you shall come with me to-morrow and I will buy you some proper clothes, for all rich merchants wear handsome clothing."

21. Aladdin's mother thought this kind stranger must be her husband's brother; but he was not. He was a clever Ma-gi'-cian, able to do wonderful tricks (about which you shall hear), but he was a bad man. The poor widow thanked the man for his great kindness, and then brought in the supper.

22. The Magician, as we will now call him, did not really care about helping Aladdin, but he wanted Aladdin to help him. He knew of a most wonderful lamp that was hid in a cave. If he had this lamp he could have, or do, whatever he wished. But the lamp must be given to him; it would be of no use if he went to the cave and brought it away himself. He, therefore, made up his mind that Aladdin should get the lamp and give it to him; that was why he made friends with Aladdin and pretended to be his uncle.

23. Next day, the Magician took Aladdin to a merchant's shop, and bought him some very beautiful clothes.