

THE
HISTORY
OF
S I N D B A D
THE
SAILOR:
CONTAINING
AN ACCOUNT
OF HIS SEVERAL
SURPRISING VOYAGES
AND
MIRACULOUS ESCAPES.

EMBELLISHED WITH ELEGANT CUTS.

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THE
HISTORY
OF
SINDBAD
THE SAILOR.

His FIRST VOYAGE.

My father left me a considerable estate, most part of which I spent during my youth; but I perceived my error, and called to mind that riches were perishable, and quickly consumed by such ill husbands as myself, I farther considered, that, by my irregular way of living, I wretchedly misspent my time, which is the most valuable thing in the world. I remembered the saying of the great Solomon, which I had frequently heard from my father, that *Death is more tolerable than Poverty*. Being struck with those reflections, I gathered together the ruins of my estate, and sold all my moveables in the public market to the highest bidder. Then I entered into a contract with some merchants, that traded by sea; I took the advice of such as I thought most capable to give it me; and, resolving to improve what money I had, I went to Balsora, a port on the Persian Gulph, and embarked with several merchants, who joined with me to fit out a ship on purpose.

We set sail, and steered our course towards the East-Indies, through the Persian Gulph. At first I was troubled with the sea-sickness, but speedily recovered my health, and was not afterwards troubled with that disease.

In our voyage we touched at several islands, where we sold or exchanged our goods. One day, whilst under sail, we were becalmed near a little island, even almost within the surface of the water, which resembled a green meadow. The captain ordered his sails to be furled, and suffered such persons, as had a mind, to land upon the island, amongst whom I was one.

But, while we were diverting ourselves with eating and drinking, and refreshing ourselves from the fatigue of the sea, the island trembled all of a sudden, and shook us terribly.

They perceived the trembling of the island on board the ship, and called to us to reembark speedily, or we would all be lost; for what we took for an island, was only the back of a whale. The nimblest got into the sloop, others betook themselves to swim; but, for my part, I was still upon the back of the whale when he dived into the sea, and had time only to catch hold of a piece of wood that we had brought out of the ship to make a fire. Mean while the captain, having received those on board, who were in the sloop, and taken up some of those that

swam, resolved to improve the favourable gale that was just risen, and hoisting his sails, pursued his voyage, so that it was impossible to recover the ship.

Thus I was exposed to the mercy of the waves, and struggled for my life all the rest of the day and the following night. Next morning I found my strength gone, and despaired of saving my life, when a wave threw me happily against an island. The bank was high and rugged, so that I would scarcely have got up, had it not been for some roots of trees, which fortune seemed to have preserved in this place for my safety. Being got up, I lay down upon the ground half dead, until such time as the sun appeared. Then, though I was very feeble, both by reason of my hard labour and want of victuals, I crept along to seek for some herbs fit to eat, and had not only the good luck to find some, but likewise a spring of excellent water, which contributed much to recover me. After this I advanced farther into the Island, and came at last into a fine plain, where I perceived a horse feeding at a great distance. I went towards him betwixt hopes and fear, not knowing whether I was going to lose my life, or to save it. When I came near it, I perceived it to be a very fine horse, tied to a stake. Whilst I looked upon him, I heard the voice of a man from under ground, who immediately appeared to me, and asked who I was. I gave him an account of my adventure, after which, taking me by the hand, he led me into a cave, where there were several other people, no less amazed to see me, than I was to see them.

I ate some victuals which they offered me, and then, having asked them what they did in such a desert place? they answered, that they were grooms belonging to King Mihrage, sovereign of the island; and that every year, at the same season, they brought thither the king's horses, and fastened them as I saw that horse, till they were washed with the water of a neighbouring pool; by virtue of which extraordinary water, they were rendered stronger and more beautiful. They added, that they were to go home to-morrow, and had I been one day later, I must have perished, because the inhabited part of the island was at a greater distance, and it would have been impossible for me to have got thither without a guide.

Next morning they returned with their horses to the capital of the island, took me with them, and presented me to King Mihrage. He asked me who I was, By what adventure I came into his dominions? And, after I had satisfied him, he told me he was much concerned for my misfortune, and at the same time ordered that I should want nothing, which his officers were so generous and careful as to see exactly fulfilled.

Being a merchant, I frequented men of my own profession, and particularly enquired for those who were strangers, if perhaps I might hear any news from Bagdad, or find an opportunity to return thither. For King Mihrage's capital is situated on the bank of the sea, and has a fine harbour where ships arrive daily from the different quarters of the world. I frequented also the society of the learned Indians, and took delight to hear them discourse; but withal, I took care to make my court regularly to the king, and conversed with the governors to the petty

kings, his tributaries, that were about him. They asked me a thousand questions about my country; and I being willing to inform myself as to their laws and customs, asked them every thing which I thought worth knowing.

As I was one day at the port after my return a ship arrived, and as soon as she cast anchor they began to unload her, and the merchants on board ordered their goods to be carried into the magazine. As I cast my eye upon some bales, and looked to the name, I found my own, and perceived the bales to be the same that I had embarked at Balsora. I also knew the captain: but being persuaded that he believed me to be drowned, I went and asked him whose bales these were? He replied, that they belonged to a merchant of Bagdad called Sindbad, who came to sea with him; but one day, being near an island, as we thought, he went ashore with several other passengers upon this supposed island which was only a monstrous whale, that lay asleep upon the surface of the water: but as soon as he felt the heat of the fire, they had kindled on his back to dress some victuals, he began to move, and dived under water; most of the persons who were upon him perished, and among them unfortunate Sindbad. Those bales belonged to him, and I am resolved to trade with them, until I meet with some of his family, to whom I may return the profit. Captain, says I, I am that Sindbad whom you thought to be dead, and those bales are mine. When the captain heard me speak thus: "O heaven," says he, "who can we ever trust now a days, there is no faith left among men. I saw Sindbad perish with my own eyes, and the passengers on board saw it as well as I, and yet you tell me that you are Sindbad; what impudence is this? To look on you, one would take you to be a man of probity, and yet you tell a horrible falshood, in order to possess yourself of what does not belong to you." "Have patience, captain," replied I, "do me the favour to hear what I have to say." "Very well," says he, "speak, I am ready to hear you." Then I told him how I escaped, and by what adventure I met with the grooms of King Mihrage, who brought me to his court.

He began to abate of his confidence upon my discourse, and was soon persuaded that I was no cheat: for there came people from his ship, who knew me, made me great compliments, and testified a great deal of joy to see me alive. At last he knew me himself, and embracing me, "Heaven be praised," says he, "for your happy escape, I cannot enough express my joy for it: there are your goods, take and do with them what you will." I thanked him acknowledged hi probity, and in requital, offered him part of my goods as a present, which he generously refused.

I took out what was most valuable in my bales and presented it to King Mintage, who, knowing my misfortune, asked me how I came by such rarities? I acquainted him with the whole story: he was mightly pleased at my good luck, accepted my present, and gave me one much more considerable in return. Upon this I took leave of him, and went on board the same ship, after I had exchanged my goods with the commodities of that country. I carried with me wood of aloes, sanders, camphire, nutmegs, cloves, pepper, and ginger. We passed by several

islands, and at last arrived at Balsora, from whence I came to Bagdad, with the value of 100,000 sequins., My family and I received one another with all the transports that can happen from true and sincere friendship. I bought slaves of both sexes, fine lands, and built me a great house. And thus I settled myself, resolving to forget the miseries I had suffered, and to enjoy the pleasures of life.

THE
SECOND VOYAGE
OF
SINDBAD
THE
SAILOR.

I designed, after my first voyage, to spend the rest of my days at Bagdad; but it was not long ere I grew weary of an idle life. My inclination to trade revived. I bought goods proper for the commerce I designed, and put to sea a second time with merchants of known probity. We embarked on board a good ship, and, after recommending ourselves to God, set sail: we traded from island to island, and exchanged commodities with great profit. One day we landed in an isle covered with several sorts of fruit-trees, but so desert, that we could neither see man nor horse upon it. We went to take a little fresh air in the meadows, and along the streams that watered them. Whilst some diverted themselves with gathering flowers, and others with gathering fruits, I took my wine and provisions, and sat down by a stream betwixt two great trees, which formed a curious shade. I made a very good meal, and afterwards fell asleep. I cannot tell how long I slept; but when I waked the ship was gone.

I was very much surprized to find the ship gone; I got up, looked about every where, and could not see one of the merchants who landed with me. At last I perceived the ship under sail; but at such a distance, that I lost sight of her in a very little time.

I leave you to guess at my melancholy reflections in this sad condition: I was like to die of grief; I cried out sadly; I beat my head and breast, and threw myself down upon the ground, where I lay a long time in a terrible agony, one afflicting thought succeeding another more afflicting. I upbraided myself an hundred times, for not being content with the product of my first voyage, that might very well have served me all my life. But all this was in vain, and my repentance out of season.

At last I resigned myself to the will of God; and not knowing what to do, I climbed up to the top of a great tree, from whence I looked about on all sides, to see if there were any thing that could give me hopes. When I looked towards the sea, I could see nothing but sky and water; but, looking towards the land, I saw something white; and coming down from the tree, I took up what provisions I had left, and went towards, it, the distance being so great, that I could not distinguish what it was.

When I came nearer, I thought it to be a white bowl, of a prodigious height and bigness; and when I came up to it, I touched it, and found it to be very smooth. I went round to see if it was open on any side but saw it was not, and that there was no climbing up to the top of it, it was so smooth. It was at least 50 paces round.

By this time the sun was ready to set, and all of a sudden the sky became as dark as if it had been covered with a thick cloud. I was much astonished at this sudden darkness, but much more when I found it was occasioned by a bird of a monstrous size, that came flying towards me. I remembered a fowl called Roc, that I had often heard mariners speak of, and conceived that the great bowl, which I so much admired, must needs be its egg. In short, the bird lighted and sat over the egg to hatch it. As I perceived her coming I crept close to the egg, so that I had before me one of the legs of the bird, that was as big as the trunk of a tree; I tied myself strongly to it with the cloth that went round my turban, in hopes that when the roc flew away the next morning, she would carry me with her out of this desert island. And after having passed the night in this condition the bird actually flew away next morning, as soon as it was day, and carried me so high that I could not see the earth; she afterwards descended all of a sudden, with so much rapidity, that I loft my senses. But when the roc was sat, and that I found myself on the ground, I speedily untied the knot, and had scarce done, when the bird, having taken up a serpent of a monstrous length in her bill, flew strait away.

The place where it left me was a very deep valley, encompassed on all sides with mountains so high, that they seemed to reach above the clouds, and so full of steep rocks, that there was no possibility to get out of the valley. This was a new perplexity upon me; so that when I compared this place with the desert island the roc brought me from, I found that I gained nothing by the change.

As I walked through this valley, I perceived it was strewed with diamonds, some of which were of a surprising bigness. I took a great deal of pleasure to look upon them; but speedily saw at a distance such objects as very much diminished my satisfaction, and which I could not look upon without terror; that was a great number of serpents, so big, and so long, that the least of them was capable of swallowing an elephant. They retired in the day-time to their dens, where they hid themselves from the roc, their enemy, and did not come out but in the night-time.

I spent the day in walking about the valley, resting myself at times in such palaces as I thought most commodious. When night came on, I went into a cave, where I thought I might be in safety; I stopped the mouth of it, which was low and strait, with a great stone to preserve me from the serpents; but not so exactly fitted as to hinder light from coming in. I supped on part of my provisions; but the serpents, which began to appear, hissing about in the mean time, put me into such extreme fear, that you may imagine I did not sleep. When day appeared, the serpents retired, and I came out of the cave trembling; I can justly say, that I walked a long time upon diamonds, without having a mind to touch any of them. At last I sat down, and notwithstanding my uneasiness, and not having shut my

eyes during the night, I fell asleep, after having eat a little more of my provisions. But I had scarce shut my eyes, when something, that fell by me with a great noise, awaked me, and that was a great piece of fresh meat; and at the same time I saw several others fall down from the rocks in different places.

I always looked upon it to be a fable, when I heard mariners and others discourse of the valley of diamonds, and of the stratagem made use of by some merchants to get jewels from thence, but then I found it to be true. For, in reality, those merchants come to the neighbourhood of this valley, when the eagles have young ones, and throwing great joints of meat into this valley, the diamonds, upon whole points they fall stick to them; the eagles, which are stronger in this country than any where else, fall down with great force upon those pieces of meat, and carry them to their nests upon the top of the rocks, to feed their young eagles with; at which time the merchants, running to their nests, frighten the eagles by their noise, and take away the diamonds which slick to the meat. And this stratagem they make use of to get the diamonds out of the valley, which is surrounded with such precipices that nobody can enter it.

I believed ever till then, that it was not possible for me to get out of this abyss, which I looked upon as my grave; but then I changed my mind; for the failing in of those pieces of meat, put me in hopes of a way of saving my life.



I began to gather together the greatest diamonds that I could see, and put them into the leather bag where I used to carry my provisions. I afterwards took the largest piece of meat I could find, tied it close round me with the cloth of my turban, and then laid myself upon the ground, with my face downward, the bag of diamonds being tied fast to my girdle, that it could not possibly drop off.

I had scarce laid me down, till the eagles came, each of them seized a piece of meat, and one of the strongest having taken me up, with the piece of meat on my back, carried me to his nest on the top of the mountain. The merchants fell straightway a shouting to frighten the eagles; and when they had obliged them to quit their prey, one

of them came up to the nest where I was: he was very much afraid when he saw me; but recovering himself, instead of enquiring how I came thither, he began to quarrel with me, and asked why I stole his goods. "You will treat me," replied I, "with more civility, when you know me better. Don't trouble yourself, I have diamonds enough for you and me too, more than all the other merchants together. If they have any, it is by chance; but I chose for myself, in the bottom of the valley, all those which you see in this bag;" and having spoke those words, I shewed them to him. I had scarce done speaking, when the other merchants came trooping about us, very much astonished to see me, but they were much more surprized when I told them my story; yet they did not so much admire my stratagem to save myself, as my courage to attempt it.

They carried me to the place where they staid all together, and there having opened my bag, they were surprized at the largeness of my diamonds, and consessed, that in all the courts where they had been, they never saw any, that came near them. I prayed the merchant to whom the nest belonged whither I was carried, for every merchant had his own, to take as many for his share as he pleased: he contented himself with one, and that too the least of them; and when I pressed him to take more, without fear of doing me any injury, "No," says he, "I am very well satisfied with this, which is valuable enough to save me the trouble of making any more voyages, to raise as great a fortune as I desire."

I spent the night with those merchants, to whom I told my story a second time, for the satisfaction of those who had not heard it. I could not moderate my joy, when I found myself delivered from the danger I have mentioned; I thought myself to be in a dream, and could scarce believe myself to be out of hazard.

The merchants had thrown their pieces of meat into the valley for several days. And each of them been satisfied with the diamonds that had fallen to his lot, we left the place next morning all together, and travelled near high mountains, where there were serpents of a prodigious length, which we had the good fortune to escape. We took the first port we came at, and came to the isle of Roha, where the trees grow that yield camphire. This tree is so large and its branches so thick, that 100 men may easily fit under its shade. The juice of which the camphire is made, runs out from a hole bored in the upper part of the tree, is received in a vassel, where it grows to a consistency, and becomes what we call camphire; and the juice thus drawn out, the tree withers and die.

There is in this island the rhinoceros, a creature less than the elephant, but greater than a buffalo; they have a horn upon their nose, about a cubit long; this horn is solid, and cleft in the middle from one end to the other, and there is upon it white draughts, representing the figure of a man. The rhinoceros fights with the elephant, runs his horn into his belly, and carries him off upon his head: but the blood and the fat of the elephant running into his eyes, and making him blind, he falls to the ground; and that which is astonishing, the roc comes and carries them both away in her claws, to be meat for her young ones.

I pass over many other things peculiar to this island, lest I should be troublesome to you. Here I exchanged some of my diamonds for good merchandise. From thence we went to other iles, and at last, having touched at several trading towns of the firm land, we landed at Balsora; from whence I went to Bagdad. There I immediately gave great alms to the poor, and lived honourably upon the vast riches I had brought, and gained with so much fatigue.

THE
THIRD VOYAGE
OF
SINDBAD
THE
SAILOR.

The pleasures of the life which I then led, soon made me forget the risques I had run in my two former voyages; but being then in the flower of my age, I grew weary of living without business, and hardening myself against the thought of any danger I might incur, I went from Bagdad with the richest commodities of the country of Balsora. There I embarked again with other merchants. We made a long navigation, and touched at several ports, with which we drove a considerable commerce. One day being out in the main ocean, we were attacked by a horrible tempest, which made us lose our course.

The tempest continued several days, and brought us before the port of an island, where the captain was very unwilling to enter, but we were obliged to cast anchor there. When we had furled our sails, the captain told us, that this, and some other neighbouring islands, were inhabited by hairy savages who would speedily attack us; and, though they were but dwarfs, yet our misfortune was such, that we must make no resistance, for they were more in number than the locusts; and if we happened to kill one of them, they would all fall upon us and destroy us.

This discourse of the captain put the whole equipage into a great consternation, and we found very soon to our cost, that what he told us was but too true. An innumerable multitude of frightful savages, covered all over with red hair and about two foot high, came swimming towards us, and encompassed our ship in a little time. They spoke to us as they came near, but we understood not their language; they climbed up the sides of the ship with so much agility as surprized us. We beheld all this with a mortal fear, without daring to offer at defending ourselves, or to speak one word to divert them from their mischievous design. In short, they took down our sails, cut the cable, and hauling to the shore, made us all get out, and afterwards carried the ship into another island, from whence they came. All travellers carefully avoided that island, where they left us, it being very dangerous to stay there, for a reason you shall hear anon, but we were forced to bear our affliction with patience.

We went forward into the island, where we found some fruits and herbs to prolong our lives as long as we could; but we expected nothing but death. As we went on, we perceived at a distance a great pile of building, and made towards it. We found it to be a palace well built and very high, with a gate of ebony of two leaves which we thrust open. On entering the court, we saw before us a vast apartment, with a porch, having on one side a heap of men's bones, and on the other, a vast number of roasting spits. We trembled at this spectacle, and being weary with travelling, our legs failed under us, we fell to the ground, being seized with a mortal fear, and lay along time immoveable.

The sun was set, and whilst we were in this lamentable condition just now mentioned, the gate of the apartment opened with a great noise, and there came out the horrible figure of a black man, as high as a tall palm-tree. He had but one eye, and that in the middle of his forehead, where it looked as red as a burning coal. His fore-teeth were very long and sharp, and came without his mouth, which was as deep as that of a horse. His upper lip hung down upon his breast, his ears resembled those of an elephant, and covered his shoulders; and his nails were as long and crooked as the talons of the greatest birds. At the sight of so frightful a giant, we lost all sense, and lay men dead.

At last we came to ourselves, and saw him sitting in the porch looking at us; when he had considered us well, he advanced towards us, and, laying his hand upon me, he took me up by the nape of my neck, and turned me round as a butcher would do a sheep's-head; after having viewed me well, and perceiving me to be so lean that I had nothing but skin and bone, he let me go. He took up all the rest, one by one, viewed them in the same manner, and the captain being the fattest, he held him with one hand, as I would do a sparrow, and thrusting a spit thro' him, kindled a great fire, roasted, and ate him in his apartment for his supper; which being done, he returned to his porch, where he lay and fell asleep, snoring louder than thunder : he slept thus till the morning; for our part, it is not possible for us to enjoy any rest, so that we passed the night in the most cruel fear that can be imagined. Day being come, the giant awaked got up, went out, and left us in the palace.

When we thought him at a distance, then we broke the melancholy silence we had kept all night, and every one grieving more than another, we made the palace to resound with our complaint and groans. Though there was a great many of us, and that we had but one enemy, we had not at first the presence of mind to think of delivering ourselves from him by his death. This enterprize however, though hard to put in execution, was the only design we ought naturally to have formed.

We thought upon several other things, but determined nothing; so that submitting to what it should please God to order concerning us, we spent the day in running about the island, for fruits and herbs to sustain our lives. When evening came, we sought for a place to lie in, but found none; so that we were forced, whether we would or not, to return to the palace.

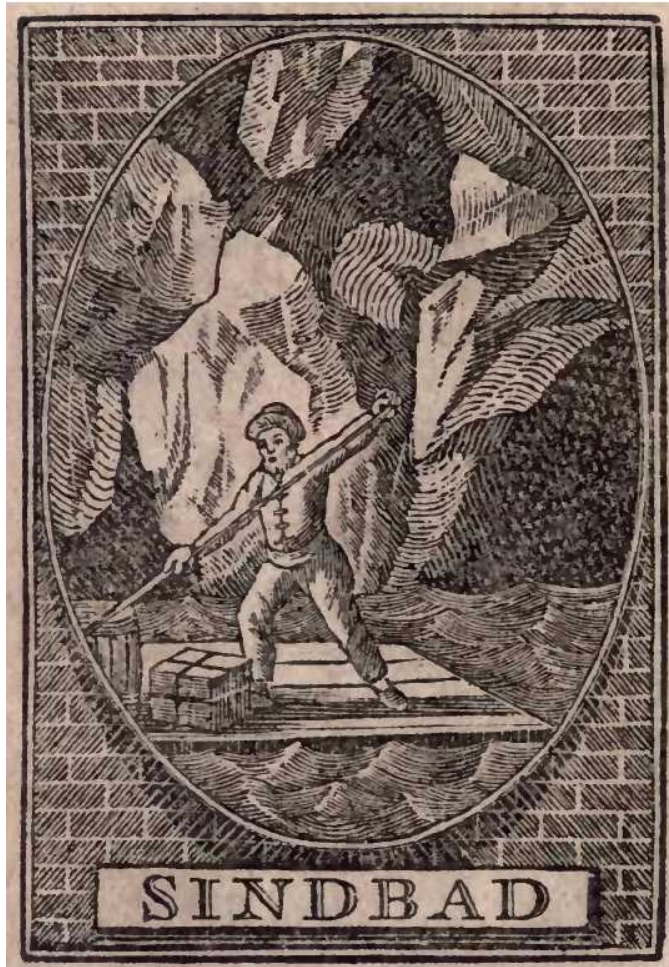
The giant failed not to come back, and supped once more upon one of our companions; after which he slept, and snored till day, and then went out and left us as formerly. Our condition was so very terrible, that several of my comrades designed to throw themselves into the sea, rather than die so strange a death; and those who were of this mind, argued with the rest to follow their example. Upon which, one of the company answered, that we were forbid to destroy ourselves; but, allowing it to be lawful, it was more reasonable to think of a way to rid ourselves of the barbarous tyrant, who designed so cruel a death for us.

Having thought of a project for that end, I communicated the same to my comrades, who improved it. "Brethren," said I, "you know there is a great deal of timber floating upon the coast; if you will be advised by me, let us make several floats of it that may carry us, and when they are done, leave them there till we think fit to make use of them. In the mean time, we will execute the design to deliver ourselves from the giant, and if it succeed, we may stay here with patience till some ship pass by, that may carry us out of this fatal island; but if it happen to miscarry, we will speedily get to our floats, and put to sea. I confess, that by exposing ourselves to the fury of the waves we run a risk of losing our lives; but if we do, is it not better to be buried in the sea, than in the entrails of this monster, who has already devoured two of us?" My advice was relished, and we made floats capable of carrying three persons each.

We returned to the palace towards the evening, and the giant arrived a little while after. We were forced to conclude on seeing another of our comrades roasted. But at last revenged ourselves on the brutish giant thus. After he had made an end of his cursed supper, he lay down on his back, and fell asleep. As soon as we heard him snore, according to his custom nine of the boldest among us, and myself, took, each of us a spit and putting the points of them into the fire till they were burning hot, we thruft them into his eye all at once, and blinded him. The pain occasioned him to make a frightful cry, and to get up and stretch out his hands, in order to sacrifice some of us to his rage; but we ran to such places as he could not find us, and after having sought for us in vain, he groped for the gate, and went our howling dreadfully.

We went out of the palace after the giant, and came to the shore, where we had left our floats, and put them immediately into the sea. We waited till day, in order to get upon them in case the giant came towards us with any guide of his own species; but we hoped if he did not appear by sun-rising, and gave over his howling, which we still heard, that he would die; and if that happened to be the case, we resolved to stay in that island, and not to risk our lives upon the floats; but day had scarce appeared, till we perceived our cruel enemy, accompanied with two others almost of the same size leading him; and a great number more coming before him, with a very quick pace.

When we saw this, we made no delay, but got immediately upon our floats, and rowed off from the shore. The Giants, who perceived this, took up great stones, and running to the shore, entered the water up to the middle, and threw



so exactly, that they sunk all the floats but that I was upon, and all my comrades, except the two with me, were drowned. We rowed with all our might, and got out of the reach of the giants. But when we got out to sea, we were exposed to the mercy of the waves and winds, and toiled about sometimes on one side, and sometimes on another, and spent that night and the following day under a cruel uncertainty, as to our fate; but next morning we had the good luck to be thrown upon an island, where we landed with much joy. We found excellent fruit there, that gave us great relief, so that we pretty well recovered our strength.

In the evening we fell asleep on the bank of the sea, but were awaked by the noise of a serpent as long as a palm-tree, whose scales made a rustling as he crept along. He swallowed up one of my comrades, notwithstanding his loud cries, and

the efforts he made to rid himself from the serpent; which, after shaking him several times against the ground, crushed him, and we could hear him gnaw and tear the poor wretch's bones, when we had fled at a great distance from him. Next day we saw the serpent again, to our great terror, when I cried out, "O heaven, to what dangers are we exposed!" We rejoiced yesterday at our having escaped from the cruelty of a giant, and the rage of the waves, and now we are fallen into danger altogether as terrible."

As we walked about, we saw a large tall tree, upon which we designed to pass the following night for our security; and, having satisfied our hunger with fruit we mounted it accordingly. A little while after, the serpent came hissing to the root of the tree, raised itself up against the trunk of it, and meeting with my comrade, who sat lower than I, swallowed him at once and went off.

I staid upon the tree till it was day and then came down, more like a dead man, than one alive, expecting the same fate with my two companions. This filled me with horror, so that I was going to throw myself into the sea; but nature prompting us to a desire to live as long as we can, I withstood this temptation to despair, and submitted myself to the will of God, who disposes of our lives at his pleasure.

In the mean time I gathered together a great quantity of small wood, brambles, and dry thorns, and making them up in faggots, made a circle with them round the tree, and I also tied some to the branches over my head. Having done thus, when the evening came, I shut myself up within this circle, in order to preserve myself from the cruel destiny with which it was threatened. The serpent failed not to come at the usual hour, and went round the tree, seeking for an opportunity to devour me, but was prevented by the rampart I had made; so that he sat till day and then retired, but I dared not to leave my fort until the sun rose.

I was so fatigued with the toil the serpent had put me to, and suffered so much from his poisonous breath, that death seemed more eligible to me than the horror of such a condition. I came down from the tree; and, not thinking on the resignation I had made to the will of God the preceding day, I ran toward the sea, with a design to throw myself into it headlong.

God, however, took compassion on my desperate state: for just as I was going to throw myself into the sea, I perceived a ship at a considerable distance. I called as loud as I could, and taking the linen from my turban, displayed it, that they might observe me. This had the desired effect, all the crew perceived me, and the captain sent me his long-boat. As soon as I came aboard, the merchants and seamen flocked about me, to know how I came into that desert island; and after I had told them all that befell me, the oldest among them told me, they had several times heard of the giants who dwelt in that island that they were cannibals, and eat men raw as well as roasted; and as to the serpents, they added, that there were abundance in the isle that hid themselves by day, and came abroad at night. After having testified their joy at my escaping so many dangers, they brought me the best of what they had to eat; and the captain, seeing that I was all in rags, was so generous as to give me one of his own suits. We were at sea for some time, touched at several islands, and at last landed at that of Salabat, where there grows sanders, a wood of great use in physic. We entered the port, and came to an anchor the merchants began to unload their goods, in order to sell or exchange them. In the mean time the captain called to me and said, "Brother, I have here a parcel of goods that belonged to a merchant, who sailed some time on board this shup, and he being dead, I design to dispose of them for the benefit of his heirs, when I know them." The bales he spoke of lay on the deck, and shewing them to me, he says, "There are the goods. I hope you will take care to sell them, and you shall have factorage." I thanked him that he gave me an opportunity of employing myself, because I hated to be idle.

The clerk of the ship took an account of all the bales, with the names of the merchants to whom they belonged. And when he asked the captain in whose name he should enter those he gave me the charge of; "Enter them," says the captain, "in the name of Sindbad the Sailor." I could not hear myself named without some emotion, and looking steadfastly on the captain, I knew him to be the person, who, in my second voyage, had left me in the island where I fell asleep

by a brook, and set sail without me, or sending to seek for me. But I could not remember him at first, he was so much altered since I saw him.

And as for him who believed me to be dead, I could not wonder at his not knowing me. "But Captain," says I, "was the merchant's name, to whom those bales belonged, Sindbad?" "Yes," replied he, "that was his name; he came from Bagdad, and embarked on board my ship at Balsora. One day, when we landed at an island to take in water and other refreshments, I know not by what mistake, I set sail without observing that he did not re-embark with us; neither I nor the merchants perceived it till four hours after. We had the wind in our stern, and so fresh a gale, that it was not possible for us to tack-about for him." "You believe him then to be dead," says I. "Certainly," answers he. "No Captain," says I, "look upon me, and you may know that I am Sindbad, whom you left in that desert island; I fell asleep by a brook, and when I awaked, I found all the company gone."

The Captain, having looked at me attentively, knew me at last, embraced me, and said, "God be praised that Fortune has supplied my defect. There are your goods, which I always took care to preserve; and to make the best of them at every port where I touched. I restore them to you with the profit I have made of them." I took them from him, and at the same time acknowledged how much I owed to him.

From the isle of Salabat we went to another, where I furnished myself with cloves, cinnamon, and other spices. As we sailed from that island we saw a tortoise that was 20 cubits in length and breadth. We observed also, a fish which looked like a cow, and gave milk, and its skin is so hard, that they usually make bucklers of it. I saw another which had the shape and colour of a camel. In short, after a long voyage, I arrived at Balsora, and from thence returned to Bagdad, with so much riches, that I knew not what I had. I gave a great deal of alms to the poor, and bought another great estate to what I had already.

THE
FOURTH VOYAGE
OF
SINDBAD
THE
SAILOR.

The pleasures I took after my third voyage, had not charms enough to divert me from another. I was again prevailed upon by my passion for traffick, and curiosity to see new things, I therefore put my affairs in order, and having provided a stock of goods fit for the places where I designed to trade, I set out on my journey, I took the way of Persia, of which I travelled several provinces, and then arrived at a port where I embarked. We set sail, and having touched at several ports of Terra Firma, and some of the eastern islands, we put out to sea, and were seized by such a sudden gust of wind, as obliged the captain to furl his sails, and to make all other necessary precautions to prevent the danger that threatened us. But all was in vain, our endeavours took no effect, the sails were tore in a thousand pieces, and the ship was stranded, so that a great many of the merchants and seamen were drowned, and the cargo lost.

I had the good fortune, with several of the merchants and mariners, to get a plank, and we were carried by the current to an island which lay before us. There we found fruit and fountain-water, which preserved our lives. We staid all night a-shore, without consulting what we should do, our misfortune had dispirited us so much.

Next morning, as soon as the sun was up, we walked from the shore, and advancing into the islands, saw some houses; to which we went; and as soon as we came thither, we were encompassed by a great number of blacks, who seized us, shared us, among them, and carried us to their respective habitations. I and five of my comrades were carried to one place; they made us sit down immediately, and gave us a certain herb, which they made signs for us to eat. My comrades not taking notice that the blacks ate none of it themselves consulting only the satisfying of their own hunger, fell to eating with greediness. But I suspecting some trick, would not so much as taste it, which happened well for me; for in a little time after, I perceived my companions had lost their senses, and that when they spoke to me, they knew not what they said.

The blacks fed us afterwards with rice, prepared with oil of cocoas, and my comrades who had lost their reason, eat of it greedily. I eat of it also, but very sparingly. The blacks gave us that herb at first on purpose to deprive us of our senses, that we might not be aware of the sad destiny prepared for us; and they gave us it on purpose to fatten us: for, being cannibals, their design was to eat us as soon as we grew fat. They did accordingly eat my comrades who were not sensible of their condition; but my senses being intire, you may easily guess that instead of growing fat, as the rest did, I grew leaner every day. The fear of death, under which I laboured, turned all my food into poison, I fell into a languishing distemper, which proved my safety; for the blacks, having killed and eat up my companions, seeing me to be withered, lean and sick, deferred my death till another time.

Mean while, I had a great deal of liberty, so that there was scarce any notice taken of what I did, and this gave me an opportunity one day to get at a distance from the houses, and to make my escape. An old man, who saw me and suspected my design, called to me as loud as he could to return; but instead of obeying him I redoubled my pace, and quickly got out of sight. At that time there was none but the old man about the houses, the rest being abroad and not to come home till night, which was pretty usual with them. Therefore, being sure that they could not come time enough to pursue me, I went on till night, then I stopt to rest a little, and to eat some of the provisions I had taken care for; but I speedily set forward again and travelled seven days, avoiding those places which seemed to be inhabited, and lived for the most part upon cocoa-nuts, which served me both for meat and drink. On the eighth day I came near the sea, and saw all of a sudden white people like myself, gathering of pepper of which there was great plenty in that place; this I took to be a good omen, and went to them without any scruple.

The people who gathered pepper came to meet me as soon as they saw me, and asked me in Arabic who I was, and whence I came? I was over-joyed to hear them speak in my own language, and willingly satisfied their curiosity by giving them an account of my ship-wreck, and how I fell into the hands of the blacks. Those blacks, replied they, eat men, and by what miracle did you escape their cruelty? I told them the same story I now tell you, at which they were wonderfully surprized. I staid with them till they had gathered their quantity of pepper, and then sailed with them to the island from whence they came. They presented me to their king, who was a good prince, he had the patience to hear the relation of my adventure, which surprized him; and he afterwards gave me clothes, and commanded care to be taken of me.

The island was very well peopled, plentiful of every thing, and the capital was a place of great trade. This agreeable place of retreat was very comfortable to me after my misfortune, and the kindness of this generous prince towards me compleated my satisfaction. In a word, there was not a person more in favour with him than myself, and in consequence every man in court and city sought how to

oblige me; so that in a very little time I was looked upon rather as a native than a stranger.

I observed one thing which to me looked very extraordinary; all the people, the king himself not excepted, rode their horses without bridle or stirrups. This made me one day take the liberty to ask the king how that came to pass? His majesty answered, that I talked to him of things which nobody knew the use of in his dominions.

I went immediately to a workman, and gave him a model for making the stock of a saddle. When that was done, I covered it with leather, and embroidered it with gold. I afterwards went to a locksmith, who made me a bitt according to the pattern I shewed him, and then he made also some stirrups. When I had done, I presented them to the king and put them upon one of his horses. His majesty mounted immediately, and was so mightily pleased with them, that he testified his satisfaction by large presents to me. I could not avoid making several others for his ministers and principal officers of his household, who all of them made me presents that enriched me in a little time. I also made for the people of best quality in the city, which gained me great reputation and regard from every body.

As I made my court very exactly to the king he says to me one day, "Sindbad, I love thee, and all my subjects who know thee treat thee according to my example. I have one thing to demand of thee, which thou must grant." "Sir," answered I, "there is nothing but what I will do, as a mark of my obedience to your majesty, whose power over me is absolute." "I have a mind that thou should'st marry," replies he, "that so thou may'st stay in my dominions, and think no more of thy own country." I dared not to resist the prince's will, and so he gave me one of the ladies of his court, a noble, beautiful, chaste, and rich lady. The ceremonies of marriage being over, I went and dwelt with the lady, and for some time we lived together in perfect harmony. I was not, however, very well satisfied with my condition, and therefore designed to make my escape on the first occasion, and to return to Bagdad; which my present settlement, how advantageous soever, could not make me forget.

While I was thinking on this, the wife of one of my neighbours, with whom I had contracted a very strict friendship, fell sick and died. I went to see and comfort him in his affliction, and finding him swallowed up with sorrow; I said to him as soon as I saw him, "God preserve you, and grant you a long life." "Alas!" replies he, "how do you think I should obtain that favour you wish me? I have not above an hour to live." "Pray," says I, "don't entertain such a melancholy thought, I hope it will not be so, but that I shall enjoy your company for many years." "I wish you," says he, "a long life; but for me, my days are at an end, for I must be buried day with my wife. This is a law which our ancestors established in this island, and always observed it inviolably. The living husband is interred with the dead wife, and the living wife with the dead husband. Nothing can save me, every one must submit to this law."

While he was entertaining me with an account of this barbarous custom, the very hearing of which frightened me cruelly, his kindred, friends, and neighbours came in a body to assist at the funeral. They put on the corps the woman's richest apparel, as if it had been her wedding day, and dressed her with all her jewels, then they put her into an open coffin, and lifting it up, began their march to the place of burial, The husband walked at the head of the company and followed the corps. They went up to a high mountain, and when they came thither, took up a great stone which covered the mouth of a very deep pit, and let down the corps with all its apparel and jewels. Then the husband, embracing his kindred and friends, suffered himself to be put into another open coffin without resistance, with a pot of water, and seven little loves, and was let down in the same manner they let down his wife. The mountain was pretty long, and reached to the sea. The ceremony being over they covered the hole again with the stone and returned.

It is needless for me to tell you, that I was the only melancholy spectator of this funeral, whereas the rest were scarcely moved at it, the thing was so customary to them. I could not forbear speaking my thoughts of this matter to the king: "Sir," says I, "I cannot enough express my wonder at the strange custom in this country, of burying the living with the dead. I have been a great traveller, and seen many countries, but never heard of so cruel a law." "What do you mean, Sindbad," says the king, "it is a common law? I shall be interred with the queen, my wife, if she die first," "But Sir," says I, "may I presume to demand of your majesty, if strangers be obliged to observe this law?" "Without doubt," replied the king (smiling at the occasion, of my question,) "they are not excepted if they be married in this island."

I went home very melancholy at this answer; for the fear of my wife's dying first, and that I should be interred alive with her, occasioned me to have very mortifying reflections. But there was no remedy, I must have patience, and submit to the will of God. I trembled however at every little indisposition of my wife; but alas! in a short time my fears came upon me all at once, for she fell sick and died in a few days.

To be interred alive, seemed to me as deplorable an end, as to be devoured by cannibals. But I must submit, the king and all his court would honour the funeral with their presence, and the most considerable people of the city did the like. When all was ready for the ceremony the corpse was put into a coffin with all her jewels and magnificent apparel. The cavalcade was begun, and as second after of this doleful tragedy, I went next the corpse, with my eyes full of tears bewailing my deplorable fate. Before I came to the mountain, I addressed myself to the king in the first place, and then to all those who were round me, and bowing before them to the earth, to kiss the border of their garments, I prayed them to have compassion upon me, "Consider," said I, "that I am a stranger, and ought not to be subject to this rigorous law, and that I have another wife and children in my own country." It was to no purpose for me to speak thus, no soul was moved at

it; on the contrary, they made haste to let down my wife's corpse into the pit, and put me down the next moment in an open coffin, with a vessel full of water, and seven loaves. In short the fatal ceremony being performed they covered up the mouth of the pit, notwithstanding the excess of my grief, and my lamentable cries.

As I came near the bottom, I discovered, by help of the little light that came from above the nature of this subterranean place; it was a vast long cave, and might be about 50 fathom deep. I immediately smelt an insufferable stench, proceeding from the multitude of dead corpses, which I saw on the right and left; nay, I fancied that I heard some of them sigh out their last. However, when I got down, I immediately left my coffin, and getting at a distance from the corpse, held my nose, and lay down upon the ground, where I staid along time bathed in tears.

Then reflecting on my sad lot, "It is true," said I, "that God disposes all things according to the decrees of his providence; but, poor Sinclbad, art not thou thyself the cause of thy being brought to die so strange a death? Would to God thou hadst perished in some of those tempests which thou hadst escaped! Then thy death had not been so lingering, and terrible in all its circumstances. But thou hast drawn all this upon thyself by thy cursed avarice. Ah! unfortunate wretch! Shouldst thou not rather have staid at home, and quietly enjoyed the fruit of thy labour."

Though the darkness of the cave was so great that I could not distinguish day and night, yet I always found my coffin again, and the cave seemed to be more spacious, and fuller of corpses than it appeared to me at first. I lived for some days upon my bread and water, which being all spent at last I prepared for death.

As I was thinking of death, I heard the stone lifted up from the mouth of the cave, and immediately the corps of a man was let down. When men are reduced to extremities, it is natural for them to come to extreme resolutions. While they let down the woman, I approached the place where her coffin was to be put, and as soon as I perceived they were covering again the mouth of the cave, I gave the



unfortunate wretch two or three great blows over the head, with a bone that I found; which stunned, or, to say the truth, killed her. I committed this inhuman action merely for the sake of the bread and water that was in her coffin, and thus I had provisions for some days more. When that was spent, they let down another dead woman, and a live man; I killed the man in the same manner; and, as good luck would have it for me, there was then a sort of morality in the town, so that by this means I did not want for provisions.

One day, as I had dispatched another woman, I heard something walking, and blowing or panting as it walked. I advanced towards that side from whence I heard the noise, and upon my approach the thing puffed and blew harder, as if it had been running away from me. I followed the noise, and the thing seemed to stop sometimes, but always fled and blew as I approached. I followed it so long, and so far, till at last I perceived a light, resembling a star; I went on towards that light, and sometimes lost sight of it, but always found it again, and at last discovered that it came thro' a hole in the rock, large enough for a man to get out at.

Upon this, I stopt some time to rest myself, being much fatigued with pursuing this discovery so fast: afterwards coming up to the hole, I went out at it, and found myself upon the sea. I leave you to guess at the excess of my joy; it was such that I could scarce persuade myself of its being real.

But when I was recovered from my surprize, and convinced of the truth of the matter, I found the thing which I had followed, and heard puff and blow, to be a creature which came out of the sea, and was accustomed to enter that hole to feed upon dead carcasses.

I considered the mountain, and perceived it to be situated betwixt the sea and the town, but without any passage or way to communicate with the latter, the rocks on the side of the sea, were so rugged and deep. I fell down upon the shore to thank God for his mercy, and afterwards entered the cave again to fetch bread and water, which I did eat by day-light with a better appetite than I had done since my interment in the dark hole.

I returned thither again, and groped about among the biers for all the diamonds, rubies, pearls, gold, bracelets, and rich stuffs I could find; these I brought to the shore, and tying them up neatly into bales, with the cords that let down the coffins, I laid them together upon the bank, waiting till some ship passed by, without any fear of rain, for it was not then the season.

After two or three days I perceived a ship that had but just come out of the harbour, and passed near the place where I was. I made a sign with the linen of my turban, and called to them as loud as I could: they heard me, and sent a sloop to bring me on board. When the mariners asked by what misfortune I came thither? I told them that I suffered shipwreck two days ago, had made shift to get ashore with the goods they saw. It was happy for me that those people did not confider the place where I was, nor enquire into the probability of what I told them; but without any more ado, took me on board with my goods. When I came

to the ship, the captain was so well pleased to have saved me, and so much taken up with his own affairs, that he also took the story of my pretended shipwreck upon trust, and generously refused some jewels which I offered him.

We passed by several islands, and among others, that called Serendib, with a regular wind, and six leagues from that of Kela, where we landed. This island produces lead-mines, Indian canes, and excellent camphire.

The king of the isle of Kela is very rich and potent; and the isle of Bells, which is about two days journey in extent, is also subject to him. The inhabitants are so barbarous, that they still eat human flesh. After we had finished our commerce in that island, we put to sea again, and touched at several other ports; at last I arrived happily at Bagdad with infinite riches, of which it is needless to trouble you with the detail. Out of thankfulness to God for his mercies, I gave great alms for the entertainment of several mosques, and for the subsistence of the poor, and employed myself wholly in enjoying my kindred and friends.

THE
FIFTH VOYAGE
OF
SINDBAD
THE
SAILOR.

The pleasures I enjoyed had again charms enough to make me forget all the troubles and calamities I had undergone, without curing me of my inclination to make new voyages. Therefore I bought goods, ordered them to be packed up, and loaded, and set out with them for the best sea-port, and there, that I might not be obliged to depend upon a captain, but have a ship at my own command, I staid till one was built on purpose, at my own charge. When the ship was ready, I went on board with my goods; but not having enough to load her, I took on board me several merchants of different nations with their merchandize.

We sailed with the first fair wind, and after a long navigation, the first place we touched at was a desart island, where we found an egg of a roc, equal in bigness with that I formerly mentioned. There was a young roc in it just ready to be hatched, and the bill of it began to appear.

The merchants, whom I had taken on board my ship, and who landed with me, broke the egg with hatchets, and made a hole in it, from whence they pulled out the young roc piece after piece, and roasted it. I had earnestly dissuaded them from meddling with the egg, but they would not listen to me.

Scarce had they made an end of their treat, when there appeared in the air, at a considerable distance from us, two great clouds. The captain, whom I hired to sail my ship, knowing by experience what it meant, cried that it was the he and she roc that belonged to the young one, and pressed us to reimbark with all speed, to prevent the misfortune which we saw would other wise befall us, We made haste to do so and set sail with all possible diligence.

In the mean time the two rocs approached with a frightful noise, which they redoubled when they saw the egg broke, and their young one gone. But having a mind to avenge themselves, they flew back towards the place from whence they came, and disappeared for some time, while we made all the sail we could, to prevent that which unhappily befell us.

They returned, and we observed that each of them carried betwixt their talons, stones, or rather rocks of monstrous size. When they came directly over

my ship, they hovered, and one of them let fall a stone, but by the dexterity of the steersman, who immediately turned the ship with the rudder, it missed us, and falling by the side of the ship into the sea, divided the water so, that we almost could see to the bottom. The other roc, to our misfortune, threw the stone so exactly upon the middle of the ship, that it split in a thousand pieces. The mariners and passengers were all killed by the stone, or sunk. I myself had the last fate; but as I came up again, I caught hold by good fortune of a piece of the wreck, and swimming sometimes with one hand and sometimes with the other, but always holding fast my board, the wind and tide being for me, I came to an island whole bank was very steep. I overcome that difficulty, however, and got ashore.

I sat down upon the grass, to recover myself a little from my fatigue, after which I got up and went into the island to view it. It seemed to be a delicious garden. I found trees every where, some of them bearing green, and others ripe fruits, and streams of fresh pure water, with pleasant windings and turnings. I ate of the fruits, which I found excellent; and drank of the water, which was very pleasant.

Night being come, I lay down upon the grass, in a place convenient enough,

but I could not sleep an hour at a time, my mind was so disturbed with the fear of being alone in so desert a place. Thus I spent the best part of the night in fretting, and reproaching myself for my imprudence in not staying at home, rather than undertaking this last voyage. But day-light dispersed those melancholy thoughts, and I got up and walked among the trees, but not without apprehensions of danger.

When I was a little advanced into the island I saw an old man, who to me seemed very weak and feeble. He sat upon the bank of a stream, and at first I took him to be one who had been shipwrecked like myself. I went towards him, and saluted him, but he only bowed his head a little. I asked him what he did there, but instead of answering me, he made a sign for me to take him upon my back, and carry him over



the brook, signifying that it was to gather fruit.

I believed him really to stand in need of my help, fortook him upon my back, and having carried him over, bid him get down, and for that end I stooped, that he might get off with ease; but instead of that, (which makes me laugh at every time I think on't) the old man, who to me appeared very decrepit, clasped his legs nimbly about my neck, and then I perceived his skin to resemble that of a cow. He sat astride upon my shoulders, and held my throat so strait, that I thought he would have strangled me, the fright of which made me faint away and fall down.

Notwithstanding my fainting, the ill-natured old fellow kept fast about my neck, but opened his legs a little to give me time to recover my breath. When I had done so, he thrust one of his feet against my stomach, and struck me so rudely on the side with the other, that he forced me to rise up against my will. Being got up, he made me walk under the trees, and forced me now and then to stop, to gather and eat such fruit as we found. He never left me all day, and when I lay down to rest me by night, he laid himself down with me, holding always fast about my neck. Every morning he pushed me, to make me awake, and afterwards obliged me to get up and walk, and pressed me with his feet. You may judge then what trouble I was in, to be charged with such a burden as I could no ways rid myself from.

One day I found in my way several dry calabashes, that had fallen from a tree; I took a large one, and, after cleaning it, pressed into it some juice of grapes, which abounded in the island; having filled the calabash, I set it in a convenient place, and coming hither again some days after, I took up my calabash, and setting it to my mouth, found the wine to be so good, that it made me presently not only forget my sorrow, but I grew so vigorous, and was so light-hearted that I began to sing and dance as I walked along.

The old man perceiving the effect which this drink had upon me, and that I carried him with more ease than I did before, made a sign for me give him some of it. I gave him the calabash and the liquor pleasing his palate, he drank it all off. There being enough of it to fuddle him, he became drunk immediately, and the fumes getting up into his head, he began to sing after his manner, and to dance with his breech upon my shoulders. His jolting about made me vomit, and he loosened his legs from about me by degrees; so finding that he did not press me as before, I threw him upon the ground, where he lay without motion, and then I took up a great stone, with which I crushed his head to pieces. I was extremely rejoiced, to be freed thus from this cursed old fellow, and walked upon the bank of the sea, where I met the crew of a ship that had cast anchor, to take in water and refresh themselves. They were extremely surprized to see me, and to hear the particulars of my adventures. You fell, said they, into the hands of the old man of the sea, and are the first that ever escaped strangling by him. He never left those he had once made himself matter of, till he destroyed them, and he has made this island famous by the number of men he has slain so that the merchants and

manners who landed upon it, dared not to advance into the island, but in numbers together.

After having informed me of those things, they carried me with them to the ship, the captain received me with great satisfaction, when they told him what had befallen me. He put out again to sea, and after some days sail, we arrived at the harbour of a great city, whose houses were built with good stone.

One of the merchants of the ship, who had taken me into his friendship, obliged me to go along with him, and carried me to a place appointed for a retreat for foreign merchants. He gave me a great bag, and having recommended me to some people of the town, who used to gather cocoas, he desired them to take me with them to do the like; "Go" says he, "follow them, and do as you see them do, and don't separate from them, otherwise you endanger your life". Having thus spoke, he gave me provisions for the journey, and I went with them.

We came to a great forest of trees, extremely strait and tall, and their trunks were so smooth, that it was not possible for any man to climb up to the branches, that bore the fruit. All the trees were cocoa-trees, and when we entered the forest we saw a great number of apes of several sizes, that fled as soon as they perceived us, and climbed up to the tops of the trees with surprizing swiftness.

The merchants with whom I was, gathered stones, and threw them at the apes on the tops of the trees. I did the same, and the apes out of revenge threw cocoa-nuts at us as fast, and with such gestures as sufficiently testified their anger and resentment; we gathered up the cocoas, and from time to time threw stones to provoke the apes; so that by this stratagem we filled our bags with cocoa-nuts, which it had been impossible for us to have done otherwise.

When we had gathered our number, we returned to the city, where the merchant who sent me to the forest, gave me the value of the cocoas, I brought: "Go on," says he, "and do the like every day until you have got money enough to carry you home." I thanked him for his good advice, and insensibly gathered together so many cocoas as mounted to a considerable sum.

The vessel in which I came, sailed with merchants who loaded her with cocoas. I expected the arrival of another, which landed speedily for the like loading. I embarked on board the same all the cocoas that belonged to me and when me was ready to sail, I went and took leave of the merchant, who had been so kind to me; but he could not embark with me, because he had not finished his affairs.

We set sail towards the island, where pepper grows in great plenty. From thence we went to the isle of Comari, where the best sort of wood of aloes grows, and whose inhabitants have made it an inviolable law to themselves, to drink no wine, nor suffer any place of debauch. I exchanged my cocoas in those two islands, for pepper and wood of aloes, and went with other merchants a pearl-fishing, I hired divers, who fetched me up those that were very large and pure. I embarked joyfully on a vessel that arrived happily at Balsora; from thence I returned to Bagdad, where I made vast sums of my pepper, wood of aloes and

pearls. I gave the tenth of my gain in alms, as I had done upon my return from other voyages, and endeavoured to ease myself from my fatigues, by diversions of all sorts.

THE
SIXTH VOYAGE
OF
SINDBAD
THE
SAILOR.

It must appear astonishing, after being shipwrecked five times, and escaping so many dangers, I could resolve again to try my fortune, and expose myself to new hardships. I am astonished at it myself, when I think on it, and must certainly have been induced to it by my stars. But be that how it will; after a year's rest, I prepared for a sixth voyage, notwithstanding the prayers of my kindred and friends, who did all that was possible to prevent me.

Instead of taking my way by the Persian gulph I travelled once more through several provinces of Persia and the Indies, and arrived at a sea-port, where I embarked on board a ship, the captain of which was resolved on a long voyage.

It was very long indeed, but at the same time so unfortunate, that the captain and pilot lost their course, so as they knew not where they were. They found it at last, but we had no ground to rejoice at it. We were all seized with extraordinary fear, when we saw the captain quit his post, and cry out. He threw off his turban, pulled the hair off his beard, and beat his head like a madman. We asked him the reason and he answered, that he was in the most dangerous place of all the sea. A rapid current carries the ship along with it, and we shall all of us perish in less than a quarter of an hour. Pray to God, to deliver us from this danger, we cannot escape it, if he don't take pity on us. At these words he ordered the sails to be changed, but all the ropes broke, and the ship, without being possible to help it, was carried by the current to the foot of an unaccessible mountain, where she was run ashore and broke to pieces, yet so as we saved our lives, our provisions, and the best of our goods.

This being over, the captain says to us, "God has now done what he pleased, we may every man dig our grave here, and bid the world adieu, for we are in so fatal a place, that none shipwrecked here did ever return to their homes again." His discourse afflicted us mortally, and we embraced one another with tears in our eyes bewailing our deplorable lot.

The mountain at the foot of which we were cast, was the coast of a very long and large island. This coast was covered all over with wrecks, and by the vast

number of men's bones we saw every where, and which filled us with horror, we concluded that abundance of people had died there. It is also incredible to tell, what a quantity of goods and riches we found cast ashore there. All those objects served only to augment our grief. Whereas in all other places, rivers run from their channels into the sea, here a great river of fresh water runs out of the sea into a dark cave, whose entrance is very high and large. What is most remarkable in this place is, that the stones of the mountain are of crystal, rubies or other precious stones. Here is also a sort of a fountain of pitch or bitumen, that runs into the sea, which the fishes swallow, and then vomit up again turned into ambergrease; and this the waves throw upon the beach in great quantities. Here grows also trees, most of which are of wood of aloes, equal in goodness to those of Camari.

To finish the description of this place, which may well be called a gulph, since nothing ever returns from it, it is not possible for a ship to get off from it, when once they come within such a distance of it. If they be drove thither by a wind from the sea, the wind and the current ruins them; and if they come into it when a land wind blows, which might seem to favour their getting out again, the height of the mountain stops the wind and occasions a calm, so that the force of the current runs them ashore, where they are broke in pieces, as ours was; and that which compleats the misfortune, is, that there is no possibility to get to the top of the mountain, or to get out any manner of way.

We continued upon the shore, like men out of their senses; and expected death every day. At first we divided our provisions as equally as we could, and so every one lived a longer or a shorter while, according to their temper, and the use they made of their provisions.

Those who died first were interred by the rest; and as for my part, I paid the last duty to all my companions: nor are you to wonder at this; for I husbanded the provision that fell to my share better than they; yet when I buried the last, I had so little remaining, that I thought I could not hold out any longer. So that I digged a grave, resolving to lie down in it, because there was none left alive to inter me. I must confess to you at the same time, that while I was thus employed, I could not but reflect upon my unconquerable spirit for travelling, as the cause of my own ruin.

But it pleased God once more to take compassion on me, and put in my mind to go to the bank of the river which runs into the great cave, where considering the river with great attention, I said to myself, "This river, which runs thus under ground, must come out somewhere or other. If I make a float, and leave myself to the current, Providence may bring me to some inhabited country, where I may, perhaps find some new occasion of enriching myself."

After this, I immediately went to work on a float, I made it of good large pieces of timber and cables, for I had choice of them, and tied them together so strong, that I had made a very solid little float. When I had finished it, I loaded it with some bales of rubies, emeralds, ambergrease, roc-crystal, and rich sluffs. Having balanced my cargo exactly, and fastened it well to the float, I went on

board it with two little oars that I had made, and leaving it to the course of the river, I resigned myself to the will of God.

As soon as I came into the cave, I lost all light, and the stream carried me I know not whither. Thus I sailed some days in perfect darkness, and once found the arch so low, that it well nigh broke my head, which made me very cautious afterwards of avoiding the like danger. All this while I ate nothing but what was just necessary to support nature; yet notwithstanding this frugality, all my provisions were spent. Then a pleasant sleep seized upon me. I cannot tell how long it continued; but which I awaked, I was surprized to find myself in the middle of a vast country, at the brink of a river, where my float was tied, amidst a great number of negroes. I got up as soon as I saw them, and saluted them. They spoke to me, but I did not understand their language.

One of the blacks who understood Arabic, hearing me speak in that language, came toward me, and said, "Brother, don't be surprized to see us, we are inhabitants of this country, and came hitherto-day to water our fields, by digging little canals from this river, which comes out of the neighbouring mountain. We perceived something floating upon the water, went speedily to see what it was, and perceiving your float, one of us swam into the river and brought it hither, where we fastened it, as you see, until you should awake. Pray tell us your history, for it must be extraordinary; how did you venture yourself into this river, and whence do you come?" I begged of them first to give me something to eat, and then I would satisfy their curiosity. They gave me several sorts of food, and when I had satisfied my hunger, I gave them a true account of all that had befallen me, which they listened to with admiration. As soon as I had finished my discourse, they told me by the person who spoke Arabic, and interpreted to them what I said, that it was one of the most surprizing stories they ever heard, and that I must go along with them, and tell it their king myself; the thing was too extraordinary to be told him by any other than the person to whom it happened. I told them I was ready to do whatever they pleased.

They immediately sent for a horse, which was brought them in a little time, and having made me get up upon him, some of them walked before me to shew me the way, and the rest took my float and cargo, and followed me.

We marched thus altogether, till we came to the city of Serendib, for 'twas in that island where I landed. The blacks presented me to their king, I approached his throne, and saluted him as I used to do the kings of the Indies; that is to say, I prostrated myself at his feet, and kissed the earth. The prince ordered me to rise up, received me with an obliging air, and made me come up, and sit down near him. He first asked me my name, and I answered Sindbad the Sailor, because of the many voyages I had undertaken, and that I was a citizen of Bagdad. "But," replies he, "how did you come into my dominions, and from whence came you last."

I concealed nothing from the king; I told him all that I have now told you, and his majesty was so surprized and charmed with it, that he commanded my

adventures to be writ in letters of gold, and laid up in the archives of his kingdom. At last my float was brought him, and the bales opened in his presence; he admired the quantity of wood of aloes, and ambergrease, but above all, the rubies and emeralds, for he had none in his treasury that came near them.

Observing that he looked on my jewels with pleasure, and viewed the most remarkable among them, one after another, I fell prostrate at his feet, and took the liberty to say to him, "Sir, not only my person is at your majesty's service; but the cargo of the float, and I beg of you to dispose of it as your own " He answered me with a smile, "Sindbad, I will take care not to covet any thing of yours, nor to take any thing from you that God has given you; far from lessening your wealth, I design to augment it, and will not let you go out of my dominions without marks of my liberality." All the answer I returned was prayers for the prosperity of that prince, and commendations of his generosity and bounty. He charged one of his officers to take care of me, and ordered people to serve me at his own charge. The officer was very faithful in the execution of his orders, and made all the goods to be carried to the lodgings provided for me.

I went every day at a set hour to make my court to the king, and spent the rest of my time in seeing the city, and what was most worthy of my curiosity.

The Isle of Serendib is situated just under the equinoctial line; so that the days and night there are always of twelve hours each, and the island is eighty parasanges in length, and as many in breadth.

The capital city stands in the end of a fine valley, formed by a mountain, in the middle of the island, which is the highest in the world. It is seen three days sail at sea. There are rubies and several sorts of minerals in it, and all the rocks for the most part emerald, a metallic stone made use of to cut and smooth other precious stones. There is also a pearl-fishing in the mouth of its river; and in some of its vallies there are found diamonds.

I prayed the King to allow me to return to my country, which he granted me in the most obliging and most honourable manner. He would needs force a rich present upon me; and when I went to take my leave of him, he gave me one much more considerable, and at the same time charged me with a letter for the Commander of the Faithful our Sovereign Lord, saying to me, "I pray you give this present from me, and this letter to Caliph Haroun Alraschid, and assure him of my friendship." I took the present and letter in a very respectful manner, and promised his majesty punctually to execute the commands with which he was pleased to honour me. Before I embarked, this prince sent to seek for the captain and the merchants that were to go with me, and ordered them to treat me with all possible respect.

The letter from the King of Serendib was wrote on the skin of a certain animal of great value, because of its being so scarce, and of a yellowish. colour. The characters of this letter were of azure, and the contents thus.

The King of the Indies, before whom march 100 Elephants, who lives in a Palace that shines 100000 Rubies, and who has in his Treasury 20000 Crowns enriched with Diamonds, to Caliph Haroun Alraschid.

Though the Present we send you be inconsiderable, receive it however as a Brother and a Friend, in consideration of the hearty Friendship which we hear for you, and of which we are willing to give you Proof. We desire the same Part in your Friendship, considering that we believe it to be our merit, being of the same Dignity with yourself, We conjure you this in Duality of a Brother, Adieu.

The present consisted in the first place, of one single ruby made into a cup, about half a foot high, an inch thick, and filled with round pearls of half a dram each. 2. Of the skin of a serpent, whose scales were as large as an ordinary piece of gold, and had the virtue to preserve from sickness those who lay upon it. 3. In 50000 drams of the bed wood aloes; with 30 grains of camphire as big as pistachio nuts. And 4. A she-slave of ravishing beauty, whose apparel was all covered over with jewels.

The ship, set sail, and after a long and very successful voyage, we landed at Balsora, from whence I went to Bagdad, where the first thing I did was to acquit myself of my commission. I took the King of Serendib's letter, and went to present myself at the gate of the Commander of the Faithful, followed by the beautiful slave, and such of my own family as carried the presents. I gave an account of the reason of my coming, and was immediately conducted to the throne of the Caliph. I made my reverence by prostration, and, after a short speech, gave him the letter and present. When he had read what the King of Serendib wrote to him, he asked me, if that prince were really so rich and potent as he had said in his letter?

I prostrated myself a second time, and rising again, "Commander of the Faithful," says I, "I can assure your majesty he doth not exceed the truth on that head, I am a witness of it. There is nothing more capable of raising a man's, admiration, than the magnificence of his palace. And further, the King of Serendib is so just, that there are no judges in his dominions. His people have no need of them. They understand and observe justice exactly of themselves." The Caliph was much pleased with my discourse. "The wisdom of that king," says he, "appears in his letter, and after what you tell me, I must confess, that his wisdom is worthy of his people, and his people deserve so wise a prince." Having spoke thus, he discharged me, and sent me home with a rich present.

THE
SIXTH VOYAGE
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Beomg returned from my sixth voyage, I absolutely laid aside all my thoughts of travelling any farther. For, besides that my years did now require rest, I was resolved no more to expose myself to such risks as I had run. So that I thought of nothing but to pass the rest of my days in quiet. One day as I was treating a parcel of my friends, one of my servants came and told me, that an officer of the Caliph's asked for me. I rose from the table, and went to him. "The Caliph," says he, "has sent me to tell you, that he must speak with you." I followed the officer to the palace, where being presented to the Caliph, I saluted him by prostrating myself at his feet. "Sindbad," says he to me, "I stand in need of you, you must do me the service to carry my answer and present to the King of Serendib. It is but just I should return his civility."

This command of the Caliph to me was like a clap of thunder. "Commander of the Faithful," replied I, "I am ready to do whatever your majesty shall think fit to command me but I beseech you most humbly to confider what I have undergone. I have also made a vow never to go out of, Bagdad." Hence I took occasion to give him a large and particular account of all my adventures, which he had the patience to hear out.

As soon as I had finished, "I confess," says he, "that the things you tell me are very extraordinary, yet you must for my sake undertake this voyage which I propose to you. You have nothing to do but to go to the isle of Serendib, and deliver the commission which I give you. After that, you are at liberty to return. But you must go, for you know it would be undecent, and not suitable to my dignity, to be indebted to the King of that island." Perceiving that the Caliph insisted upon it, I submitted, and told him that I was willing to obey. He was very well pleased at it, and ordered me 1000 sequins for the charge of my journey. I prepared for my departure in a few days, and as foon as the Caliph's letter and present were delivered to me, I went to Balsora, where I embarked, and had a very happy voyage. I arrived at the isie of Serendib, where I acquainted the King's ministers with my commission, and prayed them to get me speedy audience. They

did so, and was conducted to the palace in an honourable manner, where I saluted the King by prostration, according to custom. That prince knew me immediately, and testified very great joy to see me. "O Sindbad," says he, "you are welcome, I swear to you I have many times thought of you since you went from hence. I bless the day upon which we see one another once more." I made my compliment to him, and, after having thanked him for his kindness to me, I delivered him the Caliph's letter and present, which he received with all imaginable satisfaction.

The Caliph's present was a compleat bed of cloth of gold, valued at 1000 sequins. Fifty robes of rich sluff, a hundred others of white cloth, another crimson bed, and a third of another fashion. A vesel of agate, broader than deep, of an inch thick, and half a foot wide, the bottom of which represented in bafs-relief, a man with one knee on the ground, who held a bow and arrow, ready, to let fly at a lion. He sent him also a rich table, which according to tradition, belonged to the great Solomon. The Caliph's letter was as follows;

Greeting in Name of the Sovereign Guide of the Right Way, to the Potent and Happy Sultan, from Abdallah Haroun Alraschid, whom God hath set in the Place of Honour, after his Ancestors of happy Memory.

We received your Letter with Joy, and send you this from the Council of our Port; the Garden of superior Wits. We hope when you look upon it you will find our good Intention, and be pleased with it. Adieu.

The King of Serendib was mightily pleased that the Caliph answered his friendship. A little time after this audience, I solicited leave to depart and obtained the same with much difficulty.

I got it however at last, and the King, when, he discharged me, made me a very considerable present. I embarked immediately to return to Bagdad, but had not the good fortune to arrive there as I hoped. God ordered it other wise.

Three or four days after my departure, we were attacked by Corsairs, who easily seized upon our ship, because it was no vessel of force. Some of the crew offered resistance, which cost them their lives. But for me and the rest, who were not so imprudent, the Corsairs saved us on purpose to make slaves of us.

We were all stript, and instead of our own cloaths, they gave us sorry rags, and carried us into a remote island, where they sold us.

I fell into the hands of a rich merchant, who as soon as he bought me, carried me to his house, treated me well, and clad me handsomely for a, slave. Some days after, not knowing what I was, he asked me if I understood any trade; I answered, that I was no mechanic, but a merchant, and that the Corsairs, who sold me, robbed me of all I had. "But tell me," replies he, "can you shoot with a bow?" I answered, "That the bow was one of the exercises of my youth, and I had not yet forgot it." Then he gave me a bow and arrows, and, with a dress peculiar

to the island, carried me to a vast forest some leagues from the town. We went a great way into the forest, and when he thought fit to stop, he bid me alight; then, shewing me a great tree, "Climb up that tree," says he, "and shoot at the elephants as you see them pass by, for there is a prodigious number of them in this forest, and if any of them fall come and give me notice of it." Having spoke thus, he left me victuals, and returned to the town, and I continued upon the tree all the night.

I saw no elephant during that time, but next morning, as soon as the sun was up, I saw a great number; I shot several arrows among them and at last one of the elephants fell; the rest retired immediately, and left me at liberty to go and acquaint my patron with my booty. When I told him the news, he gave me a good meal, commended my dexterity, and caressed me mightily. We went afterwards together to the forest, where we dug a hole for the elephant; my patron designing to return when it was rotten, and to take his teeth, &c. to trade with.

I continued this game for two months, and killed an elephant every day, getting sometimes upon one tree and sometimes upon another. One morning, as I looked for the elephants, I perceived with an extreme amazement, that, instead of passing by me across the forest as usual they stopped and came to me with a horrible noise, in such number that the earth was covered with them, and shook under me. They encompassed the tree where I was, with their trunks extended, and their eyes all fixed upon me. At this frightful spectacle I continued unmoveable, and was so much frightened, that my bow and arrows fell out of my hand.

My fears were not in vain; for after the elephants had stared upon me some time, one of the largest of them put his trunk round the root of the tree, and pulled so strong, that he plucked it up, and threw it on the ground; I fell with the tree, and the elephant taking me up with his trunk, laid me on his back, where I sat more like one dead than alive, with my quiver on my shoulder: he put himself afterwards at the head of the rest, who followed him in troops, and carried me to a place where he laid me down on the ground, and retired with all his companions. Conceive, if you can, the condition I was in: I thought myself to be in a dream; at last, after having laid some time, and seeing the elephants gone, I got up and found I was upon a long and broad hill, covered all over with the bones and teeth of elephants. I confess to you, that this objet furnished me with abundance of reflections. I admired the instinct of those animals; I doubted not but that was their burying-place, and that they carried me thither on purpose to tell me that I should forbear to persecute them, since I did it only for their teeth. I did not stay on the hill, but turned towards the city, and, after having travelled a day and a night, I came to my patron; I met no elephant in my way, which made me think they retired father into the forest, to leave me at liberty to come back to the hill without any obstacle.

As soon as my patron saw me, "Ah, poor Sindbad," says he, "I was in great trouble to know what was become of you. I have been at the forest, where I found a tree newly pulled up, and a bow and arrows on the ground, and after having

sought for you in vain, I despaired of ever seeing you more. Pray tell me what befell you, and by what good hap thou art still alive." I satisfied his curiosity, and, going both of us next morning to the hill, he found, to his great joy, that what I told him was true. We loaded the elephant upon which we came, with as many teeth as he could carry; and when we were returned, "Brother," says my patron, "for I will treat you no more as a slave. After having made such a discovery as will enrich me. God bless you with all happiness and prosperity. I declare before him, that I give you your liberty. I concealed from you what I am now going to tell you."

"The elephants of our forest have killed us a great many slaves, whom we sent to seek ivory. For all the cautions we could give them, those crafty animals killed them one time or other. God has delivered you from their fury, and has bestowed that favour upon you only. It is a sign that he loves you, and has use for your service in the world. You have procured me incredible gain. We could not have ivory, formerly, but by exposing the lives of our slaves; and now our whole city is enriched by your means. Do not think I pretend to have rewarded you by giving you your liberty, I will also give you considerable riches. I could engage all our city to contribute towards making your fortune, but I will have the glory of doing it alone."

To this obliging discourse I replied, "Patron, God preserve you. Your giving me my liberty is enough to discharge what you owe me, and I desire no other reward for the service I have had the good fortune to do your city, but leave to return to my own country." "Very well," says he, "the Mocon will in a little time bring ships for ivory. I will send you home then, and give you wherewith to bear your charge." I thanked him again for my liberty, and his good intentions toward me, I staid with him expecting the Mocon; and during that time, we made so many journeys to the hill, that we filled our warehouses with ivory, as did the other merchants who traded in it.

The ships arrived at last, and my patron himself having made choice of the ship wherein I was to embark, he loaded half of it with ivory on my account, he laid in provisions in abundance for my passage, and besides obliged me to accept a present of the curiosities of the country of great value. After I had returned him a thousand thanks for all his favours, I went aboard.

We stopt at some islands to take in fresh provisions; our vessel being come to a port on the Terra Firma in the Indies, we touched there, and not being willing to venture by sea to Balsora, I landed my proportion of the ivory, resolving to proceed on my journey by land. I made vast sums of my ivory. I bought several rarities which I intended for presents, and when my equipage was got ready, I set out in company of a large caravan of merchants. I was a long time on the way, and suffered very much, but endured all with patience, when I considered that I had nothing to fear from the seas, from pirates, from serpents, nor of the other perils I had undergone.

All these fatigues ended at last, and I came safe to Bagdad. I went immediately to wait upon the Caliph, and gave him an account of my embassy.

That prince told me, he had been uneasy, by reason I was so long a returning, but that he always hoped God would preserve me. I told him the adventure of the elephants. He reckoned this story, and the other relations I had given him, to be so curious, that he ordered one of his secretaries to write them in characters of gold, and lay them up in his treasury. I retired very well satisfied with the honours I received, and the presents which he gave me; and after that I gave myself up wholly to my family, kindred and friends.

FINIS.



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