NEWAL KISHORE PRESS DIGITAL MUSEUM

PERMANENT COLLECTION / LUCKNOW

A Thousand and One Dawns

The Arabian Nights at the Newal Kishore Press



Alif Laila on Munshi Newal Kishore’s shelves

Enter the exhibition

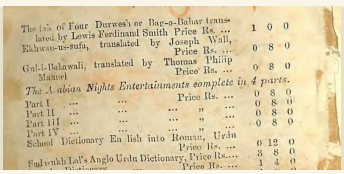
English reading edition · 2026

THE PUBLISHER’S CHOICE / LUCKNOW

How Lucknow read Alif Laila

Munshi Newal Kishore founded his press in Lucknow in 1858. In 1862, a reader in Lucknow could open the Arabian Nights and find Urdu poetry. Rekhta’s account credits Munshi Newal Kishore with the choice of a masnavi, a story told in rhyming couplets. Mirza Asghar Naseem rendered the first volume into verse. In 1880 the Press published an illustrated Urdu translation by Ratan Nath Sarshar, the author of Fasana-e-Azad. By 1909 the publishing house was offering Sindbad his own 39-page Urdu book.

The copy open here is in English. Its title leaves name the “Newul Kishore” Press in Lucknow and carry dates of 1890 and 1891. An advertisement bound into the book prices each of its four parts at eight annas. This was the choice facing a customer at the Press counter. Which part would you take home first?


The Tale of Four Durwesh or Bag-o-Bahar translated by Lewis Ferdinand Smith Price Rs. ... 1 0 0
Ekhwan-us-safa, translated by Joseph Wall, Price Rs. ... 0 8 0
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Price Rs. ... 1 4 0

THE BOOKSELLER’S PRICE LIST

Trace each entry across the page to the price column.

Read the list on scan 324

STEP INTO THE STORY

A wedding in King Schahriar’s court has come to mean a funeral. Each evening he marries a new bride and at dawn orders her death. The minister who takes the brides to the palace has two daughters. Tonight the elder, Scheherazade, asks to go. Before she leaves, she tells her sister exactly when to speak.

See the Lucknow editions on the archive table

Begin the illustrated story

Begin the comic

FOLLOW THE STORY

One story inside another

In the palace, Dinarzade listens beside the king. In a tale her sister tells, a porter listens to a sailor. These fourteen chapters follow selected stories from the Lucknow copy. Read either column straight down to return to the palace at the end.

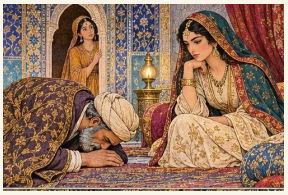
CHAPTER		Prose	Comic
THE SISTERS AND THE KING			
01	Before the first dawn	4	30
02	A date stone and a promise	5	31
03	A genie small enough for a jar	7	32
AT SINDBAD’S TABLE			
04	The island that dived	9	33
05	A way out of the diamond valley	11	34
06	Ten spits in the fire	12	35
07	Seven loaves underground	13	36
08	The rider who would not get down	14	37
09	The river under the mountain	15	38
10	The elephants’ answer	16	39
THREE LATER TALES			
11	Two genies and an old lamp	17	40
12	Ali Baba and the Forty Robbers	19	41
13	Parizade and the Speaking Bird	21	42
BACK IN THE ROYAL CHAMBER			
14	The morning the order never came	23	43

Back at the bookseller’s table · 24

Archival pages and editions · 25

THE SISTERS AND THE KING

Before the first dawn



WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

In the legendary court of the Indies, the king’s chief minister has to find him a new bride. Tonight the bride is the minister’s own daughter.

Scheherazade has just asked her father to take her to the king. The grand vizier tries to make his daughter picture the following morning. He will be the one sent to kill her. He has carried out the same order for other fathers’ daughters ever since Schahriar discovered his first wife’s betrayal. He cannot bear the thought of doing it again in his own house.

His elder daughter has spent years reading histories and learning poetry. She hears him out, then makes her request again. If she keeps quiet, another woman will be taken. Before the wedding she draws her younger sister Dinarzade aside. When they are together at the palace, about an hour before daybreak, Dinarzade is to ask for a story.

That night the king finds his bride in tears. She would like to see her sister once more. He gives his leave, and a little bed is made up for Dinarzade. Before the sky lightens, the younger girl calls across to her sister. Is there time for one of her stories? The king settles down to listen.

Scheherazade tells of a travelling merchant who eats dates beside a spring and tosses the stones away. A genie appears. One stone, he says, struck his son in the eye and killed him. The genie throws the astonished traveller to the ground and raises his sword. Just then the sun comes up, and Scheherazade falls silent. That morning her father sees the king walk into council. The order he has dreaded all night never comes.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

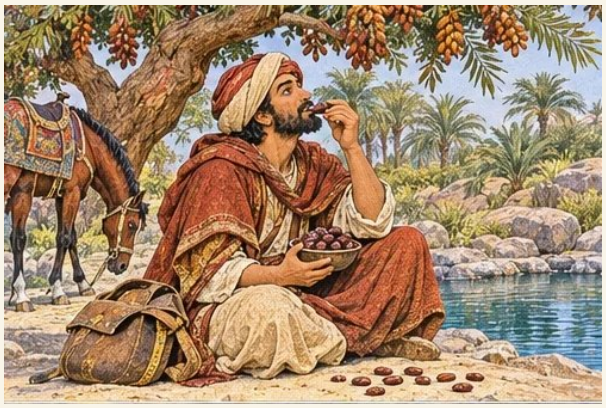
The first dawn passes without an execution. Before the second, Dinarzade asks what became of the traveller under the sword. This time the king himself tells Scheherazade to go on.

Part I · pp. 1–25

Scan 5 Scan 29

THE SISTERS AND THE KING

A date stone and a promise

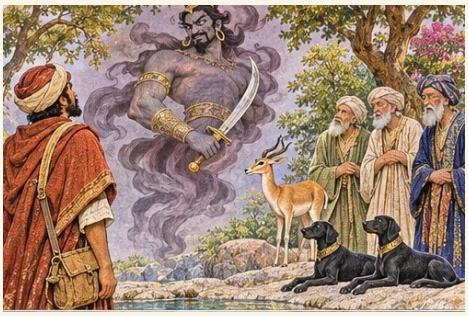


WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

At the spring, Scheherazade has left her merchant a moment from death. In the palace the king has given her another morning to tell what happened.

The sword is still raised. The merchant cannot bring the genie’s son back to life, and his own children are far away. He asks for a year to pay his debts, divide his property fairly and say goodbye. Then he will return to this spring. The genie asks if he will swear to it. He does. The sword comes down without touching him.

A year passes. A lone rider dismounts under the trees. He has settled his affairs. Now he sits down to wait. An old man leading a hind stops beside him. Another arrives with two black dogs. A third traveller joins them. Each could go on his way. All three stay.

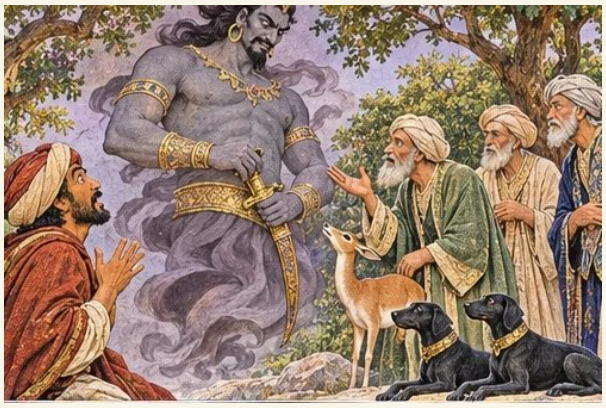


Part I · pp. 23–40

Scan 27 Scan 44

THE SISTERS AND THE KING / CONTINUED

A date stone and a promise



THE TELLING CONTINUES

Scheherazade tells the king

When the genie appears, the man with the hind offers a bargain. If the history of his animal astonishes the genie, will he give up a third of his claim? The hind was once the traveller’s wife. She turned his little son into a calf. A herdsman’s daughter restored the boy to his own shape and transformed the woman into the hind now standing by the water. The genie gives up the first third. The dogs turn out to be the second man’s brothers. He helped them after they lost their fortunes. On a later voyage they threw him into the sea, and the fairy who saved him turned them into dogs. That story wins the second third.

Dinarzade is eager for the last traveller’s tale. So is Schahriar. Scheherazade admits that no one ever told it to her. She knows what it bought. The genie hears the third man out, gives up his last claim and vanishes. The merchant thanks each of the men who stayed and rides home to his children.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

It is the eighth night. The merchant is safely home, and a little darkness remains. Dinarzade asks to hear the story her sister has just promised, the one about a fisherman.

Part I · pp. 23–40

Scan 27 Scan 44

THE SISTERS AND THE KING

A genie small enough for a jar



WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

Scheherazade’s next genie meets a man who earns each meal from the sea. Watch how often it is Dinarzade who asks the question that keeps both stories alive.

An old fisherman has a wife, three children and a rule. Four times a day he will cast his net. Three times today he has drawn up rubbish. On the fourth cast he finds a yellow copper vessel with a lead stopper. He might sell the metal for grain. He prises it open.

Smoke fills the sky and gathers into the shape of a genie. For centuries the prisoner promised riches to anyone who set him free. Nobody came. In his fury he made a different vow. Now the fisherman may choose only how he is to die. He looks up at the genie, then down at the mouth of the vessel. How could anything so enormous have fitted inside? The genie dissolves into smoke to show him. This time the fisherman is ready with the stopper.

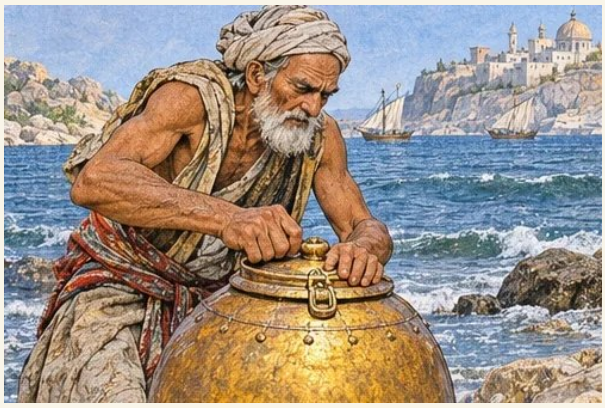
From inside the jar the genie begs to be let out. The fisherman reminds him what happened the last time he did him a kindness. Only when the genie swears to spare him and help him earn a living does he prise off the lead. The genie takes him to a pond. There swim white, red, blue and yellow fish. The fisherman catches one of each. At the palace the local sultan pays him four hundred gold pieces for them.

Part I · pp. 40–86

Scan 44 Scan 90

THE SISTERS AND THE KING / CONTINUED

A genie small enough for a jar



THE TELLING CONTINUES

Scheherazade tells the king

When the fish are cooked, a stranger steps through the kitchen wall and speaks to them. The sultan goes to see the pond for himself. Nearby he discovers a young king turned to stone from the waist down. The king’s wife, an enchantress, has turned the people of his city into the four colours of fish. The sultan takes the place of the man she loves and imitates his voice. To heal him, he tells her, she must first free her husband, then the whole city.

In the palace where Scheherazade is telling this, Dinarzade has to wait another night to learn what the enchantress does. She breaks both spells. The pond becomes a city again, with people in its shops and houses. The sultan kills the enchantress and brings the young king home with him. He sends for the old fisherman too. It was his net that first put them on the road to the city, and the sultan gives his family enough to live on for the rest of their days.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

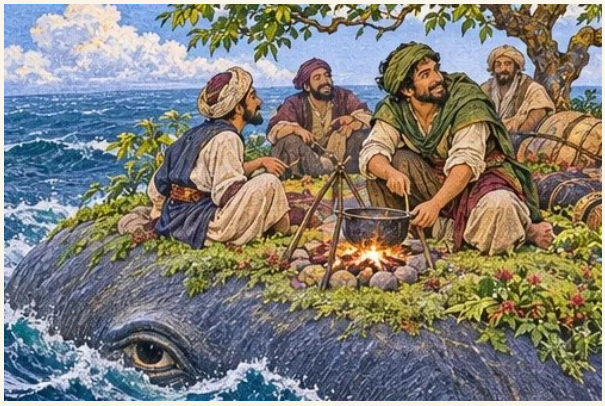
By dawn the fisherman has his fortune. Other stories occupy the following nights. Our reading next picks up in Bagdad, where Scheherazade introduces a porter who can barely earn his supper.

Part I · pp. 40–86

Scan 44 Scan 90

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

The island that dived

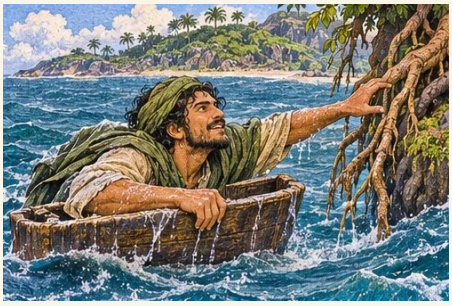


WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

In a story Scheherazade tells the king, Hindbad the porter stops outside a rich sailor’s house. The sailor invites him in. For seven dinners, the sailor becomes the storyteller.

On a hot day in Bagdad, Hindbad puts down his load outside a house. Someone has sprinkled the pavement with rose water. Music and the smell of dinner drift through a window. A servant tells him that Sindbad the Sailor lives here. The two names almost rhyme. How is it, the porter asks aloud, that one of them can eat like this every day and the other can scarcely feed his family?

The owner has heard. Hindbad goes in expecting a scolding. The elderly merchant makes room on his right, serves him dinner and has someone deliver the load so he can stay. Then he asks his guests to hear how his fortune came to him. The old man at the table was once a young man who had spent most of his inheritance.



Part I · pp. 199–208

Scan 203 Scan 212

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE / CONTINUED

The island that dived



THE TELLING CONTINUES

Sindbad tells Hindbad

Young Sindbad sells what is left and takes goods aboard a trading ship at Balsora. Becalmed near a green island, the merchants go ashore and light a fire. The ground shudders. Their cooking fire has woken a whale. The sailors scramble towards the ship as the great back sinks. Sindbad catches hold of a piece of their firewood.

After a night in the water, he catches at tree roots and climbs ashore. King Mihrage’s grooms find him and bring him to court. One day at the harbour he sees a bale with his own name on it. His captain believes him drowned and intends to sell the cargo for the dead man’s family. Sindbad tells him what happened after the whale dived. The crew recognise him, and he gets his goods back. He takes spices and camphor home to Bagdad. With his profits he builds a house. Long afterwards a porter will put down his load outside it.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

Sindbad gives Hindbad a purse of one hundred sequins and invites him back tomorrow. The porter goes home with gold. He returns in his best clothes to hear why his host ever sailed again.

Part I · pp. 199–208

Scan 203 Scan 212

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

A way out of the diamond valley



WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

Hindbad has taken his seat again. Sindbad now has a house and enough to live on. What draws him away a second time is the desire to trade.

Sindbad misses doing business. He boards another ship, this time with goods of his own choosing. One day, ashore beside a stream, he falls asleep after a meal. When he wakes up, his ship is a speck at sea. Walking inland, he finds a smooth white dome. A shadow cuts off the sun. The dome is an egg, and a roc, an enormous bird, has come to sit on it.

He winds his turban round the bird’s leg. At dawn it carries him into a steep valley. He unties himself before the bird flies off. Diamonds lie loose underfoot, but the cliffs are sheer and serpents come out at night. Then lumps of raw meat begin to fall from the sky. Sindbad remembers an old traders’ tale. Men above throw meat down so that diamonds stick to it, then let eagles carry the meat up to their nests.

He fills a bag with stones, ties a piece of meat to his back and lies face down. This bird is an eagle. It takes him up. When a merchant comes to claim his diamonds, a living man gets to his feet beside the meat. Sindbad offers him a share. The merchant chooses a single small stone, enough, he says, to spare him the trouble of ever having to sail again. He gets back to Bagdad with diamonds to trade. The goods he left on his ship are still missing.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

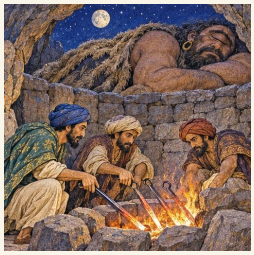
The diamonds make Sindbad richer. One piece of the adventure remains at sea, his cargo on the ship that sailed without him. Hindbad will hear what became of it over the next dinner.

Part I · pp. 208–214

Scan 212 Scan 218

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

Ten spits in the fire



WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

At the third dinner Sindbad admits how quickly he grew tired of life without business. The young trader takes fresh goods to Balsora and sets out again.

A gale drives the ship to an anchorage the captain dreads. Islanders seize the vessel, leaving the traders ashore. In a great house the men find a heap of bones beside a pile of roasting spits. When its one-eyed owner comes home, he feels each prisoner and picks out the captain for supper.

At daybreak Sindbad persuades his companions to build small rafts and leave them ready at the shore. That night, while the giant sleeps, nine men join him at the fire. With ten heated spits they blind their captor. They run for the rafts. At the water’s edge other giants hurl stones after them. Only one raft clears the falling rocks.

The two men who escape with Sindbad are taken by a serpent. Alone, he builds a shelter of thorns and lives through another night. In daylight a ship sees him waving his turban. Once aboard, he hears the captain tell his clerk whose name to enter against some unclaimed cargo. It is Sindbad’s own. This is the captain who sailed while he slept beside the stream on his second voyage. The captain had noticed his absence four hours too late, with the wind too strong to sail back. Now the man he thought dead is standing on his deck.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

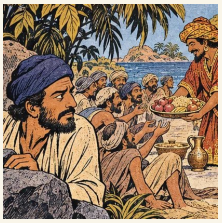
Sindbad comes home with the goods he lost a voyage ago. He gives Hindbad another hundred sequins. Over dinner the next day he admits that even this escape could not cure his curiosity.

Part I · pp. 214–223

Scan 218 Scan 227

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

Seven loaves underground



WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

This time Sindbad wants both business and the chance to see something new. On a fourth expedition, he gains a place at a foreign court before he understands its laws.

Shipwrecked again, Sindbad escapes from captors who have been feeding his companions to fatten them. Pepper gatherers take him to their island. There he makes a saddle for a king who has always ridden without one. Orders follow. Sindbad marries a lady of the court. Then a neighbour’s wife dies. When the mourners take her for burial, her living husband must go down into the tomb beside her. This is the law of the country where Sindbad has settled.

His own wife falls ill and dies. Neither his plea to the king nor the family waiting for him in Bagdad earns him an exception. He is lowered into a cavern with seven small loaves and a vessel of water. He lives through the first days on those provisions. When they run out, he kills other mourners lowered alive into the tomb and takes their food.

One day he hears an animal breathing. He follows it through the dark until a glimmer opens on the seashore. He brings jewels out of the tomb to the place where ships can see him. A passing crew sends a boat. Sindbad explains that he was shipwrecked two days ago and managed to save his goods. The captain takes his word for it. Years later, as he sits safe at dinner in Bagdad, the porter at his side hears the part he left out.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

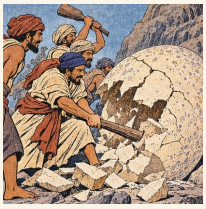
Hindbad now knows what the men on the rescue ship never heard. Next day Sindbad tells his guests how he tried to give himself more control over a voyage. He bought his own ship.

Part I · pp. 223–233

Scan 227 Scan 237

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

The rider who would not get down



WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

At the fifth dinner Sindbad explains what the new ship was meant to change. He wanted command of his own passage. His fellow passengers have ideas of their own.

Sindbad sets out with a ship of his own and other merchants aboard. When they land on an island, his passengers find a roc’s egg. He has seen one before. He tries to stop them, but they break it open and roast the chick. The returning birds fly off and come back with great rocks in their claws. The helmsman dodges the first. The second breaks the ship. Its owner escapes on a board.

On an island green with fruit trees, a frail-looking stranger gestures for a lift across a stream. Sindbad stoops. The moment he stands up, the rider locks both legs around his neck. He drives Sindbad from tree to tree and keeps his grip through the night. At last Sindbad ferments grape juice in a hollow gourd. The old man drinks until his legs slacken. Sindbad throws him down and kills him with a stone.

Sailors who put in for water tell him that he has survived the Old Man of the Sea. With their help he reaches a trading port. He has lost both ship and cargo. A merchant shows him how to make a fresh start. Men throw stones at apes in the palms. In their anger the apes hurl down coconuts that the men can sell. Sindbad fills his bags day after day. The crop pays for his passage and gives him something to trade on the way home.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

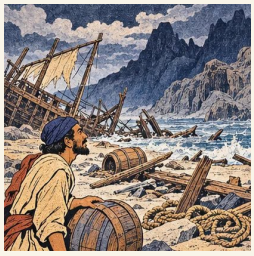
Sindbad returns to Bagdad with pearls and pepper. At their sixth dinner he raises the question Hindbad might well have asked. After five such journeys, what could persuade him to risk a sixth?

Part I · pp. 233–239

Scan 237 Scan 243

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

The river under the mountain



WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

The guests have gathered again in Bagdad. Sindbad says a year went by before he set sail. Looking back, he can scarcely explain the decision himself.

At sea a change in the captain’s face tells Sindbad something is wrong. The captain throws down his turban and pulls at his beard. He has recognised the current. It drives ships against the foot of a mountain from which no sailor returns. On shore lie the cargoes of earlier wrecks and the bones of the people who owned them. As the food runs out, Sindbad buries his companions one by one.

Yet water is flowing into the mountain. Somewhere, he reasons, it must come out. He lashes wreck timbers into a raft, balances his supplies and cargo, and takes two short oars into the dark. At one point the roof comes so low that he nearly strikes his head. He goes on until he falls asleep.

When he opens his eyes, the raft is tied up in daylight. People cutting channels to water their fields saw it emerge and drew it to safety. They take him before the king of Serendib, who hears his account and orders it written down in gold. When Sindbad sails home, he carries gifts and a letter from the king for Haroun Alraschid, the caliph who rules in Bagdad. He delivers them in person. This time at least he means his travelling days to be over.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

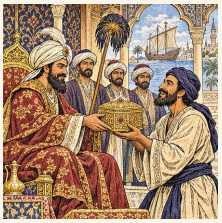
The hand that accepts a letter may have to carry a reply. For the final dinner Hindbad comes back to hear how a man who at last meant to stay at home went to sea for the caliph.

Part I · pp. 239–248

Scan 243 Scan 252

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

The elephants’ answer



WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

At the seventh dinner Sindbad tells Hindbad about the one voyage he would gladly have refused. The caliph wants him to deliver a reply to the king of Serendib.

An officer calls at Sindbad’s house. The caliph has chosen him to carry return gifts to Serendib. Sindbad has wealth enough and wants rest, but he undertakes the errand. On his way back, pirates take his ship. They sell him to an ivory merchant who finds a use for his skill with a bow. Day after day he shoots elephants from the trees.

One morning the herd stops and looks straight at him. His bow drops. A great elephant uproots his tree, lifts him onto its back and carries him to a hillside covered with bones and tusks. Sindbad sees what it has shown him. Here is all the ivory his master could want, and the living herd can go free. The merchant goes to see for himself. He sets Sindbad free and gives him a share. Sindbad takes a caravan for the final stretch home. In Bagdad the caliph has the account written down.

At his own dinner table, the old sailor turns to Hindbad. Can the porter still begrudge him his rest? Hindbad remembers the words he spoke in the street. He praises the generous use his host makes of what he has earned. Sindbad gives him another hundred sequins and asks him to leave his carrying work and dine here every day. On the first afternoon Hindbad did not know whose threshold he had sat on. Now he can walk through the door as a friend.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

With Hindbad inside the house for good, Scheherazade takes up the telling again. The printed book continues with The Three Apples. Our selection moves ahead to Part III and a tailor’s son named Aladdin.

Part I · pp. 248–255

Scan 252 Scan 259

THREE LATER TALES

Two genies and an old lamp



WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

Sindbad’s dinners are over. Scheherazade is our storyteller again. We open Part III in a city in China as imagined in the tale, where Aladdin lives with his widowed mother.

A stranger in fine clothes finds Aladdin playing in the street. He knows the name of the boy’s late father, Mustapha the tailor. He claims to be Mustapha’s brother and talks about settling the boy in a shop. Aladdin’s mother has never heard of this uncle. Still, the man buys her son a new suit. When he takes Aladdin out of town, the boy goes willingly.

Beyond the city, his supposed uncle opens a passage underground. He puts a ring on Aladdin’s finger and sends him down. Beyond a garden of fruit that shines like coloured glass stands an old lamp. Aladdin pockets some fruit and brings the lamp to the opening. His pockets are so full he needs a hand to get out. First the lamp, says the man above. First a hand up, says Aladdin. The magician seals the earth over his head.

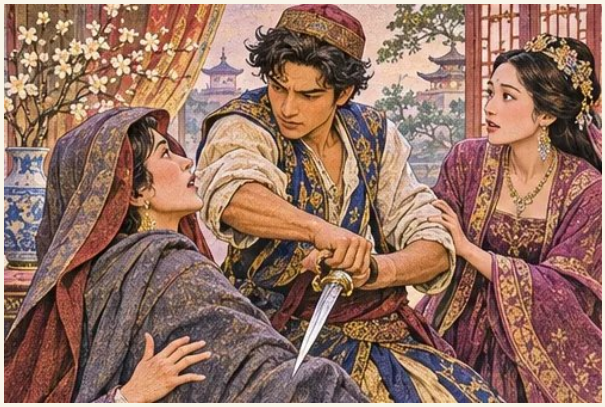
In the dark Aladdin brings his hands together to pray. The ring summons a genie who can carry him home. Later his mother scours the lamp to sell it. A different genie appears. Their first request is dinner. In time the glass fruit proves to be jewels. Aladdin’s mother offers the jewels at court, and the lamp supplies the riches required to marry Princess Badr-oul-boudour. Their new palace stands opposite her father’s.

Part III · pp. 130–212

Scan 982 Scan 1060

THREE LATER TALES / CONTINUED

Two genies and an old lamp



THE TELLING CONTINUES

Scheherazade tells the king

The magician returns as a pedlar offering new lamps for old. The princess knows nothing of her husband’s old lamp and lets a servant trade it. By morning her father looks across at bare ground. Daughter, household and palace have been carried to Africa.

The ring can bring Aladdin to his wife. To carry the palace back, they must recover the lamp. The princess invites her captor to supper and gives him wine mixed with a powder Aladdin has bought. When he dies, Aladdin takes the lamp and orders the palace home. The dead man’s brother makes one last attempt. He murders Fatima, a holy woman, and gets inside the palace wearing her clothes. The genie warns Aladdin, who takes the intruder’s dagger and kills him. This time the palace and everyone the princess loves are still there in the morning.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

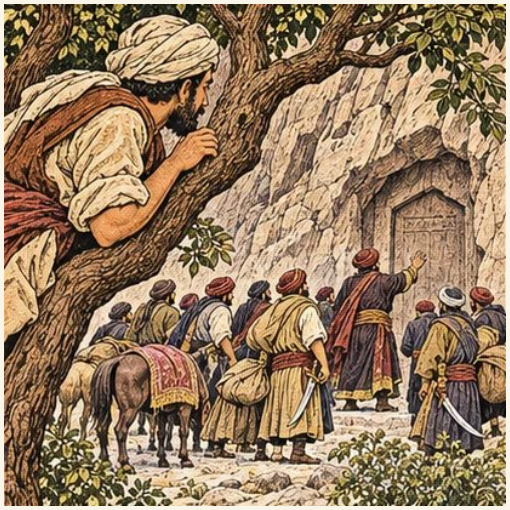
This copy’s last Aladdin page breaks during a sentence about the royal succession. The princess and Aladdin have already survived both magicians. To read the next selection, turn back in the physical volume to Part IV.

Part III · pp. 130–212

Scan 982 Scan 1060

THREE LATER TALES

Ali Baba and the Forty Robbers

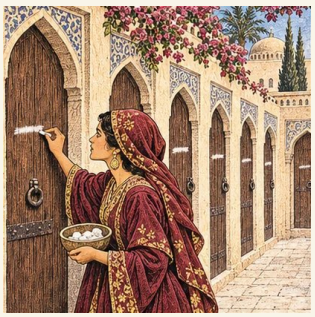


WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

Part IV comes before Part III in the binding. Here, in a separate tale set in Persia, a second poor household discovers a secret worth a fortune. Its sharpest observer is Morgiana.

Ali Baba is cutting firewood when he hears horses. He climbs a tree. Below him the captain of forty robbers faces a blank rock and says, “Open, Sesame.” A door swings back. After the riders leave, Ali Baba climbs down and tries the words himself. He goes home with gold hidden under his donkeys’ loads of wood.

His wealthy brother Cassim demands the secret. Inside the cave Cassim sees so much treasure that he forgets the word for the door. The robbers return and kill him. Ali Baba finds Cassim and brings his body home for burial. When the robbers next enter the cave, the missing body tells them that somebody else knows their secret.

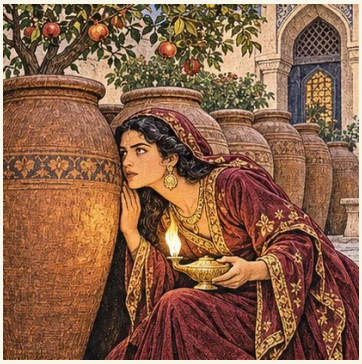


Part IV · pp. 44–69

Scan 704 Scan 729

THREE LATER TALES / CONTINUED

Ali Baba and the Forty Robbers



THE TELLING CONTINUES

Scheherazade tells the king

In the household it is Morgiana, an enslaved woman, who notices the danger. A stranger puts a chalk mark on the door. She copies it on neighbouring doors until the robber who made it cannot pick out the right house. The captain comes himself, posing as an oil merchant. After dark Morgiana goes to fetch oil for a lamp. From inside a jar a man whispers to ask if it is time. She answers quietly and moves to the next jar. Thirty-seven conceal armed men. Only one holds oil. Morgiana heats it and kills the men before the captain can give the signal.

Ali Baba gives Morgiana her freedom. The captain returns once more, this time as a friend of Ali Baba’s son. Morgiana recognises the dinner guest and spots a dagger under his coat. During a dance she strikes first. She opens his coat and shows the family why she did it. She later marries the son. A year passes before Ali Baba dares to try the cave door again. In the end he takes his son there and teaches him the words.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

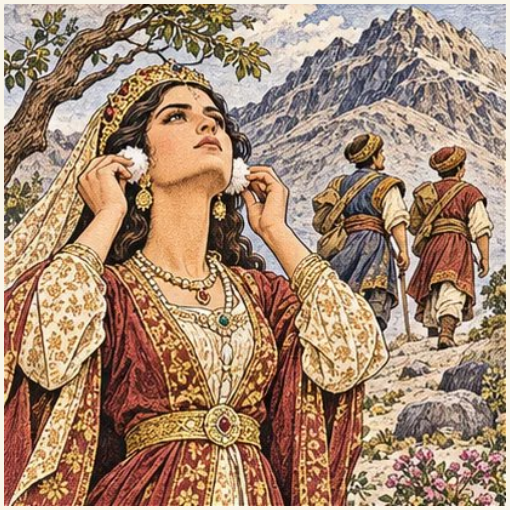
The last person Ali Baba trusts with the words for the cave is his son. Later in Part IV, another household has a secret its own children have never been told. Its youngest child is Parizade.

Part IV · pp. 44–69

Scan 704 Scan 729

THREE LATER TALES

Parizade and the Speaking Bird



WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

Near the end of Part IV, Scheherazade tells of a Persian ruler who believed a lie about his wife. The couple’s children grow up within reach of the palace, knowing neither parent.

Three times a basket drifts from the Persian palace into the royal gardens. Three times the keeper of the gardens lifts a baby from the water. He and his wife raise the children as their own. Their mother, the sultan’s wife, is still alive. Her two jealous sisters stole her babies and told him that she had given birth to a dog, a cat and a piece of wood. He believed them and put his wife behind bars.

The children grow up as Bahman, Perviz and their younger sister Parizade. A visitor tells Parizade of a speaking bird, a singing tree and water that rises in a fountain of gold. Her brothers set off in turn to find them. On the mountain jeering voices tempt each man to look back. The instant he turns, he becomes a black stone.

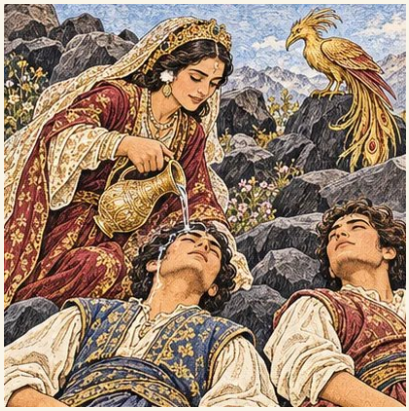


Part IV · pp. 150–184

Scan 810 Scan 844

THREE LATER TALES / CONTINUED

Parizade and the Speaking Bird



THE TELLING CONTINUES

Scheherazade tells the king

Parizade takes cotton for her ears. Even so she can hear the insults as she climbs past the black stones. She keeps her eyes on the cage. When she reaches the bird, she learns where to find the golden water and a branch of the singing tree. First she wants her brothers. The bird shows her a separate pitcher. On the way down she sprinkles water on every stone. Her brothers and the other travellers stand up alive about her.

When the sultan comes to dine at their house, Parizade serves him a cucumber stuffed with pearls, as the bird has instructed. He objects that no cucumber could grow like that. The bird asks how a man so quick to spot an impossibility at dinner could believe that his wife gave birth to a piece of wood. He hears the truth about the three babies. He frees his wife and asks her pardon. The next morning she embraces all three children. When the family rides back to the palace, Parizade carries the bird whose voice brought them together.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

Parizade’s family enters the city together. On the next printed page we leave their celebrations for the room where Scheherazade has been speaking. It is time to learn what her own king has heard.

Part IV · pp. 150–184

Scan 810 Scan 844

BACK IN THE ROYAL CHAMBER

The morning the order never came



WHERE WE ARE IN THE TELLING

The bird has finished speaking. We are back in the royal chamber. A thousand and one nights have passed since Dinarzade first called across the room to her sister.

For a thousand and one nights Schahriar has wanted to hear what happens next. Now he thinks back to the evening his minister brought Scheherazade to him. It was her own choice to come. She had known that the other women were dead and that she might share their fate. He remembers her courage as well as everything she has had to tell him.

The king tells his wife that his anger was unjust. He gives up the cruel rule he made for himself and says that the women he meant to kill owe their lives to her. For the first time her life is hers at dawn whatever she chooses to say or leave unsaid.

On the first morning he watched the king come into council and wondered why no order came. Now he is the first person to hear the king say for himself that the order is ended. The news goes through the city, then out to the towns and provinces. In the houses from which brides were once taken, people can celebrate.

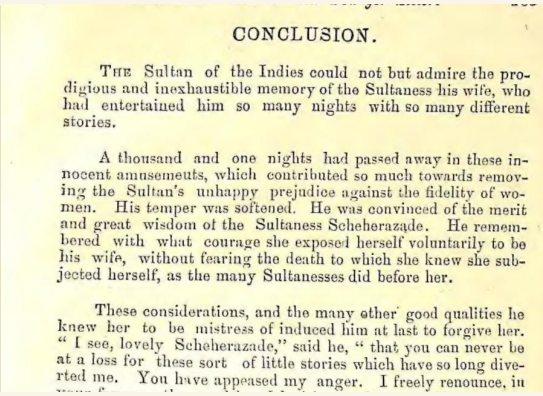
BACK TO THE TELLING

The printed page ends with the news going out to the provinces. Look under “Conclusion” on scan 845 to see where the printer closes Part IV.

AFTER THE LAST NIGHT

Back at the bookseller’s table

You entered the palace with two sisters who had one night. You leave it with a father who can come to the door in the morning without fearing the order he will hear. To see how the Lucknow edition gives this last moment to the family, turn to the heading “Conclusion” on scan 845. There is still a thick sheaf of paper after it. The inner titles tell you why.



CONCLUSION.

The Sultan of the Indies could not but admire the prodigious and inexhaustible memory of the Sultaness his wife, who had entertained him so many nights with so many different stories.

A thousand and one nights had passed away in these innocent amusements, which contributed so much towards removing the Sultan’s unhappy prejudice against the fidelity of women. His temper was softened. He was convinced of the merit and great wisdom of the Sultaness Scheherazade. He remembered with what courage she exposed herself voluntarily to be his wife, without fearing the death to which she knew she subjected herself, as the many Sultanesses did before her.

These considerations, and the many other good qualities he knew her to be mistress of induced him at last to forgive her. “I see, lovely Scheherazade,” said he, “that you can never be at a loss for these sort of little stories which have so long diverted me. You have appeased my anger. I freely renounce, in

Read the printed conclusion on scan 845

THE SISTERS AND THEIR READERS

In the story, the sisters measure time by the return of light. A reader in Lucknow could close a part, put it aside, then buy another. Even today, opening the wrong part can give you the ending before its time.

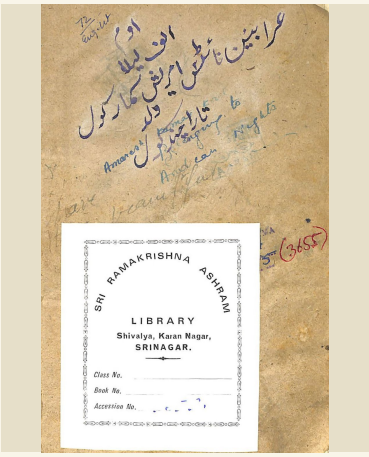
Examine the Lucknow copy

Read the comic

FOLLOW THIS PARTICULAR BOOK

A copy with a life of its own

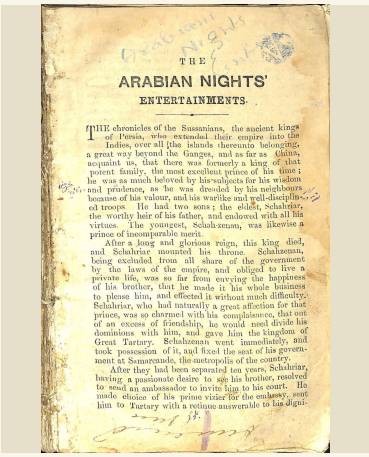
What can two opening leaves tell us? One identifies a library that kept this volume. The other puts two royal brothers on the first page of its story. Together they let us distinguish a place this object has been from a place imagined by its storytellers.



A SRINAGAR BOOKPLATE

The label names the Sri Ramakrishna Ashram Library in Srinagar. It records a home for this copy after printing.

Open scan 3


THE
ARABIAN NIGHTS'
ENTERTAINMENTS.

THE chronicles of the Sassanians, the ancient kings of Persia, who extended their empire into the Indies, over all [the islands thereunto belonging], a great way beyond the Ganges, and as far as China, acquaint us, that there was formerly a king of that potent family, the most excellent prince of his time; he was as much beloved by his subjects for his wisdom and prudence, as he was dreaded by his neighbours because of his valour, and his warlike and well-disciplined troops. He had two sons; the eldest, Schahriar, the worthy heir of his father, and endowed with all his virtues. The youngest, Schahzenan, was likewise a prince of incomparable merit.

After a long and glorious reign, this king died, and Schahriar mounted his throne. Schahzenan, being excluded from all share of the government by the laws of the empire, and obliged to live a private life, was so far from envying the happiness of his brother, that he made it his whole business to please him, and effected it without much difficulty. Schahriar, who had naturally a great affection for that prince, was so charmed with his complaisance, that out of an excess of friendship, he would need divide his dominions with him, and gave him the kingdom of Great Tartary. Schahzenan went immediately, and took possession of it, and fixed the seat of his government at Samarcande, the metropolis of the country.

After they had been separated ten years, Schahriar, having a passionate desire to see his brother, resolved to send an ambassador to invite him to his court. He made choice of his prime vizier for the embassy, sent him to Tartary with a retinue answerable to his digni-

THE FIRST NARRATIVE LEAF

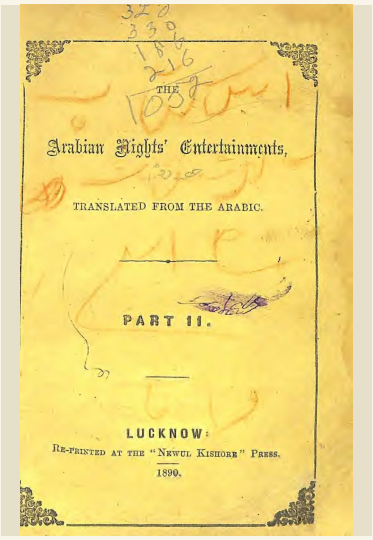
The heading and the opening account of the royal brothers appear in English. The royal court belongs to the legendary world of the tales.

Open scan 5

A BOOK IN FOUR PARTS

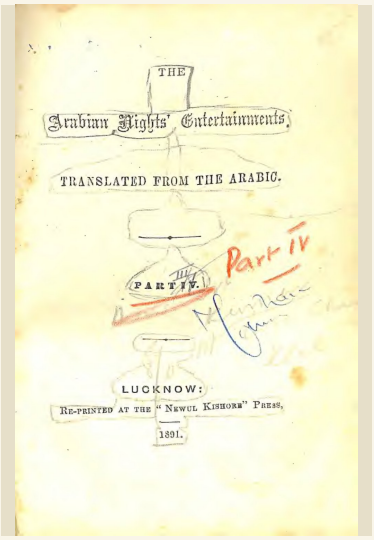
A book bound out of order

Read the inner title leaves and this copy changes shape. An outer wrapper marked Part III encloses the text of Part IV. The inner titles give the order I, II, IV, III.



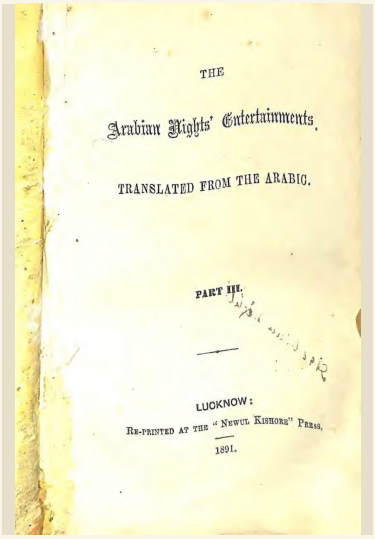
Part II · 1890

Inspect the title leaf



Part IV · 1891

Inspect the title leaf



Part III · 1891

Inspect the title leaf

THE READING ORDER

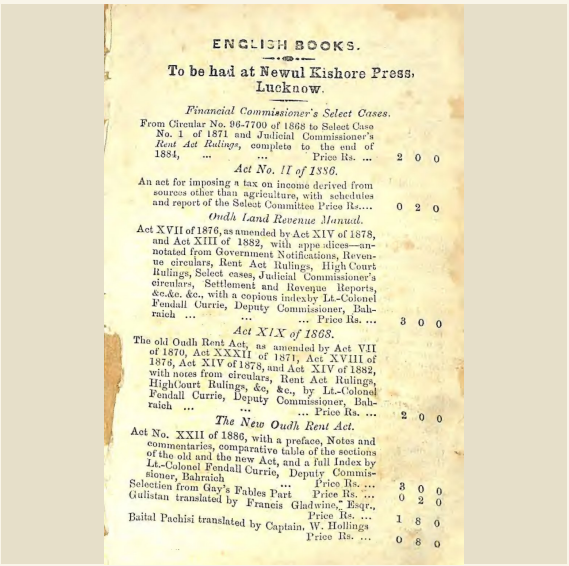
Part I occupies scans 5–322. Read Part II at 327–653, then move forward to Part III at 853–1060. Come back to scans 661–845 for Part IV and the conclusion. These are one-based scan numbers, including the covers.

The imprint spells the press name “Newul Kishore”. Part I opens beneath the English title without a separate dated title leaf. The catalogue year of 1887 applies to the archive record.

A PUBLISHER'S PRICE LIST

Eight annas a part

After the last story in Part I comes an advertisement for English books from the Lucknow press. Follow the repeated price across the four rows for the Nights.



ENGLISH BOOKS.

To be had at Newul Kishore Press, Lucknow.

Financial Commissioner's Select Cases.

From Circular No. 96-7700 of 1868 to Select Case No. 1 of 1871 and Judicial Commissioner's *Rent Act Rulings*, complete to the end of 1884, ... Price Rs. ... 2 0 0

Act No. II of 1886.

An act for imposing a tax on income derived from sources other than agriculture, with schedules and report of the Select Committee Price Rs.... 0 2 0

Oudh Land Revenue Manual.

Act XVII of 1876, as amended by Act XIV of 1878, and Act XIII of 1882, with appendices—annotated from Government Notifications, Revenue circulars, Rent Act Rulings, High Court Rulings, Select cases, Judicial Commissioner's circulars, Settlement and Revenue Reports, &c.&c. &c., with a copious index by Lt.-Colonel Fendall Currie, Deputy Commissioner, Bahraich ... ... Price Rs. ... 3 0 0

Act XIX of 1868.

The old Oudh Rent Act, as amended by Act VII of 1870, Act XXXII of 1871, Act XVIII of 1876, Act XIV of 1878, and Act XIV of 1882, with notes from circulars, Rent Act Rulings, HighCourt Rulings, &c, &c., by Lt.-Colonel Fendall Currie, Deputy Commissioner, Bahraich ... ... Price Rs. ... 2 0 0

The New Oudh Rent Act.

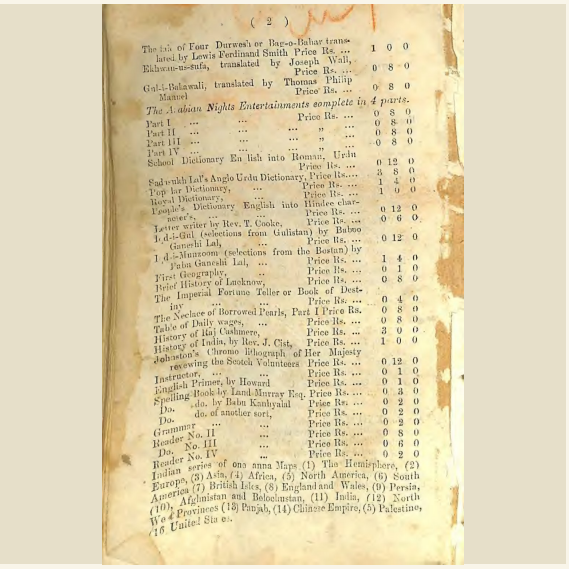
Act No. XXII of 1886, with a preface, Notes and commentaries, comparative table of the sections of the old and the new Act, and a full Index by Lt.-Colonel Fendall Currie, Deputy Commissioner, Bahraich ... Price Rs. ... 3 0 0

Selection from Gay's Fables Part Price Rs. ... 0 2 0

Gulistan translated by Francis Gladwine, Esqr., Price Rs. ... 1 8 0

Baital Pachisi translated by Captain. W. Hollings Price Rs. ... 0 8 0

Open advertisement leaf 1



(2)

The Tuti of Four Durwesh or Bag-o-Bahar translated by Lewis Ferdinand Smith Price Rs. ... 1 0 0

Ekhwan-us-sufa, translated by Joseph Wall, Price Rs. ... 0 8 0

Gul-i-Bakawali, translated by Thomas Philip Manuel Price Rs. ... 0 8 0

The Arabian Nights Entertainments complete in 4 parts.

Price Rs. ... 0 8 0

Part I ... ... " ... 0 8 0

Part II ... ... " ... 0 8 0

Part III ... ... " ... 0 8 0

Part IV ... ... " ... 0 8 0

School Dictionary English into Roman, Urdu Price Rs. ... 0 12 0

Sadsukh Lal's Anglo Urdu Dictionary, Price Rs.... 3 8 0

Pop ler Dictionary, ... Price Rs. ... 1 4 0

Royal Dictionary, ... Price Rs. ... 1 0 0

Leslie's Dictionary English into Hindee characters Price Rs. ... 0 12 0

Letter writer by Rev. T. Cooke, Price Rs. ... 0 6 0

Tohfa-Gul (selections from Gulistan) by Baboo Goneshi Lal, ... Price Rs. ... 0 12 0

Tohfa-Munzoom (selections from the Bostan) by Babu Ganesh Lal, ... Price Rs. ... 1 4 0

First Geography, ... Price Rs. ... 0 1 0

Brief History of Lucknow, Price Rs. ... 0 8 0

The Imperial Fortune Teller or Book of Destiny, ... Price Rs. ... 0 4 0

The Necklace of Borrowed Pearls, Part I Price Rs. 0 8 0

Table of Daily wages, ... Price Rs. ... 0 8 0

History of the Cashmere, Price Rs. ... 3 0 0

History of India, by Rev. J. Cist, Price Rs. ... 1 0 0

Johnston's Chromo lithograph of Her Majesty reviewing the Scotch Volunteers Price Rs. ... 0 12 0

Instructor, ... Price Rs. ... 0 1 0

English Primer, by Howard Price Rs. ... 0 1 0

Spelling Book by Lindl Murray Req. Price Rs. ... 0 3 0

Do. do. by Babu Kanhyalal Price Rs. ... 0 2 0

Do. do. of another sort, Price Rs. ... 0 2 0

Do. ... Price Rs. ... 0 2 0

Grammar ... Price Rs. ... 0 8 0

Reader No. II ... Price Rs. ... 0 6 0

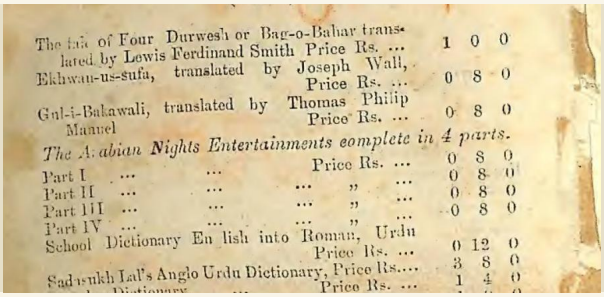
Do. No. III ... Price Rs. ... 0 6 0

Do. No. IV ... Price Rs. ... 0 2 0

Reader No. IV ... Price Rs. ... 0 2 0

Indian series of one anna Maps (1) The Hemisphere, (2) Europe, (3) Asia, (4) Africa, (5) North America, (6) South America (7) British Isles, (8) England and Wales, (9) Persia, (10), Afghanistan and Beloochistan, (11) India, (12) North West Provinces (13) Punjab, (14) Chinese Empire, (15) Palestine, (16 United States.

Open advertisement leaf 2



The Tuti of Four Durwesh or Bag-o-Bahar translated by Lewis Ferdinand Smith Price Rs. ... 1 0 0

Ekhwan-us-sufa, translated by Joseph Wall, Price Rs. ... 0 8 0

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Price Rs. ... 0 8 0

Part I ... ... " ... 0 8 0

Part II ... ... " ... 0 8 0

Part III ... ... " ... 0 8 0

Part IV ... ... " ... 0 8 0

School Dictionary English into Roman, Urdu Price Rs. ... 0 12 0

Sadsukh Lal's Anglo Urdu Dictionary, Price Rs.... 3 8 0

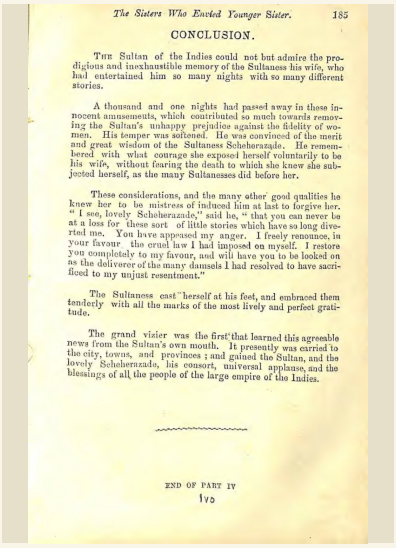
Price Rs. ... 1 4 0

READING THE FIGURES

The columns read rupees, annas and pies. A price of 0–8–0 is eight annas, or half a rupee. At that rate the full set of four parts cost two rupees.

THE LAST DAWN AND THE LAST LEAF

Where each story ends



The Sisters Who Envied Younger Sister. 185

CONCLUSION.

The Sultan of the Indies could not but admire the prodigious and inexhaustible memory of the Sultaness his wife, who had entertained him so many nights with so many different stories.

A thousand and one nights had passed away in these innocent amusements, which contributed so much towards removing the Sultan's unhappy prejudice against the fidelity of women. His temper was softened. He was convinced of the merit and great wisdom of the Sultaness Scheherazade. He remembered with what courage she exposed herself voluntarily to be his wife, without fearing the death to which she knew she subjected herself, as the many Sultanesses did before her.

These considerations, and the many other good qualities he knew her to be mistress of induced him at last to forgive her. "I see, lovely Scheherazade," said he, "that you can never be at a loss for these sort of little stories which have so long diverted me. You have appeased my anger. I freely renounce, in your favour the cruel law I had imposed on myself. I restore you completely to my favour, and will have you to be looked on as the deliverer of the many damsels I had resolved to have sacrificed to my unjust resentment."

The Sultaness cast herself at his feet, and embraced them tenderly with all the marks of the most lively and perfect gratitude.

The grand vizier was the first that learned this agreeable news from the Sultan's own mouth. It presently was carried to the city, towns, and provinces; and gained the Sultan, and the lovely Scheherazade, his consort, universal applause, and the blessings of all the people of the large empire of the Indies.

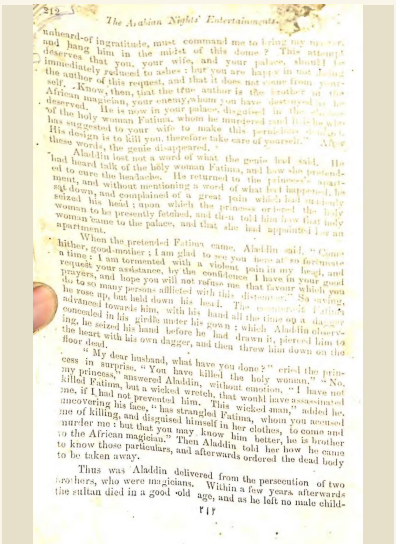
END OF PART IV

Ivo

THE LAST DAWN

Part IV, p. 185. Schahriar tells the vizier that the order has ended. News travels through the towns and provinces. The printer places the conclusion here.

Inspect scan 845



212 *The Arabian Nights' Entertainments.*

unheard-of ingratitude, must command me to bring my sword, and hang him in the midst of this dome? This attempt deserves that you, your wife, and your palace, should be immediately reduced to ashes; but you are happy in not being the author of this request, and that it does not come from yourself. Know, then, that the true author is the brother of the African magician, your enemy, whom you have destroyed as he deserved. He is now in your palace, disguised in the clothes of the holy woman Fatima, whom he murdered and stripped after she has suggested to your wife to make this pernicious present. His design is to kill you, therefore take care of yourself." After these words, the genie disappeared.

Aladdin had not a word of what the genie had said. He had heard talk of the holy woman Fatima, and how she pretended to cure the headache. He returned to the princess's apartment, and without mentioning a word of what he had heard, he sat down, and complained of a great pain which had suddenly seized his head; upon which the princess ordered the holy woman to be presently fetched, and then told him how that lady was come to the palace, and that she had appointed her an apartment.

When the pretended Fatima came, Aladdin said, "Come hither, good-mother; I am glad to see you here at so fortunate a time; I am tormented with a violent pain in my head, and request your assistance, by the confidence I have in your good prayers, and hope you will not refuse me that favour which you do to so many persons afflicted with this distemper." So saying, he rose up, but laid down his head. The counterfeit Fatima advanced towards him, with his hand all the time on a dagger concealed in his girdle under his gown; which Aladdin observing, he seized his hand before he had drawn it, pierced him to the heart with his own dagger, and then threw him down on the floor dead.

"My dear husband, what have you done?" cried the princess in surprise. "You have killed the holy woman." "No, my princess," answered Aladdin, without emotion, "I have not killed Fatima, but a wicked wretch, that would have assassinated me, if I had not prevented him. This wicked man," added he, uncovering his face, "has strangled Fatima, whom you received of killing, and disguised himself in her clothes, to come and murder me: but that you may know him better, he is brother to the African magician." Then Aladdin told her how he came to know those particulars, and afterwards ordered the dead body to be taken away.

This was Aladdin delivered from the persecution of two murderers, who were magicians. Within a few years afterwards the sultan died in a good old age, and as he left no male child-

THE BROKEN WORD

Part III, p. 212. Aladdin has defeated the second magician. The line about the sultan's heir breaks off at "child-". The scan then passes to endpapers. The end of this physical book comes long after the final dawn.

Inspect scan 1060

THE PUBLISHER'S CATALOGUE

Three Urdu books

In Lucknow the same storytelling world reached readers as a long poem, an illustrated translation and a booklet devoted to one sailor. Open the surviving editions below.

1862 · IN VERSE

Alf Laila-e-Nau Manzoom, volume I. Rekhta describes Munshi Newal Kishore choosing the masnavi form. It credits Mirza Asghar Naseem with the verse rendering. Open the first volume and look at the paired lines.

Open the verse edition

1880 · IN ILLUSTRATED URDU

Alif Laila Urdu Ba Tasveer. Ratan Nath Sarshar, the author of Fasana-e-Azad, translated this 1,073-page edition.

Open the illustrated Urdu edition

1909 · SINDBAD ON HIS OWN

Qissa Sindbad Jahazi. The publishing house later issued the sailor's adventures in a separate 39-page Urdu booklet. Sindbad could now be a reader's first encounter with the Nights.

Open the Sindbad booklet

THE ENGLISH COPY AND THIS READER

This museum story follows the English book in eGangotri's scan. The archive catalogues it as 1887. The inner "Newul Kishore" title leaves date Part II to 1890 and Parts III and IV to 1891. Scan numbers count from the front cover.

Open the full English-language volume

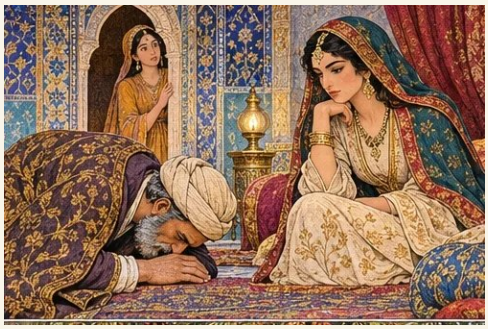
The narrative and dialogue are modern museum adaptations. Colour scenes are contemporary AI-generated illustrations. The black-and-white leaves reproduce the historical book.

Visit the Newal Kishore Press Virtual Museum

THE SISTERS AND THE KING

Before the first dawn

In the legendary court of the Indies, the king’s chief minister has to find him a new bride. Tonight the bride is the minister’s own daughter.



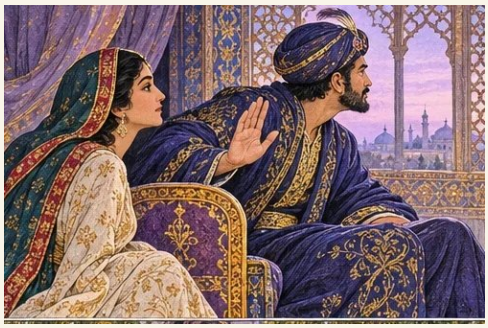
SCENE 01

Each new bride has died at dawn. Scheherazade tells her father she will go to the king, and asks her younger sister to help.



SCENE 02

Before daylight Dinarzade asks for a story. The king gives his new wife leave to tell it.



SCENE 03

Day breaks just as a genie raises his sword. Schahriar wants to know what happens next. For the first time, he lets morning pass without the order.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

The first dawn passes without an execution. Before the second, Dinarzade asks what became of the traveller under the sword. This time the king himself tells Scheherazade to go on.

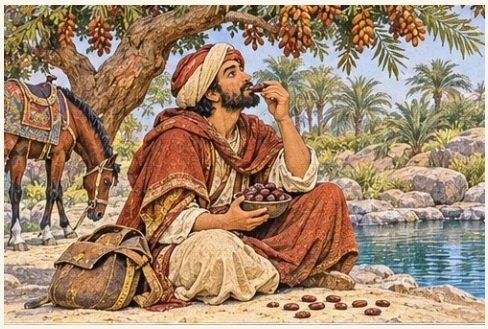
Part I · pp. 1–25

Scan 5 Scan 29

THE SISTERS AND THE KING

A date stone and a promise

At the spring, Scheherazade has left her merchant a moment from death. In the palace the king has given her another morning to tell what happened.



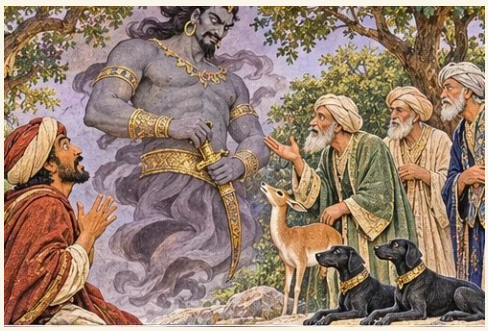
SCENE 01

The merchant casts away a date stone. A genie says it killed his son. He gives the traveller one year to put his affairs in order.



SCENE 02

The merchant keeps his promise to return. Three old men meet him and stay to face the genie.



SCENE 03

Each man offers a story for one third of the merchant’s life. The genie grants all three requests. The merchant can go home.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

It is the eighth night. The merchant is safely home, and a little darkness remains. Dinarzade asks to hear the story her sister has just promised, the one about a fisherman.

Part I · pp. 23–40

Scan 27 Scan 44

THE SISTERS AND THE KING

A genie small enough for a jar

Scheherazade’s next genie meets a man who earns each meal from the sea. Watch how often it is Dinarzade who asks the question that keeps both stories alive.



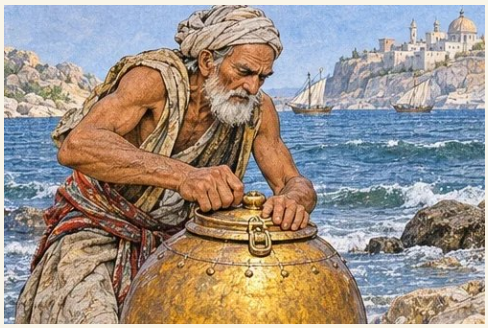
SCENE 01

Three empty casts, then a yellow copper vessel. An old fisherman prises off its lead seal, hoping for something he can sell.



SCENE 02

The prisoner he frees has sworn to kill his rescuer. The fisherman looks from the towering genie to the neck of the jar. Can he prove he fitted inside?



SCENE 03

The genie turns to smoke and the lid snaps shut. His promise, once the fisherman frees him again, leads to four coloured fish. They are a city’s enchanted people. A sultan breaks their spell and rewards the fisherman.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

By dawn the fisherman has his fortune. Other stories occupy the following nights. Our reading next picks up in Bagdad, where Scheherazade introduces a porter who can barely earn his supper.

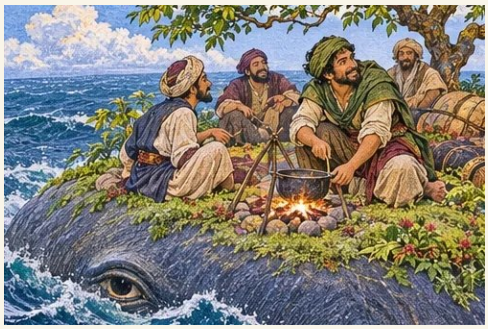
Part I · pp. 40–86

Scan 44 Scan 90

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

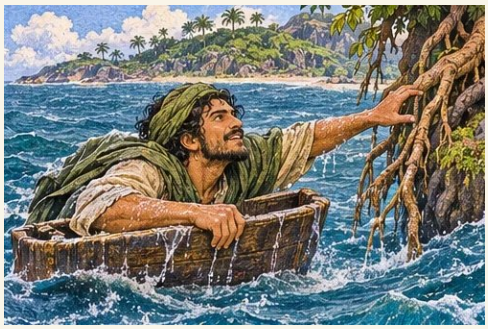
The island that dived

In a story Scheherazade tells the king, Hindbad the porter stops outside a rich sailor’s house. The sailor invites him in. For seven dinners, the sailor becomes the storyteller.



SCENE 01

Once a young merchant with little left to lose, Sindbad goes ashore with his shipmates to cook. The island beneath them is a whale. When it dives, the ship leaves him behind.



SCENE 02

A piece of firewood keeps him afloat. He catches tree roots and climbs ashore. Royal grooms find him and take him to King Mihrage.



SCENE 03

At the harbour Sindbad finds his cargo, with his own name on the bales. The crew recognise him. Trading those goods gives him the beginnings of the fortune Hindbad sees today.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

Sindbad gives Hindbad a purse of one hundred sequins and invites him back tomorrow. The porter goes home with gold. He returns in his best clothes to hear why his host ever sailed again.

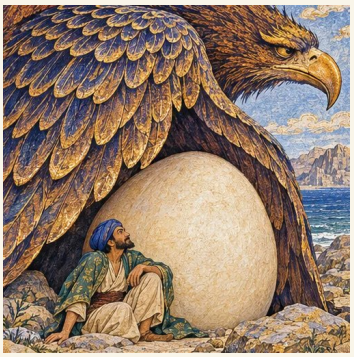
Part I · pp. 199–208

Scan 203 Scan 212

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

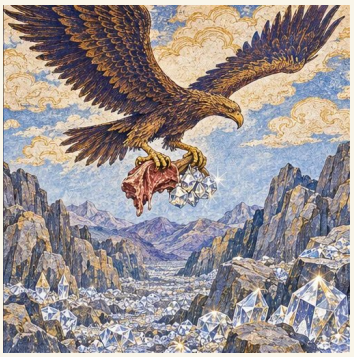
A way out of the diamond valley

Hindbad has taken his seat again. Sindbad now has a house and enough to live on. What draws him away a second time is the desire to trade.



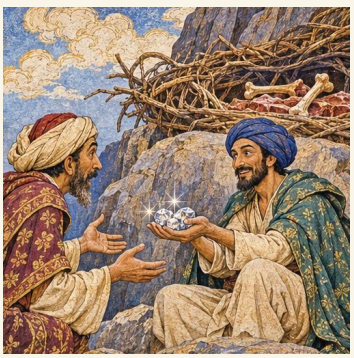
SCENE 01

Marooned again, Sindbad discovers that the white dome is a roc’s egg. His turban tied to the bird’s leg will carry him out.



SCENE 02

In a valley of diamonds, merchants throw down meat. Gems stick to it and eagles lift it away. A bundle of meat gives Sindbad the same chance.



SCENE 03

At the eagle’s nest, a merchant finds a living man beside the diamonds. Sindbad shares what he has and makes his way home.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

The diamonds make Sindbad richer. One piece of the adventure remains at sea, his cargo on the ship that sailed without him. Hindbad will hear what became of it over the next dinner.

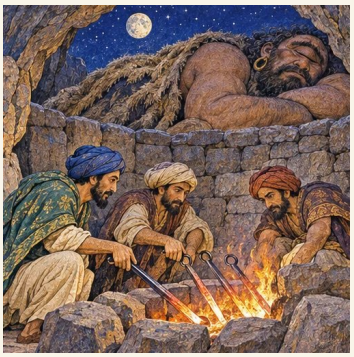
Part I · pp. 208–214

Scan 212 Scan 218

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

Ten spits in the fire

At the third dinner Sindbad admits how quickly he grew tired of life without business. The young trader takes fresh goods to Balsora and sets out again.



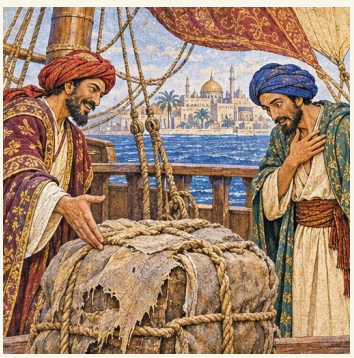
SCENE 01

The giant has eaten their captain. The men build rafts, then heat his own spits to blind him while he sleeps.



SCENE 02

At dawn the giants hurl stones. One raft escapes. A serpent takes the other survivors, leaving Sindbad to signal for rescue alone.



SCENE 03

The rescue captain has cargo he had meant to sell for a missing trader. It belongs to Sindbad, left behind on his previous voyage.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

Sindbad comes home with the goods he lost a voyage ago. He gives Hindbad another hundred sequins. Over dinner the next day he admits that even this escape could not cure his curiosity.

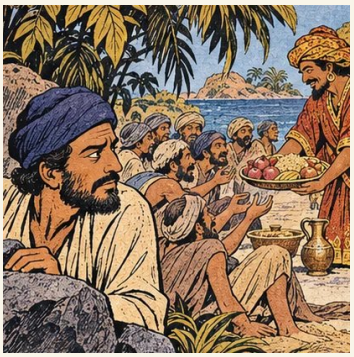
Part I · pp. 214–223

Scan 218 Scan 227

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

Seven loaves underground

This time Sindbad wants both business and the chance to see something new. On a fourth expedition, he gains a place at a foreign court before he understands its laws.



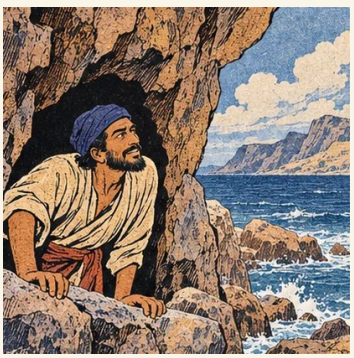
SCENE 01

After a shipwreck his companions eat whatever their hosts offer. Sindbad suspects what the feast is for. By eating little he stays lean enough to escape.



SCENE 02

Settled on another island, Sindbad marries. When his wife dies, its law sends him down to the tomb alive with bread and water.



SCENE 03

After taking food from others lowered into the tomb, he follows an animal to a crevice. Beyond it lies the sea, where a passing ship can see him.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

Hindbad now knows what the men on the rescue ship never heard. Next day Sindbad tells his guests how he tried to give himself more control over a voyage. He bought his own ship.

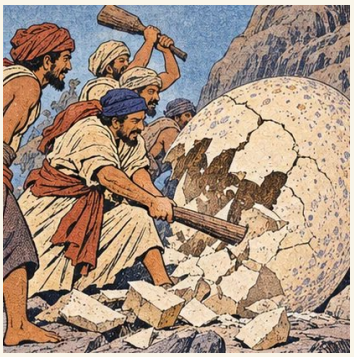
Part I · pp. 223–233

Scan 227 Scan 237

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

The rider who would not get down

At the fifth dinner Sindbad explains what the new ship was meant to change. He wanted command of his own passage. His fellow passengers have ideas of their own.



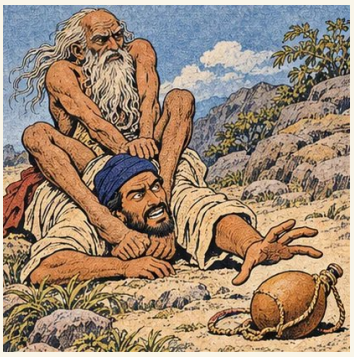
SCENE 01

The sailors break a roc’s egg, despite Sindbad’s warning. The parent birds soon return.



SCENE 02

The rocs drop rocks at the ship. One blow brings it down. A board carries Sindbad to the island of a seemingly helpless old man.



SCENE 03

Once lifted onto his shoulders, the rider refuses to let go. Fermented grape juice in a gourd loosens his hold. Freed at last, Sindbad works his way home.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

Sindbad returns to Bagdad with pearls and pepper. At their sixth dinner he raises the question Hindbad might well have asked. After five such journeys, what could persuade him to risk a sixth?

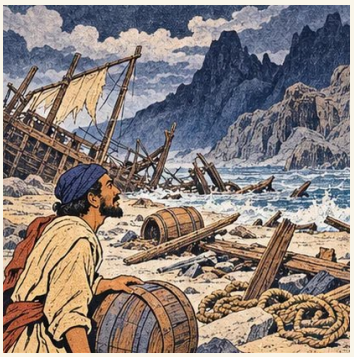
Part I · pp. 233–239

Scan 237 Scan 243

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

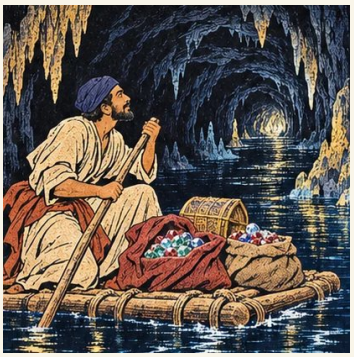
The river under the mountain

The guests have gathered again in Bagdad. Sindbad says a year went by before he set sail. Looking back, he can scarcely explain the decision himself.



SCENE 01

The shore is littered with wrecks. Yet the river beside them still runs beneath the mountain. Might it find a way out?



SCENE 02

Sindbad binds wreck timber into a raft and takes two short oars. He pushes into the darkness and wakes to find himself among people watering their fields.



SCENE 03

The king of Serendib hears the tale and sends a letter and gifts home with the trader. The caliph’s reply will send Sindbad to sea again.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

The hand that accepts a letter may have to carry a reply. For the final dinner Hindbad comes back to hear how a man who at last meant to stay at home went to sea for the caliph.

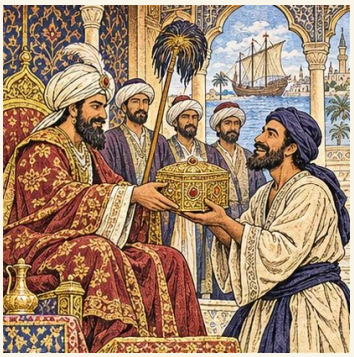
Part I · pp. 239–248

Scan 243 Scan 252

AT SINDBAD’S TABLE

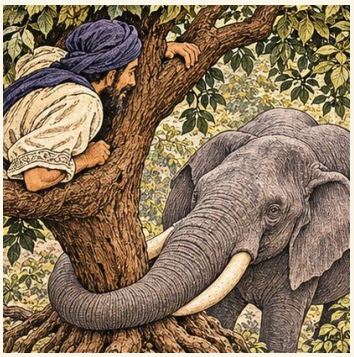
The elephants’ answer

At the seventh dinner Sindbad tells Hindbad about the one voyage he would gladly have refused. The caliph wants him to deliver a reply to the king of Serendib.



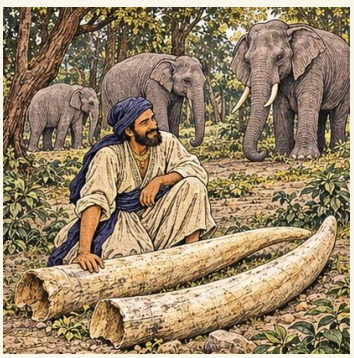
SCENE 01

The caliph asks Sindbad to answer the king of Serendib’s letter. He fulfils the errand, but pirates take his homeward ship and sell him into captivity.



SCENE 02

His owner wants ivory. Sindbad shoots elephants until a herd surrounds his tree. An elephant uproots it and carries the terrified archer away.



SCENE 03

It shows him a hillside of fallen tusks. His owner can spare the herd and gives Sindbad his freedom. At home, the old sailor offers Hindbad a place at his table every day. The porter accepts.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

With Hindbad inside the house for good, Scheherazade takes up the telling again. The printed book continues with The Three Apples. Our selection moves ahead to Part III and a tailor’s son named Aladdin.

Part I · pp. 248–255

Scan 252 Scan 259

THREE LATER TALES

Two genies and an old lamp

Sindbad’s dinners are over. Scheherazade is our storyteller again. We open Part III in a city in China as imagined in the tale, where Aladdin lives with his widowed mother.



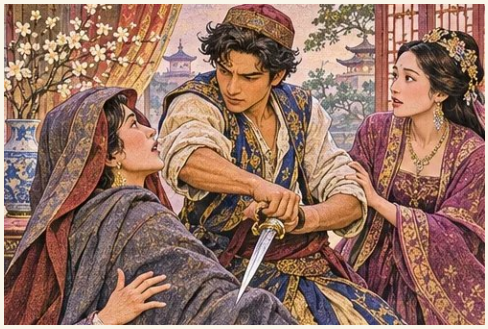
SCENE 01

The man who calls himself Aladdin’s uncle sends him below for a lamp. When Aladdin refuses to give it up before he is safely out, the magician seals the ground.



SCENE 02

The ring first saves Aladdin, then the lamp changes his fortune. Later a pedlar offers to trade new lamps for old. His wife has never been told the secret. Their palace vanishes.



SCENE 03

Aladdin and the princess recover their palace and the lamp together. A second magician comes to avenge the first. Warned by the genie, Aladdin seizes the impostor’s dagger.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

This copy’s last Aladdin page breaks during a sentence about the royal succession. The princess and Aladdin have already survived both magicians. To read the next selection, turn back in the physical volume to Part IV.

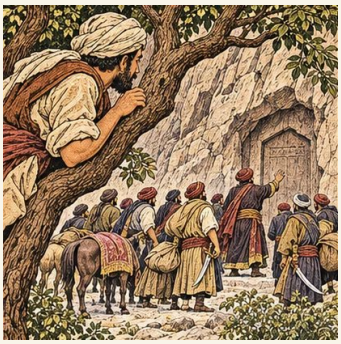
Part III · pp. 130–212

Scan 982 Scan 1060

THREE LATER TALES

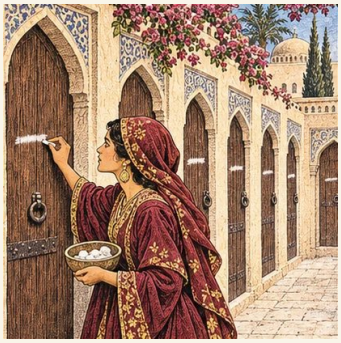
Ali Baba and the Forty Robbers

Part IV comes before Part III in the binding. Here, in a separate tale set in Persia, a second poor household discovers a secret worth a fortune. Its sharpest observer is Morgiana.



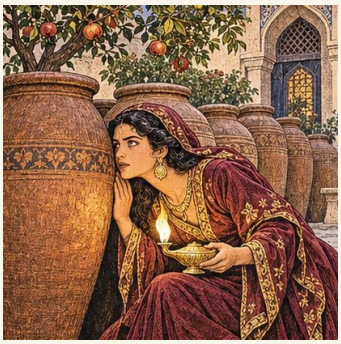
SCENE 01

Hidden in a tree, Ali Baba hears the words that open a cave of plunder. His brother also enters, forgets the words and never comes home.



SCENE 02

The robbers mark Ali Baba’s house. Morgiana puts matching chalk marks on the neighbours’ doors. Which house will the robbers choose now?



SCENE 03

A voice from a jar tells Morgiana the oil merchant has brought concealed attackers. She foils them, wins her freedom and later recognises the captain in another disguise, saving the family again.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

The last person Ali Baba trusts with the words for the cave is his son. Later in Part IV, another household has a secret its own children have never been told. Its youngest child is Parizade.

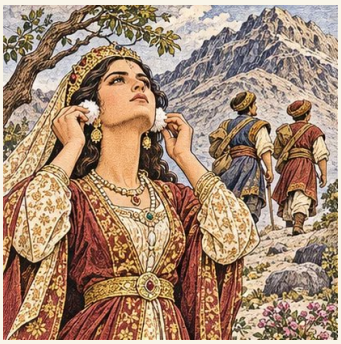
Part IV · pp. 44–69

Scan 704 Scan 729

THREE LATER TALES

Parizade and the Speaking Bird

Near the end of Part IV, Scheherazade tells of a Persian ruler who believed a lie about his wife. The couple’s children grow up within reach of the palace, knowing neither parent.



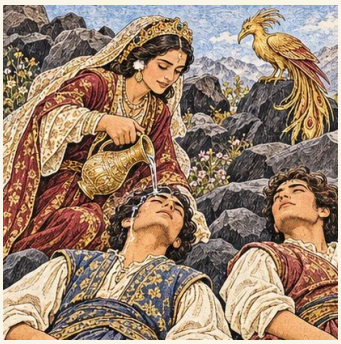
SCENE 01

Parizade and her brothers grew up unaware that they are the sultan’s stolen children. When both boys vanish on a mountain in search of a speaking bird, she takes cotton for her ears and follows.



SCENE 02

Jeering voices have turned everyone who looked back into stone. Parizade keeps her eyes on the caged bird and reaches it. She makes it tell her how to free the travellers.



SCENE 03

Water brings her brothers back to life. At dinner the bird asks the sultan why he believed his wife bore a piece of wood. He frees her, and she embraces the children she lost.

THE THREAD CONTINUES

Parizade’s family enters the city together. On the next printed page we leave their celebrations for the room where Scheherazade has been speaking. It is time to learn what her own king has heard.

Part IV · pp. 150–184

Scan 810 Scan 844

BACK IN THE ROYAL CHAMBER

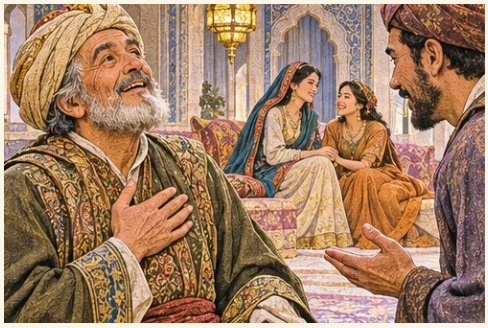
The morning the order never came

The bird has finished speaking. We are back in the royal chamber. A thousand and one nights have passed since Dinarzade first called across the room to her sister.



SCENE 01

After a thousand and one nights Schahriar remembers why Scheherazade came to him. She had known what his order would cost her.



SCENE 02

He renounces the decree. The vizier, who once had to obey it, is the first to hear the decision from the king.



SCENE 03

Word passes from the city to the towns and provinces. The danger that brought Scheherazade to the palace has ended.

BACK TO THE TELLING

The printed page ends with the news going out to the provinces. Look under “Conclusion” on scan 845 to see where the printer closes Part IV.

Part IV · p. 185

Scan 845