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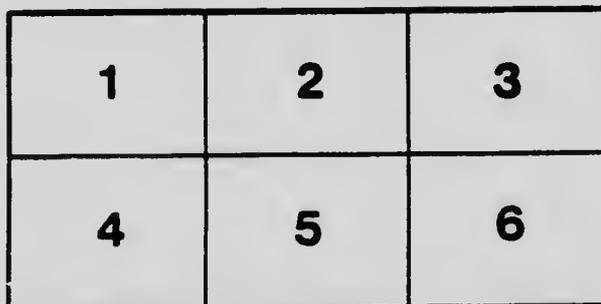
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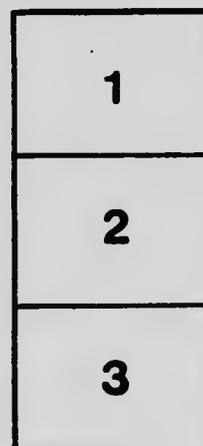
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AL

No. 20.

# HT STORY READERS.

*Grade II.*

## Aladdin

AND THE

## Wonderful Lamp.

FROM

"THE ARABIAN NIGHTS."

*Prepared by Mrs. L. WALKER.*

*Printed in England.*

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# ALADDIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP.

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## CHAPTER I.

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### ALADDIN'S UNCLE.

**O**NCE upon a time, in the land of China, there lived a poor tailor. He was very poor, for he did not earn much money. He could scarcely buy as much food as would keep his wife, his only son, and himself from starving.

2. His son's name was Aladdin. You will say this was a nice name for such a poor boy, but I am sorry to say that Aladdin was not a very good boy. His parents had been too kind to him, and had let him have his own way, and so he grew up to be very careless. He liked playing games in the streets far better than minding what his father and mother said to him.

3. To be a tailor, you must learn how to sew with a needle. Aladdin learnt to sew neatly in his father's shop, and he would do his work quite well whilst his father looked at him. But when his father went out of the shop, if only for a minute, and Aladdin was left alone, then

down would go his work, and off he would rush into the streets to play. Some children in school stop their work, in just the same way, when their teacher goes out of the room. Don't they?

4. At last Aladdin's poor father became so weary and sad at having to work so hard, with no one to help him, that he grew sick, and died.

You would think that Aladdin would try to work now, and keep his mother; but no, he did not. He became more idle than ever, and stayed out of doors all day, often until quite late at night.

5. One day, when he was playing in the streets with some boys, who were as careless as he was, a stranger came up to him. The man looked into Aladdin's face, and then said "What is your name?" "They call me Aladdin," said the boy at once.

6. When the strange man saw that Aladdin was a quick and sharp boy, he took hold of his hand and led him away from the other boys. After they had gone a few yards down the street, the man said, "Boy, tell me; was not your father a tailor?"

"He was, sir," replied Aladdin, "but he has been dead a long time."

7. At these words the strange man threw his arms round Aladdin's neck and kissed him many times on both cheeks. Then he said, "Boy, I am your uncle. When I saw you, I knew you were my brother's son, because you are so like your poor father."

8. The man then gave Aladdin a handful of money. "Go home to your mother, my boy; give her this money with my love, and tell her I will visit her to-morrow."

9. Aladdin ran home to his mother, full of joy, with the money his uncle had given him.

"Mother," said he, quite out of breath with running, "have I an uncle?"

"No, my son," replied his mother, "I do not think your father had a brother."

10. "But, mother, I have just come from a man who calls himself my uncle," answered Aladdin, "and he says father was his brother. He cried, and kissed me, when I told him father was dead, and then he gave me this money for you, and sent his love along with it. He is coming to see you to-morrow."

“Indeed, my boy, I do not remember that your father had a brother, so this man cannot be your uncle. If your father had had a brother, he would have told me so.”

11. The next day, when Aladdin was playing in the street, in another part of the town, the strange man met him again. After kissing him, he placed two pieces of gold in his hand, saying, “Carry these to your mother. Tell her I will come to-night and see her, and ask her to get a nice supper ready. Now show me where you live.”

12. They passed through the town, and Aladdin pointed out his mother's house. He then ran home with the two pieces of gold which the man had given him.

When Aladdin's mother saw the money, she wondered who the stranger could be. She lit the lamp, and made up the fire, and then began to get the supper ready.

13. As soon as it was dark, there was a loud knock at the door. Aladdin went to open it, and there stood the strange man with a large basket on his arm. The basket was full of all kinds of nice fruit, which he had brought to eat after supper.

He gave the basket to Aladdin, then shook hands with his mother, and said to her, "Pray let me sit in the place where my poor brother, the tailor, used to sit."

14. Then Aladdin's mother led him to the sofa, and pointed out the place where her husband always sat.

The strange man sat down, and at once burst into tears. "Alas, my poor brother!" said he, "how unhappy I am! Why did I not come soon enough to see you before you died, and embrace you once again?"

15. After a while he began to talk to Aladdin's mother, and called her his sister.

He told her he had been going from place to place for forty years. He had been in many far countries, and that was why he had never seen her before; but someone had told him that his brother was dead, and so he had come home to see after his affairs.

16. On hearing her husband's name, the poor tailor's wife burst out crying, for he had been a kind husband, and had worked hard for her; and now she was a poor, lonely widow.

Then the strange man turned to Aladdin, and said, "What do you work at, my lad?"

17. The boy was ashamed and hung down his head, but his mother answered for him; "I am sorry to say Aladdin is a very idle youth, and does not work as he ought to do. His father tried to teach him his trade, but the boy would not learn.

18. "Since his father's death, though I have begged him to be a good boy, and try to earn some money, he only idles his time in the streets with bad companions. I tell him I shall turn him out of doors if he does not do better," and here the poor mother wept again, for Aladdin was a great trouble to her.

19. "This is not good news, my boy," said the strange man, "and you must begin to work for your living. If you do not like to work with your hands, I will take a shop for you, and will put in it all kinds of fine stuffs and linens for you to sell. With the money you get, you can buy fresh stuffs for your shop, and live in an honest way."

20. This plan pleased Aladdin, so he told his uncle that he should like to keep a shop.

“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.

Aladdin felt quite proud in his grand dress, and said "Thank you, uncle, for all your kindness; I will try and earn money, and keep my mother now."

24. "That is right," said the Magician, "and now, as you are dressed like a merchant, you had better come into some of the shops to learn what you will have to do."

The Magician took Aladdin to several grand shops, and at night went home with him himself, and saw him safe in his mother's house.

## CHAPTER II.

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### THE CAVE.

1. Just as the Magician was leaving Aladdin at the door, he said, "To-morrow we will spend in the country, and after that I will see about your shop."

Aladdin got up very early next morning to be ready for his new uncle. As soon as he saw him coming down the street, he kissed his mother and ran to meet him.



THE MAGICIAN MEETS ALADDIN.

[See page 2.]

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.

“Do not be afraid,” said he; “but what I tell you to do, you must do at once. Under this stone, a great treasure is hid. This shall be yours, if you do as I bid you, and you will be richer than any other person in the whole world.”

6. “Now, no one but you can lift up this stone, or go into the cave underneath it, so you must do as I wish, and then we shall both become rich. Take hold of the ring, and lift up the stone at once.”

“But I cannot,” replied Aladdin, “I am not strong enough. You must help me.”

7. “I tell you you can do it, without me, if you only try,” said the Magician. “If I help you we can do nothing. Take firm hold of the ring, and lift up the stone; you will find it will come up quite easily.”

8. Aladdin did as he was told; he lifted the stone without any trouble, and laid it on one side.

When he had done this, he looked down into the hole. It was about four feet deep, and in it were some stairs to go down. At the bottom was a door.

9. "Now, Aladdin," said the Magician, "you must do just what I tell you. Go down the steps and open the door. It will lead you into a palace with three large halls. In each hall there are four large brass-basins full of gold and silver, but you must not touch any of these. Pull your robe well up, and wrap it round you when you get to the door, so that you do not touch anything; for if you do, you will die at once."

10. "Walk through the first hall, and then the second one, without stopping. At the end of the third hall is a door which opens out into a garden. In this garden are many fine trees, all loaded with fruit, and at the far end is a ter'-race. There you will see a little hollow place in the wall, and in it a lighted lamp. Take this down, put it out, pour out the oil, and bring the lamp to me."

11. The Magician then took a ring from his finger, and put it on Aladdin's hand. "That ring," said he, "will keep you from all harm, as long as you do just what I have told you."

12. Aladdin went slowly down the steps, and opened the door. Then he pulled his cloak

tightly round him, and crossed the three halls safely. He found the lamp in the hole in the garden wall, just as the Magician had told him.

13. He took the lamp, and put out the light. As he was coming back, he stopped to look at the lovely trees in the garden. The fruit upon them looked like beautiful stones of many colours.

Aladdin thought he would gather some of each kind, and take them back with him, so he at once picked some of each colour, and went back with all his pockets quite full.

14. He crossed the three halls and came again to the door and the steps at the mouth of the cave. Looking . . ., he saw the Magician waiting for him, and called out, "Uncle, pray lend me your hand, to help me up."

"Give me the lamp first, and then I will; it will be in your way," said the Magician.

"I can manage, Uncle, if you will give me your hand," said Aladdin. "You shall have the lamp as soon as I get to the top."

15. But Aladdin would not give up the lamp, and the Magician became very angry. He threw a little of the magic powder into the fire, and as

he did so, he said two magic words, and down went the stone into its place over the mouth of the cave, and shut Aladdin in.

16. Aladdin was very much afraid, and cried aloud, "Let me out! Oh, do let me out, Uncle, and I will give you the lamp!" But his voice could not be heard, for the thick stone covered the entrance to the cave.

17. He waited for some time, and as the stone did not move, he went down the steps again and cried louder than before. He was so frightened that he began to say his prayers.

18. As he put his hands together, he rubbed the ring on his finger, which the Magician had given him. At once a frightful Ge'-nie\* rose out of the ground, and said, "What do you wish? I am ready to obey you, and be your slave. I serve him who wears the ring on his finger, I, and my fellow 'Slaves of the Ring.'"

19. Aladdin would have been frightened if he had seen this "Slave of the Ring" anywhere else; but now he was glad to speak to someone. So he said, "Whoever you are, please get me out of this dreadful place!"

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\* Pronounce *jee'-ni*, the "i" as in *fin*.

20. He had no sooner spoken than the earth opened, and he found himself on the spot between the mountains where he had made the fire. But he could not see any sign of the stone, nor of the Magician, nor of the cave; so he turned towards the town, and made his way home again to his mother.

### CHAPTER III.

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#### THE SLAVE OF THE LAMP.

1. When Aladdin reached home, he told his mother all that had happened, and then went to bed and slept soundly until the next morning, for he was very tired.

When he awoke, he felt hungry, and asked his mother for some breakfast. "Pray, mother, give me something to eat," he said. But his mother was poor, and told him she had not a crust of bread in the house.

2. "Mother," said Aladdin, "give me the lamp I brought home yesterday; I will go and sell it, and with the money we will buy some food for our breakfast and dinner, and perhaps supper too."

Aladdin's mother brought the lamp. But before she gave it to him, she said, "Here it is, but it is very dirty; I will make it nice and clean before you sell it."

3. She then began to rub it with a duster. No sooner had she started, than an ugly Genie rose up before her, and said, with a voice like thunder, "What do you wish? I am ready to obey you and be your slave, as I am the slave of all those who have the lamp in their hands, I and the other 'Slaves of the Lamp.'"

4. Aladdin's mother fainted at the sight of the ugly Genie, but Aladdin, who had already seen one Genie in the cave, knew what to do. He snatched the lamp from his mother's hands, and then said, "I am hungry, bring me something to eat."

At once the Genie was gone, but in a few moments he came again with a large silver tray, on which were twelve silver dishes with different kinds of food. He placed the tray on the carpet (for in China people do not sit round a table to eat), and then went out of sight.

5. Aladdin and his mother ate a good breakfast. There was much more food than they

wanted, so they kept the rest for dinner and supper.

By the next night, they were in want of food again, and this time Aladdin thought he would sell one of the silver dishes to get some money. So he put the dish under his coat and went out.

6. In the street, he met a Jew merchant, and said to him, "Will you buy this dish from me? I am hungry, and want to get some food."

"How much do you want for it?" said the artful Jew, for he saw it was real silver. "I do not know how much it is worth," said Aladdin. So the Jew offered him a piece of gold for it, which Aladdin was glad to take.

7. Aladdin hurried home once more. He bought some bread on his way, and then gave the rest of the money to his mother.

In this way, mother and son lived for a long time, till Aladdin had sold all the twelve dishes.

8. When all the twelve dishes were gone, then he had to sell the tray. The Jew gave him ten pieces of gold for it, and when the money he got for the tray was spent, he had to use his lamp again.

He took it in his hands, and began rubbing at the same place that his mother had rubbed before. As soon as he did so, the ugly Genie rose up in front of him.

9. "What do you want?" said the Genie. "I am hungry," replied Aladdin; "bring me something to eat."

The Genie disappeared, and returned as quickly as before, carrying another large silver tray, on which were twelve silver dishes, each dish full of nice food as before.

10. When all the food was eaten, and Aladdin had to sell his silver dishes, he set out once more to find the old Jew who had bought the first ones.

11. As he was going to look for the Jew, with a silver dish hid under his coat, he passed the shop of a goldsmith. The goldsmith called out to him and said, "My lad, I often see you pass my shop, and I wonder what you do. I fancy you go to the old Jew to sell something. Perhaps you do not know he is not quite honest; so if you have anything to sell, let me see it, and I will give you the full value of it; I will not cheat you."



AT THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE.

[See page 10.]

12. Aladdin showed the goldsmith the dish he had for sale. The goldsmith put the dish in his scales and weighed it. He then told Aladdin how much it was worth, and gave him sixty pieces of gold for it.

Aladdin thanked the man for his fair and honest dealing, and promised always to come to him if he had anything to sell.

13. This went on for some years, and, by the help of the lamp, Aladdin and his mother always had enough money to buy food to eat and good clothes to wear.

14. Aladdin soon became well-known amongst the shopkeepers. He learnt much about cloth and linen, gold and silver, and precious stones. He found out, from talking with the jewellers, that the fruit he had gathered in the garden, when he took the lamp, was not coloured glass, as he thought, but gems of great value, and that, with so many beautiful gems, he was a rich man.

## CHAPTER IV.

## THE EMPEROR'S PROMISE.

1. It happened one day, when Aladdin was in the town, that he found all the shops and houses closed, because the Princess, the Emperor's daughter, was on her way to bathe.

Aladdin wished very much to see the Princess, so he hid behind a door near the bath-house and saw her as she came out, attended by her ladies and servants, who walked on each side of her.

The Princess was very beautiful, with large dark eyes and lovely hair, and she wore a long white robe tied with a girdle round the waist.

2. After she had gone, Aladdin came out of his hiding place, and went home to his mother.

He was very sad, and did not speak, so his mother said, "Where have you been, and why are you so sad, Aladdin?"

"Oh, mother," said he, "I have seen the Princess, and I want to marry her."

3. "What! Want to marry the Princess?" said his mother, and she quite laughed at the idea, and told him he must be mad to talk so.

"I am not mad, mother; I am in my right senses, and I mean to marry the Princess," replied Aladdin. "I want you to go and ask the Emperor, her father, to let us be married."

"I go to the Emperor?" said his mother: "No! he will never let me see him. Have you forgotten that your father was one of the poorest tailors in the city, but very honest, and that you have no riches? The Emperor's daughter will marry a rich man."

4. "Haven't I the wonderful Lamp, and the Ring, and can't I get whatever I wish with them?" replied Aladdin. "Do not refuse me."

"And, mother, I have another secret to tell you. Those beautiful fruits which I got from the trees in the Garden of the Cave are not glass; the goldsmith told me they are precious stones, and worth a lot of money. You have a large china dish, mother; go and fetch it, so that we can arrange the stones on it, and see how they look. Then you can take them as a present to the Emperor."

5. Aladdin's mother brought the china dish, and her son laid the gems out in order upon it—di'-a-monds, em'-er-alds, ru'-bies, pearls, and many other kinds.

At last his mother promised she would go herself the next day to the Emperor's Palace, offer him the dish of jewels, and ask him if he would give his daughter, the Princess, to Aladdin as his wife.

6. Next morning Aladdin rose very early, and awoke his mother. He begged her to get up at once, and go and see the Emperor. She did so, and, taking the china dish with the jewels laid out on it, she set off for the Palace.

The Emperor was in the large hall of the palace, with his great Officers of State round him, busy with the affairs of his kingdom. At last he rose to return to his private room, and when Aladdin's mother saw him go, and all the people also, she went back home.

"Son," she said to Aladdin, "I have seen the Emperor, but he was so busy with those around him, that I pitied him, and made up my mind not to trouble him. He seemed so tired that he rose up in a hurry, and went away. I will

go again, perhaps to-morrow, and, may be, the Emperor will not be so busy then."

7. Aladdin was sorry his mother had not been able to speak to the Emperor, but she went the next day, and for several days after that.

At last, on the sixth day, when the Emperor returned to his private apartment, he said to his chief officer, who was called the Grand Viz'-i-er, "I have, for some time, seen a woman come here every day, with something wrapped up in a cloth; if she comes again, do not fail to call her, for I should like to hear what she has to say."

8. So when Aladdin's mother went the next day she was called before the Emperor. "My good woman," said he, "I have seen you stand in the court many times. What business brings you here?"

Aladdin's mother fell on her knees before the Emperor, and said, "Monarch of Monarchs, I beg of you to forgive me for coming here, and to pardon my boldness in asking what I am going to ask."

9. "Well," said the Emperor, "I will promise to forgive you, whatever you ask; so speak out, and do not fear."

Aladdin's mother then told him why she had come. The Emperor listened without showing the least anger, and when she had finished her story, he said, "What have you brought tied up in that cloth?"

10. Aladdin's mother untied the cloth. She showed the china dish and the precious jewels which she had brought as a present for the Emperor, and begged him to accept them.

The Emperor opened his eyes in surprise; and as he took the jewels and held them up to the light, he exclaimed—"How beautiful! how rich! how lovely!"

11. He was so charmed with the lovely gems, that he passed them round for his officers to look at, saying, "Are they not beautiful; is not such a present worthy of my daughter? Ought I not to give her to one who values her so much?"

His chief officer, the Grand Vizier, said to the Emperor, "My lord, the present is indeed a lovely one; but I advise you to wait three months and think the matter over, before you give away your daughter to this man, Aladdin. You know nothing at all of him."

12. Now the Grand Vizier had a son, who wished to marry the Princess, and that is why he did not want the Emperor to promise the Princess to Aladdin.

So the Emperor turned to Aladdin's mother and said, "Go home, my good woman, and tell your son I agree to what he asks, but I cannot let him marry my daughter for three months; at the end of that time come and see me again."

13. Aladdin's mother was pleased with the Emperor's answer. She went home quickly to tell Aladdin, and when he heard the good news he jumped for joy, and thanked his mother over and over again.

## CHAPTER V.

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### THE WEDDING STOPPED.

1. Aladdin counted every week, every day, and every hour, longing for the end of the three months, so that he could claim the Princess for his bride.

2. Now, it so happened one day, when two of the three months were passed, that all the oil for the lamp was used up, and Aladdin's mother

went out to buy some more. As she got into the busy streets she found crowds of people shouting, and singing, and merry-making. All the houses were bright with flowers; rich silks hung from the windows, and flags were flying everywhere. So she asked some of her friends what it all meant.

3. "Have you not heard the news?" they said. "The Princess is going to be married to-day to the son of the Grand Vizier, and all these finely dressed people are going in a procession to the palace."

Aladdin's mother, on hearing this, ran home quickly to tell Aladdin. "My son," she said, "someone has outdone you; for, to-night, the Princess is to be married to the Grand Vizier's son."

4. Aladdin was very angry when he heard this. He knew, however, that there would be a great feast before the real marriage took place, and he soon made up his mind what to do. He thought of his Lamp, and of the ugly Genie who had promised him anything he might ask.

He at once reached the Lamp, for he had decided to ask the Genie to prevent the marriage.

He took it into his bed-room, and rubbed it in the place where he had rubbed it before.

5. Directly he did so, the Genie appeared, and said, "What do you wish me to do? I am your slave, and ready to obey you."

"Listen!" said Aladdin. "The Emperor has promised his daughter to be my bride, but I hear she is to be married to the Grand Vizier's son. Bring them both to me directly after the feast takes place this evening."

"Master, I will do as you bid," said the Genie, and then he disappeared.

6. After Aladdin and his mother had had supper together, Aladdin went to his room to wait for the Genie.

7. The marriage feast of the Princess took place at her father's chief palace, and a grand feast it was.

8. When it was over, the Grand Vizier's son and the Princess went to their own rooms in the palace. No sooner had they done so, than the Genie appeared. He startled them very much, for he took them up, one in each arm, and in a moment, without being seen, as if by magic, brought them both before Aladdin.



THE CAVE—THE SLAVE OF THE RING

(See page 16.)

9. "Take the bride-groom away," said Aladdin, "and shut him up safely till to-morrow morning; then bring him here again."

10. When Aladdin was left alone with the Princess, he said, "Do not fear me; I love you very much, and will take every care of you. Your father promised that you should be my bride."

11. At break of day the Genie brought back the bride-groom to Aladdin, who told him to take both the Princess and the Grand Vizier's son back to the Emperor's palace.

12. Now all this time the Genie had not been seen either by the Princess or the Vizier's son, neither did they know where they had been. They only felt themselves taken from place to place.

13. After breakfast the Emperor came to see his daughter. He found her very sad, and begged her to tell him what troubled her.

"My dear father," she said, "such dreadful things have happened to me, but I do not know how;" and then she told him all that had taken place.

The Emperor then called the Grand Vizier, who told him that worse things had happened to his son, and no one could tell the cause.

14. On hearing of these strange doings, the Emperor said there should be no marriage, and he stopped all the feasts, dances, and rejoicings.

15. There was great alarm in the palace, but nobody except Aladdin knew the secret, and he did not tell anyone why, and how, these strange things had happened.

16. In due time the three months ended, and Aladdin's mother again went to the palace. She stood in the same place as before, where everyone could see her.

17. The Emperor knew her at once, and had her brought before him. She threw herself on her knees at his feet, and said, "Sire, I come, as you told me to do, at the end of three months, to ask you to keep your promise to my son."

18. The Emperor never really thought that the request for his daughter had been meant, so, turning to his Grand Vizier, he asked, "What shall I do?"

The Grand Vizier said in a low tone, "Your daughter cannot marry the poor and humble son

of this woman. But you must stop these visits; ask this Aladdin to do something that it will be quite impossible for him to do."

19. The Emperor thought this was good advice, so he said to Aladdin's mother, "My good woman, it is true I ought to keep my word, and I am ready to let my daughter marry your son; but I must first have proof that your son is able to keep my daughter in royal state. I will keep my promise, therefore, if your son can send me forty trays of gold, full of precious jewels, carried by forty black slaves, and led in by forty white slaves, all beautifully dressed. If he can do this, then he shall have my daughter for his wife. Go, and tell him what I say."

20. Aladdin's mother went home, and quite laughed to herself at what she thought was Aladdin's stupid wish to marry the Emperor's daughter. "Where can he get such a present?" thought she.

21. When she came home she gave Aladdin the Emperor's message, and added, "He wants your answer at once. I think he will have to wait a long time, for where are you going to get forty trays of gold, let alone the precious stones to fill them, and the slaves to carry them?"

22. "Leave that to me, mother, it is not so hard as you think," said Aladdin, and away he went to his own little room. He closed the door, and then called the Genie by rubbing his lamp. "Bring me at once all the things that the Emperor has asked for," said Aladdin.

23. He had no sooner given his orders, than the Genie returned with forty white slaves, who led forty black ones, each carrying a tray of gold, full of precious stones.

## CHAPTER VI.

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### THE PRESENT TO THE PRINCESS.

1. Aladdin showed the beautiful gifts to his mother, and then said, "Now, mother, let us lose no time. I want you to lead the way to the Emperor's palace. When you get there, ask him to accept my gift, as the present he wishes to have for the hand of the Princess."

2. Large crowds of people watched the procession as it marched along the streets, for they had never seen anything so grand and beautiful before.

3. Soon the procession arrived at the palace. The Emperor was seated on his throne, and the black slaves laid their golden trays on the carpet in front of him, and knelt down behind them. Then they uncovered every tray, and showed the wonderful jewels spread out upon them.

4. When this had been done, Aladdin's mother stepped forward, and said to the Emperor, "My son has lost no time in carrying out your command. He hopes the present I have brought will be accepted by your daughter."

5. The Emperor was quite surprised with the splendour of the gold and stones before him, and said, "Go, my good woman, and tell your son that I wait with open arms to receive him; the sooner he comes the better I shall be pleased."

6. As soon as Aladdin's mother had gone, the Emperor ordered his servants to carry the trays of jewels to the Princess's room, and say he would come and look at them with her.

7. Aladdin's mother hurried home, and, full of joy, gave her boy the Emperor's message. "My son," she said, "you are to have your wish; the Emperor will let you marry the Princess, and he waits for you now, in his palace."

8. Aladdin knew he was not fit to be seen by the Princess, so he rubbed his lamp, and at once the Genie came. "Genie," said he, "take me at once to the bath-house and then bring me a suit of the richest clothes ever worn by a king."

9. No sooner were the words out of his mouth, than he found himself in the hall of a beautiful bath-house. After washing in scented waters, in a bath of the finest marble, he came back to the hall to dress. He found his old clothes gone, and a rich and splendid robe placed there instead.

10. The Genie helped him to dress, and then set him on a most beautiful horse, with twenty slaves walking on either side, as his body guard. He now started for the Emperor's palace.

His mother, who was also beautifully dressed, and had six women slaves to attend her as waiting-maids, went with him.

11. When they reached the palace, the Emperor was surprised to find Aladdin more richly dressed than himself. He embraced him with joy, and when Aladdin would have knelt at his feet, he held him by the hand, and made him sit by his side on the throne.

12. After a grand feast, which the Emperor held in honour of Aladdin, he told the Grand Vizier to send for the Chief Judge to write out the marriage contract between the Princess and Aladdin.

13. The Emperor wished Aladdin to stay at the palace and let the marriage take place at once; but Aladdin said, "No, sire; although I should like to accept your kindness, and I feel the honour you do me, yet I cannot stay; I wish first to build a palace of my own, fit for the Princess to live in."

14. So Aladdin went back home. Once again he went to his own room, took down the lamp, rubbed it as before, and called up the Genie. "Genie," said he, "build me a palace fit for a Princess. Let it be of the finest marble, and let the walls be covered with gold. You know the kind of palace I should like. I leave it to you, Genie, to see that my wishes are carried out."

## CHAPTER VII.

## NEW LAMPS FOR OLD.

1. Next morning, as soon as Aladdin was awake, the Genie appeared. "Sire," said he, "your palace is finished. Come and see if you like it;" and he carried him in a moment to the beautiful building he had made. Aladdin was led through all the grand rooms, the stables, and the gardens, where he found everything had been done, just as he had wished it.

"Genie," said he, "you have done everything very well. I have no fault to find."

2. That same morning, when the porters opened the gates of the Emperor's palace, they were surprised to see a grand building standing on the spot, which the day before was an old garden.

3. The servants ran and told the Grand Vizier of what they saw, and he, in turn, told the Emperor. "It must be the palace which I gave Aladdin leave to build for my daughter; he has wished to surprise us, and show us what he can do in one night."

4. That night, Aladdin left his mother's home for ever, and was married to the Princess, and they both went to live in the beautiful palace which the Genie had built for them.

Aladdin did not forget to take the Wonderful Lamp with him, nor to wear the Ring which was given to him for good luck; and he and the Princess were very happy together.

5. When the Princess arrived at her new home, she was so dazzled by the beautiful things she saw, that she said to Aladdin, "I thought, Prince, that nothing in the world was so beautiful as my father's palace; but the sight of this hall alone, is enough to show that I was wrong."

6. Next day, the Emperor and all his Court went to see Aladdin and his wife in their beautiful home, and stayed there to a grand feast. Crowds of people stood outside looking at, and talking about, the wonderful building, and its windows of precious stones.

7. Aladdin, now that he was rich, gave his money to the poor whenever he walked in the streets, so the people loved him for his good works.

He had been living many years in this way, when, one day, the wicked Magician came



THE PRINCESS LEAVING THE BATH.

[See page 21.]

through the town. When he saw the beautiful palace, and heard the tales about Aladdin, he knew it must be the "Genie of the Lamp" that had done all these wonderful things.

8. The Magician began asking questions about the Princess and her husband. He learnt that Aladdin had gone hunting, and would be away for eight days. He found out, also, that the Wonderful Lamp was kept in the palace, and so he thought of a plan by which to get it. He could not steal it, for it would be of no use to him, you will remember, unless it was given to him.

9. He soon made up his mind what to do. He went to a shop and bought a dozen lamps. He put these lamps in a basket on his arm, and then walked towards Aladdin's palace. When he got outside the palace, he cried out, "Who will change old lamps for new ones? New lamps for old!" As he went along, all the people laughed at him, and made fun, because they thought he must be mad to give a new lamp for an old one.

10. He kept walking up and down, crying out "New lamps for old! New lamps for old!" till at last the Princess heard him, and sent one of her maids out to inquire what it was he sold.

The maid returned laughing; "Madam," she said, "the foolish old man says he will give a new lamp for an old one. I only know of one old lamp in the palace, and that is in Prince Aladdin's room. If the Princess wishes, I will fetch it, and see if this silly old man will do what he says."

11. The Princess enjoyed the fun, and said to the maid, "Go and bring the old lamp, and give it to a slave to take to the foolish man." Aladdin had never told the Princess what a Wonderful Lamp this one was. She did not know its value, or she would never have parted with it.

The slave ran out with the lamp, and said to the man, "Here you are; give me a new lamp for this old one."

12. The Magician saw at once that this was the lamp he wanted. He snatched it from the slave, and told him to choose from the ones in the basket the lamp he liked best. The slave chose one, and carried it to the maid, who took it to the Princess.

13. The Magician did not stay any longer in that street, but hurried away with the magic lamp as fast as he could. He walked until he

had got quite outside the city, and had reached a lonely spot. It was now quite dark, so he pulled out the magic lamp from the bosom of his robe, where he had placed it, and rubbed it. The ugly Genie instantly appeared, and said, "What do you wish? I am your slave."

14. "I command you," replied the Magician, "to take me at once, and the palace you have built, and all the people in it, to Africa." The Genie made no reply, but he and his slaves immediately carried out the Magician's commands.

15. Early next morning, when the Emperor, as usual, set out to Aladdin's palace to see his daughter, the building was gone, and there was no sign of it anywhere.

He could not understand how so large a palace could be taken down and removed in one night, so he sent for the Grand Vizier. He could not explain, so the Emperor asked him how he was to find the Princess.

16. The Grand Vizier did not like Aladdin, because he had taken the place of his son. So he told the Emperor he thought the palace had

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?"

20. Aladdin looked out of the window, and saw that the palace had gone. He was so surprised that he could not speak, for he had not yet been home, and did not know what had taken place.

21. At last, he said, "It is true the palace is not there, but I have had nothing to do with taking it away. Pray give me forty days to find it, and if, in that time, I do not succeed, I will give myself up, and you may cut off my head."

"Very good," replied the Emperor, "I take you at your word."

## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE MAGICIAN OUTWITTED.

1. Aladdin went away very sad. For three days he walked about the town, asking everybody he met if they had seen his palace anywhere.

2. On the third day, he was walking by the river bank, when his foot slipped. As he fell, he rubbed the ring on his finger, and at once the Slave of the Ring stood before him. "What would you have?" asked the Genie.

3. "Show me where the palace I built now stands," said Aladdin; "or, if you can, bring it back to the place where it first stood."

"I cannot do all you ask," said the Genie; "the Slave of the Lamp is more powerful than I am."

4. "Then, by the power of this Ring, I command you to take me to the palace," said Aladdin.

The Genie at once carried him across the sea to Africa, and placed him under the Princess's window, and there left him.

5. Aladdin went into the palace by a private door, and soon found the Princess, who cried for joy; she was so glad to see her husband back safe and sound.

6. After a while Aladdin said, "Princess, tell me, I pray you, what has become of the lamp which stood on the shelf in my room?"

"Alas!" replied the Princess, "I was afraid all this sad trouble was owing to that lamp." And then she told her husband of the old man, who came crying "New lamps for old ones."

7. "Where is the lamp now; can you tell me?" said Aladdin.

"The Magician carries it near his bosom, wrapped up in his cloak," said the Princess. "I know this, because he pulled it out and showed it to me the other evening; he lives near the palace, and is always watching it."

8. Aladdin left his dear wife, and walked to the city near. He wandered on, until at last he came to a chemist's shop. He went in and bought a certain powder, and then hurried back to the palace.

9. "My dear wife," said he to the Princess, "ask the Magician to supper. Appear very friendly with him, and offer him your cup to drink from; he will not refuse. In this cup I shall put a powder, which will send him to sleep directly he drinks it, and then we can get the lamp from him."

10. The Princess did as Aladdin told her. The Magician took the cup which the Princess offered to him, and drank every drop of wine in it. At once he fell back in his seat, dead.

The Princess then sent word to Aladdin, who, when he came, told her to leave the room.

11. When the Princess and her attendants were gone, Aladdin opened the robe of the Magician, and took out the lamp. He rubbed it, and said to the Genie, who instantly came, "Take back this palace to the place from whence it was brought." In a moment, the palace was taken back to China, and put in its old place.

12. Next morning, the Emperor, who was feeling very sad at the loss of his daughter, went to the window to look out at the place where the palace used to stand. To his surprise, there stood the beautiful building again, looking as if it had never been moved.

He ordered his horse to be saddled, and rode over, to see if his eyes were really telling him the truth.

13. Aladdin saw him coming, and set out to meet him. He led the Emperor to the Princess, and, after tears of joy, Aladdin told him the story of the lamp, "Which," said he, "I shall take care to keep safely in future."

14. When the Emperor died, Aladdin and the Princess afterwards ruled over his country, and they lived a happy life together for many years.

## NOTE BY THE EDITOR OF THE SERIES.

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The Story of "*A-lad'-din, or the Wonderful Lamp*," is one of the most interesting of the tales in the "ARABIAN NIGHTS'." As this little book is intended for very young readers, the tale has been entirely re-written for this series, and much simplified; but nothing is omitted that is necessary to the complete understanding of the story.

The "*Arabian Nights' Entertainments*," or "*A Thousand and One Nights*," as the Arabic name means, is a collection of tales of Eastern life (especially Mohammedan), which are very ancient. The collection, much in the form in which we have it now, was probably written out (in Arabic) at Cairo, about 1450. The tales plainly show their origin, some of them being Persian, others Indian, a few Egyptian, and a large number Arabian.

The Tales were first made known to European readers by Antoine Galland, who published them in French, between 1704 and 1717. His translation is very inaccurate, and does not well represent the original; but nearly all the English editions are made from Galland's. In 1840, Mr. E. W. Lane published the most scholarly translation (with many notes explanatory of manners and customs) that has yet appeared. Sir Richard Burton published an almost word for word translation between 1885 and 1887, and in 1888 Lady Burton issued an edition of her husband's work "prepared for household reading," but it is not at all suitable for children's use.

These tales divide themselves roughly into two classes—(1) Those that are to a certain extent historical; and (2) those that are full of "wonderful and impossible adventures," or those in which Genii and magical powers assist the personages whose story is being told. Of this latter class is "Aladdin."

In past years (as well as at the present day), these, and similar tales, were told at the street corners and market-places in Eastern cities, by Arab Story-tellers, to the crowd which quickly gathered round them. The more wonderful the tale, the quicker the coppers were thrown to the Story-teller. All the tales in the "Arabian Nights," even the most probable ones, are full of mistakes, though generally they portray manners and customs with great accuracy. For instance, in "Aladdin," the incidents of Aladdin and the Princess going to the baths could never have occurred in China, for the Chinese are not (and were not), like the Mohammedans, a bathing people. In the original also, the Emperor is called "Sultan," but there never was a Sultan of China. It is this oral transmission of the tales that accounts for many incongruities and mistakes; but we in Europe experience the same thing, for all our histories of St. George, Prince Arthur, and many other historical personages, are from oral tradition only, and were carried from place to place by the Bards and Minstrels in England, and the Troubadours in France, up to the period of the Middle Ages and the invention of Printing, and even long after.—A.G.

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