

never been a real one, but one that had been built by magic. "My dear Emperor," said he, "you had better have Aladdin taken prisoner."

17. At the end of eight days, as Aladdin was returning from hunting, the Emperor's soldiers seized him. Aladdin felt he had done nothing wrong; but he was brought before the Emperor, who ordered his head to be cut off the next day. He would not allow Aladdin to speak a word.

18. The people loved Aladdin for the kind things he had done for them, and when they heard that he was to be put to death, great crowds came in the streets, and began fighting the Emperor's soldiers who had taken Aladdin prisoner. The Emperor was frightened, so he sent word to the keeper of the prison that Aladdin should be set at liberty again.

19. When Aladdin had been set free, he went at once to the Emperor, and said, "Sire, in what way have I displeased you, that you have treated me so unkindly?"

The Emperor said, "Why do you ask? Look out of the window; tell me, where is the palace you built?"