

2. "Come along, my boy," said his uncle, "and I will show you many fine things." He then led Aladdin out of the town. They walked a long way into the country, and at last came to a narrow valley between two mountains.

Here the Magician stopped, and they sat down to rest by a stream of clear water. "We will go no further now," said he, "for we are both weary, but I will show you some wonderful things. Gather some dry sticks to make a fire, whilst I strike a light."

3. Aladdin soon found quite a large number of loose sticks, which he placed in a heap, one across the other, ready to light.

The Magician set fire to them, and, when they were all ablaze, he threw amongst them some magic powder, which he had brought with him.

4. As soon as he had done this, there was a loud noise; the earth trembled, and then opened at his feet. In the opening was a large stone with a brass ring fixed in it.

5. Aladdin was so frightened that he would have run from the spot, had not the Magician caught hold of him.