

阿拉伯故事選

簡清國註

臺灣商務印書館印行



• 王雲五主編 •

人人文

阿 拉 伯 故 事 選

THE ARABIAN STORIES

附 詳 細 註 釋
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編印人人文庫序

余弱冠始授英文，爲謀教學相長，並滿足讀書慾，輒廣購英文出版物。彼時英國有所謂人人叢書 Everyman's Library 者，刊行迄今將及百年，括有子目約及千種，價廉而內容豐富，所收以古典爲主，間亦參入新著。就內容與售價之比，較一般出版物所減過半。其能如是，則以字較小，行較密，且由於古典作品得免對著作人之報酬，所減成本亦多。

余自中年始，從事出版事業，迄今四十餘年，中斷不逾十載。在大陸時爲商務印書館輯印各種叢書，多厲廉售之意，如萬有文庫一二集，叢書集成初編以及國學基本叢書等，其尤著者也。民五十三年重主商務印書館，先後輯印萬有文庫薈要，叢書集成簡編，漢譯世界名著甲編等，一本斯旨。惟以整套發售，固有利於圖書館與藏書家，未必盡適於青年學子也。

幾經考慮，乃略仿英國人人叢書之制，編爲人人文庫，陸續印行，分冊發售，定價特廉，與人人叢書相若；讀者對象，以青年爲主，則與前述叢書略異。本文庫版本爲四十開，以新五號字排印，與人人叢書略同；每冊定價一律，若干萬字以下，或相等篇幅者爲單冊，占一號；超過若干萬字或相等篇幅者爲複冊，占二號，皆依出版先後編次。每號實價新臺幣八元，

一改我國零售圖書向例，概不折扣。惟實行以來，發見間以萬數千字之差，售價即加倍，頗欠公允。研討再四，決改定售價，單號仍爲八元，雙號則減爲十二元，俾相差不過鉅，又爲鼓勵多購多讀，凡一次購滿五冊者加贈一單冊，悉聽購者自選。區區之意，亦欲藉此而一新書業風氣，並使購讀者得較優之實惠而已。

抑今後重印大陸版各書，除別有歸屬，或不盡適於青年閱讀者外，當盡量編入本文庫。同時本文庫亦儘可能搜羅當代海內外新著，期對舊版重印者維持相當比例。果能如願，則本文庫殆合英國人人叢書與家庭大學叢書 Home University Library 而一之也。

數年之間，取材方面，時有極合本文庫性質，徒以篇幅過多，不得不割愛者，因自五十八年七月起新增特號一種，售價定爲二十元，俾本文庫範圍益廣，而仍保持定價一律之原則。惟半年以來，紙價工價均大漲，祇得將特號面數酌予調整。凡初版新書，每冊在二百一十面至三百面者，或景印舊版，每冊在三百一十面至五百面者，均列入特號，事出不獲已，當爲讀書界所共諒也。

中華民國五十九年一月五日王雲五識

註釋者序

這本「阿拉伯故事選」取材自 The Harvard Classics 第十六冊，乃世界名著「一千零一夜的故事」之附篇。本書共有兩個故事：「阿拉丁與神燈」和「阿里巴巴與四十大盜」。讀者可能早已熟悉或看過影片，但英文本的內容尤其饒有趣味，生動感人，使你在欣賞精彩故事之餘，賞心悅目，外更能提高英文程度，增進閱讀能力，一舉數得，何樂而不爲！

藉背誦單字與文法來學習英文，乃是我國學生的通病。是以花費六年工夫不能閱讀淺顯文章，猶如記憶花卉名稱與種類，而無從欣賞花卉芳美一樣的可惜可嘆。註者有鑑於此，特從 The Harvard Classics 中精選出適合於我國學生程度的文章，將比較偏僻疑難的字句、成語和文法結構加以摘取，並加註釋。註釋中並將一字數義的字一一列出，附以例句解說，以期讀者舉一反三，靈活運用。

註者一向反對學生閱讀坊間暢銷的中英對照書籍，蓋以學者每捨難就易，只看譯文；至於英文部分則隨便瀏覽，不求甚解。如此而企望英文進步，無異捨本逐末，緣木求魚。如果學者能够耐心詳讀原文，逐字逐句求其會通，遇有疑難即查看書後註解（如註解未及或尚有疑難，當自查字典），則所學英文才能紮實，才算「活英文」。

本書適合高中、大專學生以至社會青年進修之用。由於疑難之字詞只在首次出現時加以註解，以後出現即不重註，因此讀者最好從頭閱讀，循序漸進。

譯事難，「註事」更難；註者才疏學淺，疏陋不當之處在所難免，尚祈海內外賢明不吝指正。

簡清國 中華民國六十一年九月一日

The Story of Ala-Ed-Din And The Wonderful Lamp

I HAVE heard, O King of the Age, that there dwelt in a city of China a poor tailor who had a son named 'Ala-ed-Din. Now this boy had been a scatter-brained¹ scapegrace² from his birth. And when he had come to his tenth year his father wished to teach him a handicraft; and being too poor to afford to spend money on him for learning an art or craft or business, he took him into his own shop to learn his trade³ of tailoring. But 'Ala-ed-Din, being a careless boy, and always given to⁴ playing with the urchins⁵ of the street, would not stay in the shop a single day, but used to watch till his father went out on business or to meet a customer, and then would run off to the gardens along with his fellow-ragamuffins.⁶ Such was his case. He would neither obey his parents nor learn a trade; till his father, for very sorrow and grief over his son's misdoing, fell sick and died. But 'Ala-ed-Din went on in the same way. And when his mother perceived that her husband was dead, and that her son was an idler of no use whatever, she sold the shop and all its contents, and took to⁷ spinning cotton to support herself and her good-for-nothing⁸ son. Meanwhile, 'Ala-ed-Din, freed from the control of his father, grew more idle and disreputable, and would not stay at home except for meals, while his poor unfortunate mother subsisted by the spinning of her hands; and so it was, until he had come to his fifteenth year.

One day, as 'Ala-ed-Din was sitting in the street playing with the gutter-boys,⁹ a Moorish Darwish came along, and stood looking at them, and began to scrutinise¹⁰ 'Ala-ed-Din and closely examine his appearance, apart from his com-

panions. Now this Darwish was from the interior of Barbary, and was a sorcerer¹¹ who could heap mountain upon mountain by his spells,¹² and who knew astrology. And when he had narrowly¹³ scrutinised 'Ala-ed-Din, he said within himself: "Verily this is the youth I need, and in quest of whom I left my native land."¹⁴ And he took one of the boys aside and asked him concerning 'Ala-ed-Din, whose son he was, and wanted to know all about him. After which, he went up to 'Ala-ed-Din, and took him aside, and said: "Boy, art thou not the son of such a one, the tailor?" And he answered: "Yes, O my master; but as to my father, he has long been dead." When the Moorish sorcerer heard this, he fell upon 'Ala-ed-Din, and embraced him and kissed him and wept till the tears ran down his cheeks. And when 'Ala-ed-Din saw the state of the Moor, wonder seized upon him, and he asked him and said: "Why dost thou weep, O my master? and how knowest thou my father?" And the Moor replied in a low and broken voice: "My boy, how dost thou ask me this question after thou hast told me that thy father, my brother is dead? For thy father was my brother, and I have journeyed from my country, and I rejoiced greatly in the hope of seeing him again, after my long exile, and cheering him; and now thou hast told me he is dead. But our blood hideth not from me that thou art my brother's son, and I recognised thee amongst all the boys, although thy father was not yet married when I parted from him. And now, O my son, 'Ala-ed-Din, I have missed the obsequies,¹⁵ and been deprived of the delight of meeting thy father, my brother, whom I had looked to see again, after my long absence, before I die. Separation caused me¹⁶ this grief, and created man hath no remedy or subterfuge against the decrees of God the most High." And he took 'Ala-ed-Din and said to him: "O my son, there remaineth no comfort to me but in thee; thou standest in thy father's place, since thou art his successor, and 'whoso¹⁷ leaveth issue¹⁸ doth not die,' O my son." And the sorcerer stretched forth his hand and took ten gold pieces, and gave them to 'Ala-ed-Din, saying to him: "O my son, where is thy house, and where is thy mother, my brother's widow?" So 'Ala-ed-Din shewed him the way to their house, and the sorcerer

said to him: "O my son, take this money, and give it to thy mother, and salute¹⁹ her from me, and tell her that thy uncle hath returned from his exile, and, God willing, will visit her to-morrow to greet her and to see the house where my brother lived and the place where he is buried." So 'Ala-ed-Din kissed the hand of the Moor, and went, running in his joy, to his mother's, and entered, contrary to his custom, for he was not wont²⁰ to come home save²¹ at meal times. And when he was come in he cried out in his joy: "O my mother, I bring thee good news of my uncle, who hath returned from his exile, and saluteth thee." And she said: "O my son, dost thou mock me? Who is this uncle of thine, and how hast thou an uncle at all?" And 'Ala-ed-Din answered: "O my mother, how canst thou say that I have no uncles or kinsmen living, when this man is my uncle on my father's side, and he hath embraced and kissed me and wept over me, and told me to make this known to thee!"²² And she said: "O my son, I know indeed that thou didst have an uncle, but he is dead, and I know not any other that thou hast."

On the morrow the Moorish sorcerer went out to seek 'Ala-ed-Din, for his heart could not bear parting from him; and as he wandered in the streets of the city, he met him disporting²³ himself as usual along with the other vagabonds,²⁴ and, approaching, he took him by the hand and embraced and kissed him, and took from his purse ten gold pieces, and said: "Haste thee to thy mother and give her these gold pieces, and tell her, 'My uncle would fain sup²⁵ with us; so take these pieces and make ready for us a good supper.' But first of all, shew me again the way to your home." And 'Ala-ed-Din replied: "On the head and eye, O my uncle." And he went before him and shewed him the way home. So the Moor left him and went his way; while 'Ala-ed-Din went home and told his mother, and gave her the gold pieces, and said his uncle would fain take supper with them. So she arose forthwith and went to the market and bought what she needed, and returning home she set about²⁶ making ready for the supper. And she borrowed from her neighbours what she needed of dishes and the rest, and when the time came for supper she said to her son: "Supper is ready, but

perhaps thy uncle doth not know the way to the house; go therefore, and meet him on the road." And he answered, "I hear and obey." And whilst they were talking, a knock came at the door, and when 'Ala-ed-Din opened, behold, there was the Moorish wizard²⁷, with a eunuch carrying wine and fruit. And 'Ala-ed-Din brought them in, and the eunuch departed; but the Moor entered and saluted the mother, and began weeping and asking her questions, as, "Where is the place where my brother sat?" And when she shewed him her husband's seat, he went to it and prostrated himself and kissed the ground, and cried: "Ah, how small is my satisfaction and how cruel my fate, since I have lost thee, O my brother, O apple of my eye!"²⁸ And he went on in this manner, weeping and wailing, until 'Ala-ed-Din's mother was assured that it was true, for verily he had swooned²⁹ from the violence of his grief. And she raised him up from the ground and said: "What benefit is there in killing thyself?" And she comforted him, and seated him. And after he was seated and before the supper-tray was served, the Moor began talking with her, and said: "O wife of my brother, let it not amaze thee that in all thy life thou hast neither seen me nor heard of me in the days of my departed brother; for it is forty years since I left this city and banished myself from my birthplace and wandered throughout the countries of India and China and Arabia, and came to Egypt and abode in its glorious capital, which is one of the wonders of the world, until at length I journeyed to the interior of the West and abode there for the space of thirty years. One day, O wife of my brother, I was sitting thinking of my native land and my birthplace and my blessed brother, and my longing to see him grew stronger, and I wept and wailed over my separation and distance from him. And at last my yearning made me determine to journey to this country, which is the pillow of my head and my birthplace, for to see my brother. For I said to myself: 'O man, how long wilt thou abandon thy country and thy native place, when thou hast but one brother and no more? So rise and journey and see him ere thou die; for who can tell the calamities of this world and the chances of life? And it would be a sore grief to die without seeing thy brother.

'ALA-ED-DIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP

Moreover, God (praised be his name!) hath given thee abundant wealth, and perchance³¹ thy brother³² may be in distress and poverty, and thou canst succour him as well as look upon him.' Therefore I arose and made ready for the journey, and recited the Fatihah, and when the Friday prayers were over, I departed and came to this city, after many troubles and difficulties, which I endured by the help of God. So³³ I arrived here, and the day before yesterday, as I roamed about the streets, I perceived thy son 'Ala-ed-Din playing with the boys, and by Almighty God, O wife of my brother, hardly had I seen him, when my heart went out to him (for blood is loving to its like), and my heart told me that he was my brother's son. And I forgot my troubles and anxieties as soon as I saw him, and could have flown for joy, until he told me of the death of him³⁴ who is gathered to the mercy of God most High; whereat I swooned for heaviness of grief and regret. But 'Ala-ed-Din hath doubtless informed thee of my tribulation.³⁵ Yet am I comforted in part by this child, who hath been bequeathed to us by the departed.³⁶ Verily, 'he who leaveth issue doth not die.' "

And when he saw that she wept at his words, he turned to 'Ala-ed-Din, to divert her from the thought of her husband; and to console her and perfect his deception, he said, "O my son 'Ala-ed-Din, what crafts has thou learned and what is thy trade? Hast thou learned a craft to support thee withal,³⁸ thyself and thy mother?" And 'Ala-ed-Din was ashamed and hung down his head in confusion,³⁹ and bent it toward the ground. But his mother cried: "What then! By Allah, he knoweth nothing at all; I never saw so heedless a child as this. All the day he idles⁴⁰ about with the boys of the street, vagabonds like himself, and his father (O my grief!) died⁴¹ only of grieving over him. And I am now in woeful plight; I toil, and spin night and day to gain a couple of loaves of bread for us to eat together. This is his state, O brother-in-law; and by thy life he cometh not home save to meals, and never else. And as for me, I am minded to lock the door of my house and open not to him, but let him go and seek his own living. I am an old woman, and I have not strength to work and struggle for a livelihood like this. By Allah, I have to support him with food, when

it is I who ought to be supported." And the Moor turned to 'Ala-ed-Din and said: "O son of my brother, why dost thou continue in such gracelessness?⁴² It is shame upon thee and befitteth not men like thee.⁴³ Thou art a person of sense, my boy, and the son of decent folk. It is a reproach to thee that thy mother, an aged woman, should toil for thy maintenance.⁴⁴ And now that thou hast reached manhood, it behooveth thee to devise some way whereby thou mayest be able to support thyself. Look about, for God be praised, in this our city there are plenty of teachers of handicrafts; nowhere more. So choose a craft that pleaseth thee, for me to set thee up therein, so that as thou waxest⁴⁵ older, my son, thy trade shall bring thee maintenance. If so be thy father's calling⁴⁶ liketh thee not,⁴⁷ choose another that thou preferrest. Tell me, and I will help thee as best I can, my son." And when he saw that 'Ala-ed-Din was silent and answered him never a word, he knew that he did not wish any calling at all, save idling, so he said: "O son of my brother, let not my advice be irksome to thee; for if, after all, thou like not to learn a trade, I will open for thee a merchant's shop of the richest stuffs, and thou shalt be known among the people, and take and give and buy and sell and become a man of repute in the city." And when 'Ala-ed-Din heard his uncle's words, that he would make him a merchant trader, he rejoiced greatly, for he knew that merchants are well dressed and well fed. So he looked smilingly at the Moor and inclined⁴⁸ his head to signify his content.

And when the Moorish wizard saw 'Ala-ed-Din smiling, he perceived that he was content to be made a merchant, and he said to him: "Since thou art satisfied that I make thee a merchant and open a shop for thee, O son of my brother, be a man, and, God willing, to-morrow I will take thee to the market to begin with, and get cut for thee an elegant dress such as merchants wear, and then find for thee a shop, and keep my promise to thee." Now 'Ala-ed-Din's mother had been in doubt whether the Moor were indeed her brother-in-law; but when she heard his promise to her son to open a merchant's shop for him and furnish him with goods and wares and the rest, the woman decided in her mind⁴⁹ that this Moor was verily her brother-in-law, since no

stranger would have acted thus to her son. And she began to direct her son and bade him banish ignorance from his head and become a man, and ever obey his uncle like a son, and retrieve⁵⁰ the time he had squandered in idling⁵¹ with his mates. Then she arose, and spread the table and served the supper, and they all sat down, and began to eat and drink; and the Moor discoursed to 'Ala-ed-Din on the affairs of business and the like,⁵² so that the boy did not sleep that night for joy. And when he perceived that the night had fallen, the Moor arose and went to his abode and promised them to return on the morrow to take 'Ala-ed-Din to have his merchant's clothes made.

The next day the Moor rapped⁵³ at the door, and the mother of 'Ala-ed-Din arose and opened to him, but he would not enter, but only desired to take her son with him to the market. So 'Ala-ed-Din came forth to him and wished him good-day, and kissed his hand; and the Moor took him by the hand and went with him to the market, and entered a clothes-shop of all sorts of stuffs, and demanded a sumptuous⁵⁴ suit of merchant's style. So the dealer brought out what he required ready made. And the Moor said to 'Ala-ed-Din: "Choose what pleaseth thee, my son." The boy rejoiced greatly when he understood that his uncle had given him his choice, and he picked out the suit he preferred; and the Moor paid the dealer the price on the spot.⁵⁵ Then he took 'Ala-ed-Din to the Hammam, and they bathed, and came forth, and drank sherbet. And 'Ala-ed-Din arose and put on his new dress, rejoicing and preening;⁵⁶ and he approached his uncle and thanked him, and kissed his hand, and acknowledged his kindness.

After the Moor had come forth from the bath with 'Ala-ed-Din and taken him to the market of the merchants, and delighted him with the buying and selling therein, he said to him: "O son of my brother, it behooveth thee to become acquainted with the people, above all with the merchants, in order to learn their business, since it is now thy profession." And he took him and shewed him about the city and the mosques and all the sights of the place; and then led him to a cook-shop, where dinner was served to them on silver dishes; and they dined and ate and drank until

they were satisfied, and then they went their way. And the Moor pointed out the pleasure-grounds, and great buildings, and entered the Sultan's palace, and shewed him all the beautiful large rooms. Then he took him to the Khan⁵⁷ of the foreign merchants, where he had his lodging; and he invited some of the merchants in the Khan to supper; and when they sat down, he informed them that this was his brother's son, whose name was 'Ala-ed-Din. And when they had eaten and drunk and night had fallen, he arose and took 'Ala-ed-Din back to his mother. And when she saw her son, that he was one of the merchants, her reason departed for very joy, and she began to thank her brother-in-law for his goodness, saying: "O my brother-in-law, I could not satisfy myself if I thanked thee all my life, and praised thee for the favour thou hast done to my son." And the Moor replied: "O wife of my brother, it is no favour at all, for this is my son, and it is my duty to fill the place of my brother, his father. So let it suffice thee." And she said: "I pray God, by his favoured ones, the saints of old and of latter days, to keep thee and prolong thy life to me, O my brother-in-law, so that thou mayest be a shield⁵⁸ for this orphan youth, and he be ever obedient to thy command and do nothing save what thou orderest him to do." And the Moor replied: "O wife of my brother, 'Ala-ed-Din⁵⁹ is of man's estate and intelligent and of an honest stock, and please God he will follow his father's way and refresh thine eye. I am sorry, however, that, to-morrow being Friday the day of worship, I shall not be able to open his shop for him, because on that day all the merchants after service repair to the gardens and walks. But on Saturday, God willing, we will accomplish our affair. And to-morrow I will come here and take 'Ala-ed-Din, and shew him the gardens and walks outside the city, which he may not perhaps have seen before, and point out to him the merchant folk and people of note⁶¹ who walk about and amuse themselves there, so that he may become acquainted with them and they with him."

So the Moor slept that night at his abode, and in the morning he came to the tailor's house and rapped at the door. Now 'Ala-ed-Din, from excess of delight in his new⁶²

dress, and what with the bathing and eating and drinking and sightseeing of the day before, and the expectation of his uncle's coming on the morrow to take him to the gardens, had not slept that night, nor closed his eyes, nor scarcely believed the morning had come. So as soon as he heard the rap at the door he ran out like a flash of fire and opened the door and met his uncle, who embraced and kissed him, and took him by the hand. And as they went along he said: "O son of my brother, to-day I will shew thee such a sight as thou never didst see in all thy life." And he made the boy laugh and entertained him with his talk. And they went out of the gate of the city and began meandering⁶³ among the gardens: and the Moor pointed out the splendid pleasure-grounds and wondrous tall palaces. And so often as they looked upon a garden or mansion or palace, the Moor would pause and say: "Doth this astonish thee, O son of my brother?" And 'Ala-ed-Din well nigh⁶⁴ flew with delight at seeing things he had never imagined in all his born days. And they ceased not to wander about and amuse themselves till they were weary. Then they entered a large garden hard by,⁶⁵ whereat the heart became light and the eye bright, for its brooks trickled amid flowers, and fountains gushed from the jaws of brazen lions, which shone like gold. So they sat down by a lake and rested awhile; and 'Ala-ed-Din was full of happiness and began to make merry and jest with his uncle as though he were of a truth his father's brother. Then the Moor arose, and loosening his girdle, took forth a wallet⁶⁷ of food and fruit and so forth, saying: "O son of my brother, thou art hungry; come then and eat thy fill." So 'Ala-ed-Din fell to⁶⁸ eating and the Moor ate with him, and their souls were refreshed and made glad, and they reposed. And the Moor said: "O son of my brother, if thou art rested, let us walk a spell⁶⁹ and finish our stroll." So 'Ala-ed-Din arose, and the Moor led him from garden to garden till they had quitted⁷⁰ all the gardens and come to a lofty hill. But 'Ala-ed-Din, who all his life had never gone beyond the city gates, or taken such a walk, said to the Moor: "O my uncle, whither do we go? We have left all the gardens behind us, and come to the mountain, and if the way be

far, I have not strength to walk longer; nay, I am all but fainting from tiredness. There are no more gardens ahead, so let us turn and go back to the city." But the Moor replied: "Nay, my son; this is the road, and it is not yet an end of the gardens; for we are just going to look at one such as is not to be seen among Kings' gardens, and all those thou hast seen are naught compared with it. So pluck up⁷¹ thy courage, for, God be praised, thou art now a grown man." And the Moor set to⁷² cheering 'Ala-ed-Din with encouraging words, and related wonderful tales, both true and false, until they came to the place which this Moorish sorcerer had fixed upon⁷³, and the which to find he had journeyed from the lands of the West to the countries of China. And when they arrived, he said to 'Ala-ed-Din: "O son of my brother, sit down and rest, for this is the place we are seeking, and if it please God I will shew thee wonders the like of which no one in the world ever saw before, nor hath any one rejoiced in looking upon what thou art to see. When thou art rested, arise and find some faggots of wood and thin dry sticks to make a fire. Then will I shew thee, O son of my brother, a thing beyond description." And when 'Ala-ed-Din heard this, he longed to see what his uncle would do, and forgot his weariness, and straightway⁷⁴ arose and began to collect small faggots⁷⁵ and dry sticks and gathered them together till the Moor cried, "Enough, O son of my brother!" Then the Moor drew from his pocket a box, and opened it, and took from it what incense he required, and he burnt it and muttered adjurations⁷⁶ and said mysterious words. And straightway, amid murk and quaking and thunder, the earth opened, and 'Ala-ed-Din was alarmed and terrified at this, and would have fled. But when the sorcerer perceived his intention, he was wroth and furiously enraged thereat⁷⁷, for without 'Ala-ed-Din his design would come to naught⁷⁸, and the treasure he sought to unearth could not be obtained save by means of the boy.⁷⁹ And so when he saw him thinking of flight he made for him, and raising his hand, he smote him on the head, so that his teeth were almost knocked out, and he swooned and fell to the ground. And after a while he came to⁸⁰, by the spells of the Moor, and fell

'ALA-ED-DIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP

a-crying, and said: "O my uncle, what have I done to deserve such a blow from thee?" So the Moor began to mollify⁸¹ him, and said: "O my son, it is my intention to make a man of thee; so thwart⁸² me not, who am thine uncle, and, as it were,⁸³ thy father. Obey me, rather, in all I tell thee, and shortly thou shalt forget all this toil and trouble when thou lookest upon marvellous things." Thereupon, when the earth had opened in front of the wizard, there appeared a marble slab, wherein was a ring of brass. And drawing geometric figures, the Moor said to 'Ala-ed-Din: "If thou dost what I tell thee, thou wilt become richer than all the Kings put together; and for this cause struck I thee,⁸⁴ O my son, because there is buried here a treasure which is deposited in thy name, and yet thou wast about to abandon it and flee. And now pull thy wits together and behold how I have cloven the earth by my spells and incantations.

"Under that stone with the ring," he continued, "is the Treasury whereof I told thee. Put forth thy hand to the ring and raise the stone, for no one in the world but thyself hath the power to open it, nor can any save thee set foot in⁸⁵ this Treasury, which hath been⁸⁶ reserved for thee alone. Wherefore thou must hearken to all that I bid thee, and not gainsay⁸⁷ my words a jot. All this, O my son, is for thy good, since this treasure is immense. The Kings of the earth have never seen the like, and it is all for thee and for me."

So poor 'Ala-ed-Din forgot his tiredness and the beating and the tears, and was dazzled at the words of the Moor, and rejoiced to think that he would become so rich that Kings would not be wealthier than he. And he said: "O my uncle, command me what thou wilt, and I will obey thy behest."⁸⁸ And the Moor said to him: "O son of my brother, thou art like my own child, and more, since thou art my brother's son, and I have none of kin save thee; and thou art my heir and successor, O my son." And he approached 'Ala-ed-Din and kissed him, saying: "For whom should I design all these labours of mine, my child, except for thee, that I may leave thee a rich man, as rich as can be! Wherefore thwart me not in anything I tell thee, but go to that ring and lift it as I bade thee." And 'Ala-ed-

Din said: "O my uncle, this ring is too heavy for me; I cannot lift it alone; come and help me to raise it, for I am little in years." But the Moor replied: "O my brother's son, we can accomplish nothing if I aid thee, and our labours would be vain; put then thy hand to the ring and lift it, and the stone will come up immediately. Did I not tell thee that none can move it but thyself? Repeat thy name and the names of thy father and mother, whilst thou pullest, and it will come up at once, and thou wilt not feel its weight." So 'Ala-ed-Din summoned his strength and plucked up his courage, and set to work as his uncle had bidden him, and lifted the stone with perfect ease, after saying the names of himself and his father and mother as the Moor had counselled him. So he lifted the slab and cast it on one side.

And when he had lifted the slab from the door of the Treasury, before him lay a passage entered by a descent of twelve steps. And the Moor said to him: "'Ala-ed-Din, pull thy wits together, and do exactly what I tell thee to the uttermost, and fail not a little from it. Descend carefully into yonder passage until thou reachest the end, and there shalt thou find a place divided into four chambers, and in each of these thou shalt see four golden jars and others of virgin gold⁸⁹ and silver. Beware that thou touch them not nor take anything out of them, but leave them and go on to the fourth chamber, without even brushing them with thy clothes or loitering⁹⁰ a single moment; for if thou do contrary to this thou wilt straightway be transformed and become a black stone. And when thou comest to the fourth chamber thou wilt find a door; then open the door, and repeating the names thou saidst over the slab, enter, and verily thou wilt pass thence into a garden full of fruit trees, whence thou wilt proceed by a path which thou wilt see in front of thee about fifty cubits long, and come upon⁹¹ an alcove⁹² in which is a ladder of about fifty steps, and thou shalt see, moreover, a Lamp suspended above the alcove. Take thou the Lamp, and pour out the oil therein and put it in thy breast, and be not afraid for thy clothes, since it is but common oil. And on thy return thou mayest pluck what thou plearest from the