

Aladdin and the Magic Lamp

a traditional tale edited by Edward Cannon

INTRODUCTION

Western readers are most familiar with the story of Aladdin as part of *A Thousand and One Arabian Nights*, but there is some doubt as to whether it was actually a part of the original collection. Versions of the story date to at least 1700, with no one claiming authorship. Regardless of the tale's origin, it is a charming tale set in a ancient and mythical place. I have compared several old public domain editions of the story (in English) and created a version that I hope will enchant and amuse readers as much as it first did me.

Edward Cannon
July 2009

ALADDIN

There once lived a poor tailor who worked hard all day sewing silks and satins for the court of the Sultan. Although a pious and humble man he was of a delicate constitution and fell sick from overwork. Despite the fervent prayers of his wife he worsened until he died, leaving behind his grief stricken wife and a young son Aladdin. As the years passed they lived together in the most wretched of situations, the mother spinning cotton to earn a few coins for food. Aladdin amused himself playing in the street and rummaging through the trash heaps looking for something of value to sell. One day, when he was playing in the streets as usual, a stranger asked him his age, and if he was not the son of Mustapha the tailor. "I am, sir," replied Aladdin; "but he died a long while ago." On this the stranger, who was a famous African magician, fell on his neck and kissed him saying: "I am your uncle, and knew you from your likeness to my brother. Go to your mother and tell her I am coming." Aladdin ran home and told his mother of his newly found uncle. "Indeed, child," she said, "your father had a brother, but I always thought he was dead." However, she prepared supper, and bade Aladdin seek his uncle, who came laden with wine and fruit. He fell down and kissed the place where Mustapha used to sit, bidding Aladdin's mother not to be surprised at not having seen him before, as he had been forty years out of the country. He then turned to Aladdin, and asked him his trade, at which the boy hung his head, while his mother burst into tears. On learning that Aladdin was idle and had learned no trade, he offered to speak with a merchant, and so provide an apprenticeship for the boy. Next day he bought Aladdin a fine suit of clothes and took him all over the city, showing him the sights, and brought him home at nightfall to his mother, who was overjoyed to see her son so fine.

The next day the magician led Aladdin outside the city gates among the gardens and palaces of the nobility. Aladdin, never having ventured there, was amazed and dazzled. At noon they stopped

by a lake at the edge of the mountains and ate some food the magician had brought. After eating Aladdin, who began to grow weary, begged to return to the city, but the magician said: "not far from here in the mountains is the most magnificent garden, built by the great-grandfather of the Sultan and so glorious as to make all this appear as a burned field." Aladdin was appeased and so continued onward into the mountains. Presently they came to a narrow valley between two mountains with steep rocky sides. The magician led Aladdin through a hidden passage in the rocks, and they emerged into a magnificent garden with all manner of strange and wonderful plants. Aladdin was so amazed at to be rendered speechless, but the magician pressed forward and bade him gather sticks and branches to build a fire. When the fire was lit he threw a powder on it and it leapt up, all the while chanting in an strange tongue. The earth trembled and a crevice opened before them, so frightening Aladdin that he made as if to flee, but the magician grabbed him roughly by the cloak. "What have I done, uncle?" he said piteously; whereupon the magician said more kindly: "Fear nothing, but obey me. Beneath these stones lies a treasure which is to be yours, and no one else may touch it, so you must do exactly as I tell you."

At the mention of treasure Aladdin forgot his fears and peered closer at the rent in the earth. A great stone lay a short way below the surface, square and fitted with a brass ring of curious workmanship. Around the stone were carvings both beautiful and fearsome to behold. "This is what you must do" said the magician, "grasp the ring and pull it towards you, while saying your name and the names of your father and grandfather. Beneath the stone you will find twelve steps descending to a doorway. Pass through the doorway into the first of four rooms. Each room contains coffers of gold and other wonderful treasures, touch nothing, not even the walls; no, let not even the hem of your garment brush them, or you will die instantly. Pass through each of these rooms quickly, heeding nothing, and come into a magical garden. Cross the garden and cross the bridge. There you will find a stone table. Upon this table is a brass lamp. Throw away the wick and oil, but keep the lamp close to your breast. While you have the lamp you may take of the fruit and flowers of the garden, but do not tarry long. Pass through the four rooms, again touching nothing and come up the stairs."

When Aladdin heard these words his fears began again to return

to him and seeing this, the magician pulled a ring from his own finger. Giving it to the boy he said: "Take courage, this ring shall protect you from evil while you wear it."

Heartened by the words of the magician, who he believed to be his uncle and to wish him no harm, Aladdin girt his loins and jumped into the crevice. He took hold of the stone, saying the words he had been told, and it opened easily before him. He descended the steps and passed through the doorway. Immediately behind it was a large chamber filled with all manner of gold and silver. Great chests and small caskets sparkled with precious metals. So bright was the shine of the metal that he could see clearly the entire room. Aladdin walked quickly across the room without pausing and passed under a low archway.

The second chamber was even larger than the first, with a high vaulted roof and carved pillars along the walls. In addition to the gold and silver, this room was adorned with all manner of fine silks and satins in every color imaginable. Fine velvet robes and rich carpets lay in piles as tall as a man. Pulling his clothes tight about him, Aladdin hurried across the room, scarcely looking at the fabulous wealth within. A narrow passageway led from the second chamber to the third.

The third chamber was full of all manner of carvings and statues, in stone, gold, silver and jade. Gold coins lay in drifts upon the floor, almost covering the statues in places. So close were the statues that Aladdin had to take great care lest he should touch them in passing. He persevered and in a few minutes found himself entering the fourth and last chamber.

After the splendor of the first chambers, the last seemed almost plain by comparison, a simple square room carved from the living stone. As Aladdin paused, startled by the change, he began to perceive that the chamber was larger than it had first appeared and hidden in the dimness where vast jars of gold. Beyond the jars there seemed at one moment to be a great feast, at another a fine bath, and still other scenes too strange to describe. Confused by the sights, Aladdin took a single step toward the darkened reaches of the room. As he did so, the ring given him by the magician pulled heavily on his finger, and he remembered the admonition to touch nothing. He gathered his thoughts and rushed quickly across the room.

The garden that now lay before him was beyond anything he had ever imagined. A vast cavern was filled with all manner of herbs, trees, and flowers. Rich stone walkways curved away in every direction. The roof of the cavern, which was of great height, was entirely of lapis, so as to appear like the sky, and a giant gold ball hung from the zenith, which was so bright as to be like the sun, filling the cavern with light. Undaunted, Aladdin strode forth, taking note of the many trees, each bearing fruits and the many fine birds, each more splendid than the last, which inhabited the garden. After a short walk, he discovered that his path was interrupted by a small stream, flowing swiftly in a narrow channel. He cast his eyes about and saw a short way off a stone bridge arching across the stream. He hurried towards it, careful to not touch the plants on either side. He crossed the bridge and came to a small pavilion. Under the pavilion was a stone table. In contrast to the richness of the pavilion and the garden, the table was rude and simple, coarsely hewn from a dull brown rock. Upon the table sat an old brass lamp, freshly lit. He snuffed the lamp, poured the oil out upon the table and left the wick. He then placed the lamp securely in his breast.

Walking back across the garden Aladdin took his time to examine the wonderful things there. He saw that what he had first thought as fruit was in fact fine gemstones on the trees, and that the flowers were likewise fashioned from rare and precious stones. He gathered a few of the most colorful, and tucked them safely in his robes. Upon reaching the entrance to the garden, he gathered his robes close and walked quickly back through the four chambers. Now that he had been in the garden he saw that the treasures in the chambers, which at first had seemed so wonderful, were in fact cheap trinkets, shiny brass and gaudy paint. As he passed through the final doorway a slight sound caused him to look back and, lo, behind him was only a blank stone wall, with no trace of doorway or any other mark. He quickly ascended the steps and called up to the magician. "Uncle, I have found the lamp and have done all that you have told me. Help me now to get up out of this crevice."

"Not so," called the magician, "First but hand me up the lamp, and then shall I help you up." This he said, planing to seize the lamp and leave Aladdin to die. Aladdin called again, "Come Uncle, help me up quickly, for the door has closed behind me and I fear that soon this shall close up as well." The magician argued but Aladdin

would not give up the lamp, though he swore that he would give him it once he was again on the surface. Finally after much entreating he flew into a terrible passion, and throwing some more powders on the fire, caused the ground to close up over Aladdin. He would have been crushed by the earth but the shock of the closing knocked him back down the stairs and he tumbled to the bottom, striking a terrible blow on his head and lay, senseless and alone for many hours.

The magician left the country despairing, which plainly showed that he was no uncle of Aladdin's but a cunning impostor, who had read in his magic books of a wonderful lamp, which would make him the most powerful man in the world. Though he alone knew where to find it, he could only receive it from the hand of another. He had picked out the foolish Aladdin for this purpose, intending to get the lamp and kill him afterwards.

For two days Aladdin remained in the dark, bemoaning his fate and cursing the evil doings of the magician. At last he clasped his hands in prayer, and in so doing rubbed the ring, which the magician in his wrath had forgotten to take from him. Immediately an enormous and frightful genie appeared before him, saying: "What wouldst thou with me? I am the Slave of the Ring, and will obey thee in all things as long as thou wearest the ring." Aladdin was much astonished, but after a moment composed himself and replied, "Deliver me from this awful place!" whereupon the earth opened, and he found himself outside.

At first he was blinded by the brightness of the sun, so that he could not open his eyes, but shortly he became accustomed to it, and looking around was able to find the path he and the magician had taken to the garden. Although he was much fatigued from not eating, he made his way back to the city and his weeping mother, who had thought that her son was spirited away from her by the false uncle. When Aladdin returned home he called for food and his mother hastily gave him all in the house. After eating he fell into a deep sleep and did not arise until the next morning.

When he awoke he told his mother all that had transpired, how the magician had taken him away from the city and by his enchantments opened up the earth so that he might go in and view the treasure. He then recounted the treachery of the magician and said: "for this cause I know that he was in deed no uncle of mine, but a

wicked sorcerer, full of deceit and lies.”

“Indeed so,” answered his mother, “for when you did not return at nightfall I set out to the place of lodging, thinking perhaps that you and he did sup there, but when I arrived they said he had departed earlier alone, and furthermore that he was a traveler from Africa, who had never before been in these parts, and so could not have been thy father’s brother.”

“It is fortunate indeed that we have escaped the plans of this evil man” said Aladdin. “Now, let us eat again, for my travails have worn me thin.”

“Alas! child,” she said, “I have nothing in the house, but I have spun a little cotton and will go sell it.”

“Not so,” replied Aladdin, “for I have here the lamp, which the magician was so determined to receive, surely it has some value greater than thy cotton.” He then showed his mother the lamp, and the fruits he had taken from the magical garden. She took the lamp, and as it was very dirty, began to polish it with a bit of rag. Suddenly a genie appeared in the midst of a cloud of smoke. So frightened was his mother that she fell in a swoon upon the floor, but Aladdin, snatching the lamp, said boldly: “Fetch me something to eat!” The genie returned in an instant with a silver platter, twelve silver plates containing rich meats, two silver cups, and two bottles of wine. Leaving the food, the genie vanished as he had come. Aladdin then rushed to his mother and presently was able to revive her. Spying the marvelous feast, she asked: “Whence comes this splendid feast?” “Ask not, but eat,” replied Aladdin. So they sat at breakfast till it was dinner-time, and Aladdin told his mother about the lamp. She begged him to sell it, and have nothing to do with devils. “No,” said Aladdin, “since chance hath made us aware of its virtues, we will use it, and the ring likewise, which I shall always wear on my finger.” When they had eaten all the genie had brought, Aladdin sold one of the silver plates, and so on until none were left. He then had recourse to the genie, who gave him another set of plates, and thus they lived comfortably for some time.

One day Aladdin heard an order from the Sultan proclaimed that everyone was to stay at home and close his shutters while the Princess his daughter went to and from the bath. Aladdin was seized by a desire to see her face, which was very difficult, as she always went veiled. He summoned the genie and commanded that he give

him a potion that would render him invisible until sundown. The genie procured a strange red bottle, which when he drank turned him entirely invisible. He crept through the streets of the city and hid himself behind the door of the bath, and peeped through a chink. The Princess lifted her veil as she went in, and looked so beautiful that Aladdin fell in love with her at first sight. He went home so changed that his mother was frightened. He told her he loved the Princess so deeply he could not live without her, and meant to ask her in marriage of her father. His mother, on hearing this, burst out laughing, but Aladdin at last prevailed upon her to go before the Sultan and carry his request. She fetched a napkin and laid in it the magic fruits from the enchanted garden, which sparkled and shone like the most beautiful jewels. She took these with her to please the Sultan, and set out, trusting in the lamp. The Grand Vizier and the lords of council had just gone in as she entered the hall and placed herself in front of the Sultan. He, however, took no notice of her. She went every day for a week, and stood in the same place. When the council broke up on the sixth day the Sultan said to his Vizier: "I see a certain woman in the audience-chamber every day carrying something in a napkin. Call her next time, that I may find out what she wants." Next day, at a sign from the vizier, she went up to the foot of the throne and remained kneeling until the Sultan said to her: "Rise, good woman, and tell me what you want." She hesitated, so the Sultan sent away all but the Vizier, and bade her speak freely, promising to forgive her beforehand for anything she might say. She then told him of her son's violent love for the Princess. "I prayed him to forget her," she said, "but in vain; he threatened to do some desperate deed if I refused to go and ask your Majesty for the hand of the Princess. Now I pray you to forgive not me alone, but my son Aladdin." The Sultan asked her kindly what she had in the napkin, whereupon she unfolded the jewels and presented them. He was thunderstruck, and turning to the vizier, said: "What sayest thou? Ought I not to bestow the Princess on one who values her at such a price?" The Vizier, who wanted her for his own son, begged the Sultan to withhold her for three months, in the course of which he hoped his son could contrive to make him a richer present. The Sultan granted this, and told Aladdin's mother that, though he consented to the marriage, she must not appear before him again for three months.

Aladdin waited patiently for nearly three months, but after two had elapsed, his mother, going into the city to buy oil, found everyone rejoicing, and asked what was going on. "Do you not know," was the answer, "that the son of the Grand Vizier is to marry the Sultan's daughter tomorrow?" Breathless she ran and told Aladdin, who was overwhelmed at first, but presently bethought him of the lamp. He rubbed it and the genie appeared, saying: "What is thy will?" Aladdin replied: "The Sultan, as thou knowest, has broken his promise to me, and the vizier's son is to have the Princess. My command is that tonight you bring hither the vizier and his son. "Master, I obey," said the genie. That night the genie brought the vizier and his son to Aladdin's room. Aladdin called the vizier in a terrible voice: "Tomorrow your son is to marry the Sultan's daughter, but do not allow it to happen, for the false Sultan has promised her to another, and if the marriage proceeds, misfortune will surely befall the couple." Aladdin then commanded the genie to transport them far outside the city.

Finding themselves at once outside the city walls in a cold and barren place, the vizier and his son were much amazed. They labored all that night and much of the next day to return to their home.

In the morning, the servants came to prepare for the wedding, and were astonished to find the vizier and his son missing, and their beds untouched. To their even greater amazement the vizier and his son returned late in the day, tired and dressed in their bedclothes. At once the vizier went to the Sultan. "Oh mighty sultan, I was just to enter my bed when I was suddenly transported to another place, where a man told me that thou had promised thy daughter to another, and to forbid the marriage to my son. No sooner had I heard these words then I found myself in a barren spot far from the city, and I have labored all this day to bring thee word." The sultan was amazed to hear such a thing, and to behold his vizier in such a bedraggled state. While he was thus amazed the son of the vizier entered and confirmed every word of his father. At this the sultan remembered the woman with the jewel fruit and his promise to Aladdin. "Indeed it is wise that you have told me this," he said, "for I was about to commit a serious error, which might have brought much misfortune on both our families." At once he commanded that the preparations for the wedding cease.

When the three months were over, Aladdin sent his mother again

to the Sultan. On seeing her poverty the Sultan felt less inclined than ever to keep his word, and asked his Vizier's advice, who counseled him to set so high a value on the Princess that no man living would come up to it. The Sultan then turned to Aladdin's mother, saying: "Good woman, a sultan must remember his promises, and I will remember mine, but your son must first send me forty basins of gold brimful of jewels, carried by forty slaves dressed in the finest silks, led by as many chief ones, even more splendidly dressed. Tell him that I await his answer." The mother of Aladdin bowed low and went home, thinking all was lost. She gave Aladdin the message adding, "He may wait long enough for your answer!" "Not so long, mother, as you think," her son replied. "I would do a great deal more than that for the Princess." He summoned the genie, and in a few moments the eighty slaves arrived, and filled up the small house and garden. Aladdin made them to set out to the palace, two by two, followed by his mother. They were so richly dressed, with such splendid jewels, that everyone crowded to see them and the basins of gold they carried on their heads. They entered the palace, and, after kneeling before the Sultan, stood in a half-circle round the throne with their arms crossed, while Aladdin's mother presented them to the Sultan. He hesitated no longer, but said: "Good woman, return and tell your son that I wait for him with open arms." She lost no time in telling Aladdin, bidding him make haste. But Aladdin first called the genie. "I want a scented bath," he said, "a richly embroidered habit, a horse surpassing the Sultan's, and twenty slaves to attend me. Besides this, six slaves, beautifully dressed, to wait on my mother; and lastly, ten thousand pieces of gold in ten purses." No sooner had he said this than all was done as he commanded. Aladdin mounted his horse and passed through the streets, the slaves strewing gold as they went. Those who had played with him in his childhood knew him not, he had grown so handsome. When the sultan saw him he came down from his throne, embraced him, and led him into a hall where a feast was spread, intending to marry him to the Princess that very day. But Aladdin refused, saying, "I must build a palace fit for her," and took his leave. Once home, he said to the genie: "Build me a palace of the finest marble, set with jasper, agate, and other precious stones. In the middle you shall build me a large hall with a dome and eight walls, each of massy gold and silver, each side having three windows,

whose lattices must be set with diamonds and rubies. There must be stables and horses and grooms and slaves; go and see about it!"

The palace was finished the next day, and the genie carried him there and showed him all his orders faithfully carried out, even to the laying of a velvet carpet from Aladdin's palace to the Sultan's. Aladdin's mother then dressed herself carefully, and walked to the palace with her slaves, while he followed her on horseback. The Sultan sent musicians with trumpets and cymbals to meet them, so that the air resounded with music and cheers. She was taken to the Princess, who saluted her and treated her with great honour. At night the princess said good-bye to her father, and set out on the carpet for Aladdin's palace, with his mother at her side, and followed by the hundred slaves. She was charmed at the sight of Aladdin, who ran to receive her. "Princess," he said, "blame your beauty for my boldness if I have displeased you." She told him that, having seen him, she willingly obeyed her father in this matter. After the wedding had taken place, Aladdin led her into the hall, where a feast was spread, and she supped with him, after which they danced till midnight.

Next day Aladdin invited the Sultan to see the palace. On entering the hall with the four-and-twenty windows with their rubies, diamonds and emeralds, he cried, "It is a world's wonder! The Sultan embraced him, the envious vizier meanwhile hinting that it was the work of enchantment.

Aladdin had won the hearts of the people by his gentle bearing. He was made captain of the Sultan's armies, and won several battles for him, but remained as courteous as before, and lived thus in peace and content for several years.

But far away in Africa the magician remembered Aladdin, and by his magic arts discovered that Aladdin, instead of perishing miserably in the cave, had escaped, and had married a princess, with whom he was living in great honour and wealth. He knew that the poor tailor's son could only have accomplished this by means of the lamp, and travelled night and day till he reached the capital of China, bent on Aladdin's ruin. As he passed through the town he heard people talking everywhere about a marvelous palace. "Forgive my ignorance," he asked, "what is the palace you speak of?" "Have you not heard of Prince Aladdin's palace," was the reply, "the greatest wonder in the world? I will direct you if you have a mind

to see it." The magician thanked him who spoke, and having seen the palace knew that it had been raised by the Genie of the Lamp, and became half mad with rage. He determined to get hold of the lamp, and again plunge Aladdin into the deepest poverty.

Unluckily, Aladdin had gone a-hunting for eight days, which gave the magician plenty of time. He bought a dozen lamps, put them into a basket, and went to the palace, crying: "New lamps for old!" followed by a jeering crowd. The Princess, sitting in the hall of four-and-twenty windows, sent a servant to find out what the noise was about, who came back laughing, so that the Princess scolded her. "Madam," replied the servant, "who can help laughing to see an old fool offering to exchange fine new lamps for old ones?" Another servant, hearing this, said, "There is an old one on the cornice there which he can have." Now this was the magic lamp, which Aladdin had left there, as he could not take it out hunting with him. The Princess, not knowing its value, laughingly bade the slave take it and make the exchange. She went and said to the magician: "Give me a new lamp for this." He snatched it and bade the slave take her choice, amid the jeers of the crowd. Little he cared, but left off crying his lamps, and went out of the city gates to a lonely place, where he remained till nightfall, when he pulled out the lamp and rubbed it. The genie appeared, and at the magician's command carried him, together with the palace and the Princess in it, to a lonely place in Africa.

Next morning the Sultan looked out of the window towards Aladdin's palace and rubbed his eyes, for it was gone. He sent for the Vizier and asked what had become of the palace. The Vizier looked out too, and was lost in astonishment. He again put it down to enchantment, and this time the Sultan believed him, and sent thirty men on horseback to fetch Aladdin back in chains. They met him riding home, bound him, and forced him to go with them on foot. The people, however, who loved him, followed, armed, to see that he came to no harm. He was carried before the Sultan, who ordered the executioner to cut off his head. The executioner made Aladdin kneel down, bandaged his eyes, and raised his scimitar to strike. At that instant the Vizier, who saw that the crowd had forced their way into the courtyard and were scaling the walls to rescue Aladdin, called to the executioner to stay his hand. The people, indeed, looked so threatening that the Sultan gave way and ordered Aladdin to be

unbound, and pardoned him in the sight of the crowd. Aladdin now begged to know what he had done. "False wretch!" said the Sultan, "come hither," and showed him from the window the place where his palace had stood. Aladdin was so amazed he could not say a word. "Where is your palace and my daughter?" demanded the Sultan. "For the first I am not so deeply concerned, but my daughter I must have, and you must find her or lose your head." Aladdin begged for forty days in which to find her, promising if he failed to return to suffer death at the Sultan's pleasure. His prayer was granted, and he went forth sadly from the Sultan's presence.

For three days he wandered about like a madman, asking everyone what had become of his palace, but they only laughed and pitied him. He came to the banks of a river, and knelt down to say his prayers before throwing himself in. In doing so he rubbed the ring he still wore. The genie he had seen in the cave appeared, and asked his will. "Save my life, genie," said Aladdin, "and bring my palace back." "That is not in my power," said the genie; "I am only the Slave of the Ring; you must ask him of the lamp." "Even so," said Aladdin, "but thou canst take me to the palace, and set me down under my dear wife's window." He at once found himself in Africa, under the window of the Princess, and fell asleep out of sheer weariness.

He was awakened by the singing of the birds, and his heart was lighter. He saw plainly that all his misfortunes were owing to the loss of the lamp, and vainly wondered who had robbed him of it.

That morning the Princess rose earlier than she had done since she had been carried into Africa by the magician, whose company she was forced to endure once a day. She, however, treated him so harshly that he dared not live there altogether. As she was dressing, one of her women looked out and saw Aladdin. The Princess ran and opened the window, and at the noise she made, Aladdin looked up. She called to him to come to her, and great was the joy of these lovers at seeing each other again. After he had kissed her Aladdin said: "I beg of you, Princess, in God's name, before we speak of anything else, for your own sake and mine, tell me what has become of an old lamp I left on the cornice in the hall of four-and-twenty windows when I went a-hunting." "Alas," she said, "I am the innocent cause of our sorrows," and told him of the exchange of the lamp. "Now I know," cried Aladdin, "that we have to thank

the African magician for this! Where is the lamp?" "He carries it about with him," said the Princess. "I know, for he pulled it out of his breast to show me. He wishes me to break my faith with you and marry him, saying that you were beheaded by my father's command. He is forever speaking ill of you, but I only reply by my tears. If I persist, I doubt not but he will use violence." Aladdin comforted her, and left her for a while. He changed clothes with the first person he met in the town, and having bought a certain powder returned to the Princess, who let him in by a little side door. "Put on your most beautiful dress," he said to her, "and receive the magician with smiles, leading him to believe that you have forgotten me. Invite him to sup with you, and say you wish to taste the wine of his country. He will go for some, and while he is gone I will tell you what to do." She listened carefully to Aladdin and when he left her, arrayed herself gaily for the first time since she left China. She put on a girdle and head-dress of diamonds and seeing in a glass that she was more beautiful than ever, received the magician, saying, to his great amazement: "I have made up my mind that Aladdin is dead, and that all my tears will not bring him back to me, so I am resolved to mourn no more, and have therefore invited you to sup with me; but I am tired of the wines of China, and would fain taste those of Africa." The magician flew to his cellar, and the Princess put the powder Aladdin had given her in her cup. When he returned she asked him to drink her health in the wine of Africa, handing him her cup in exchange for his, as a sign she was reconciled to him. Before drinking the magician made her a speech in praise of her beauty, but the Princess cut him short, saying: "Let us drink first, and you shall say what you will afterwards." She set her cup to her lips and kept it there, while the magician drained his to the dregs and fell back lifeless. The Princess then opened the door to Aladdin, and flung her arms around his neck; but Aladdin went to the dead magician, took the lamp out of his vest, and bade the genie carry the palace and all in it back to China. This was done, and the Princess in her chamber felt only two little shocks, and little thought she was home again.

The Sultan, who was sitting in his closet, mourning for his lost daughter, happened to look up, and rubbed his eyes, for there stood the palace as before! He hastened thither, and Aladdin received him in the hall of the four-and-twenty windows, with the Princess at his

side. Aladdin told him what had happened, and showed him the dead body of the magician, that he might believe. A ten days' feast was proclaimed, and it seemed as if Aladdin might now live the rest of his life in peace; but it was not meant to be.

The African magician had a younger brother, who was, if possible, more wicked and more cunning than himself. He travelled to China to avenge his brother's death, and went to visit a pious woman called Fatima, thinking she might be of use to him. He entered her cell and clapped a dagger to her breast, telling her to rise and do his bidding on pain of death. He changed clothes with her, coloured his face like hers, put on her veil, and murdered her, that she might tell no tales. Then he went towards the palace of Aladdin, and all the people, thinking he was the holy woman, gathered round him, kissing his hands and begging his blessing. When he got to the palace there was such a noise going on round him that the Princess bade her servant look out the window and ask what was the matter. The servant said it was the holy woman, curing people by her touch of their ailments, whereupon the Princess, who had long desired to see Fatima, sent for her. On coming to the Princess the magician offered up a prayer for her health and prosperity. When he had done the Princess made him sit by her, and begged him to stay with her always. The false Fatima, who wished for nothing better, consented, but kept his veil down for fear of discovery. The princess showed him the hall, and asked him what he thought of it. "It is truly beautiful," said the false Fatima. "In my mind it wants but one thing." "And what is that?" said the Princess. "If only a roc's egg," replied he, "were hung up from the middle of this dome, it would be the wonder of the world."

After this the Princess could think of nothing but the roc's egg, and when Aladdin returned from hunting he found her in a very ill humour. He begged to know what was amiss, and she told him that all her pleasure in the hall was spoilt for want of a roc's egg hanging from the dome. "If that is all," replied Aladdin, "you shall soon be happy." He left her and rubbed the lamp, and when the genie appeared commanded him to bring a roc's egg. The genie gave such a loud and terrible shriek that the hall shook.

"Wretch!" he cried, "is it not enough that I have done everything for you, but you must command me to bring my master and hang him up in the midst of this dome? You and your wife and your palace

deserve to be burnt to ashes, but that this request does not come from you, but from the brother of the African magician, whom you destroyed. He is now in your palace disguised as the holy woman, whom he murdered. He it was who put that wish into your wife's head. Take care of yourself, for he means to kill you." So saying, the genie disappeared.

Aladdin went back to the Princess, saying his head ached, and requesting that the holy Fatima should be fetched to lay her hands on it. But when the magician came near, Aladdin, seizing his dagger, pierced him to the heart. "What have you done?" cried the Princess. "You have killed the holy woman!" "Not so," replied Aladdin, "but a wicked magician," and told her of how she had been deceived.

After this Aladdin and his wife lived in peace. He succeeded the Sultan when he died, and reigned for many years, leaving behind him a long line of kings.

THE END