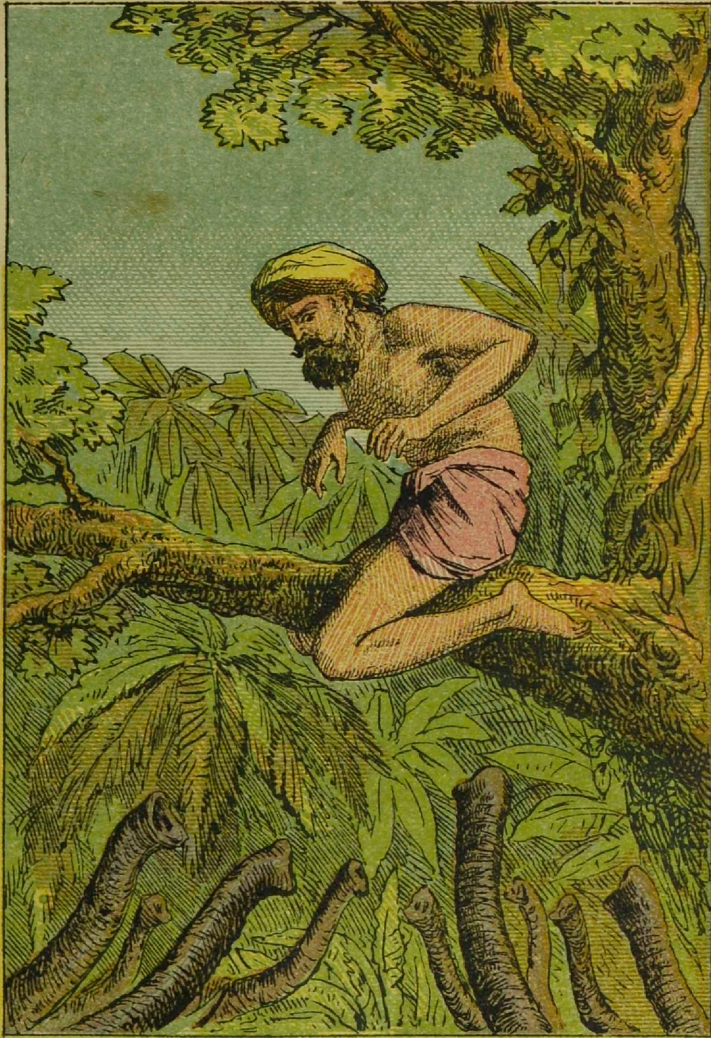


SINDBAD THE SAILOR.



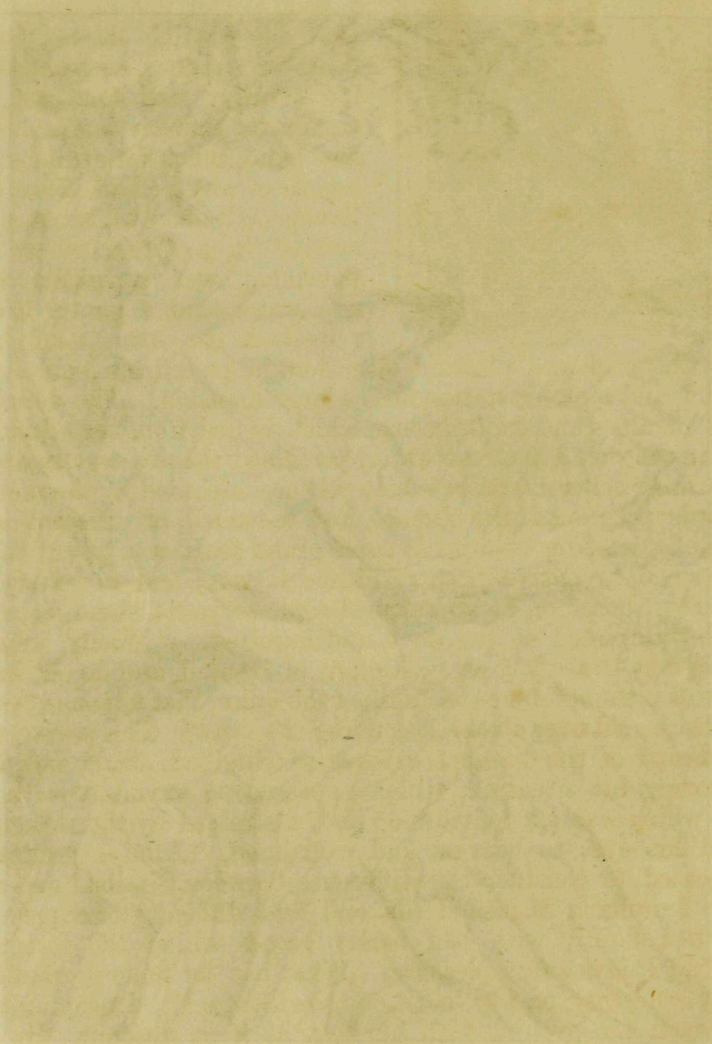
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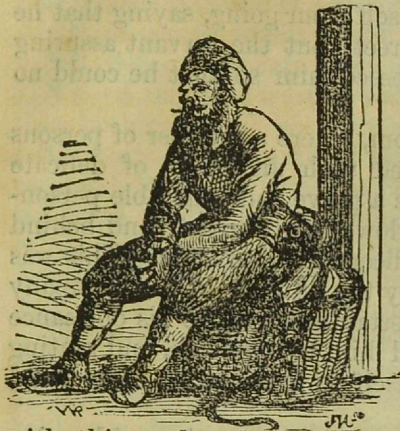
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SINGAPORE THE SAILOR



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## THE HISTORY OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.



IN the reign of the caliph Haroun Alraschid there lived in Bagdad a poor porter named Hindbad. One day, during the excessive heats of summer, he was carrying a heavy load from one extremity of the city to the other, and being much fatigued by the length of way he had come, and having still much to traverse, he arrived in a street where the pavement was sprinkled with rose-water, and a gentle breeze refreshed the air. Delighted

with this cool and pleasant situation, he placed his load on the ground, and took his station near a large mansion. The delicious scent of aloes and frankincense which issued from the windows, and, mixing with the rose-water, perfumed the air, together with a charming concert within, which was accompanied by the melody of birds peculiar to the climate, and the smell of different sorts of viands, led him to suppose some grand feast was given there. He wished to know whose residence it was; and to satisfy his curiosity, therefore, he approached some servants standing magnificently dressed at the door, and inquired. "What," replied the servant, "are you an inhabitant of Bagdad, and do not know that this is the residence of Sindbad the sailor, that famous voyager who has sailed over all the seas under the sun?" The porter, who had heard of the immense riches of Sindbad, could not help comparing his situation, which appeared so enviable, with his own, which was so deplorable; and, distressed by the reflection, raised his eyes to heaven, and exclaimed, "Almighty Creator, be pleased to consider the difference between Sindbad and myself. I suffer a thousand ills, and find difficulty to supply my wretched family with bad barley bread, whilst the fortunate Sindbad enjoys every pleasure. What has he done to obtain so happy a destiny, or I to merit one so rigorous?" In saying this, he struck the ground with his foot, as if in despair. He was still musing on his fate, when a servant taking hold of his arm said, "Come, follow me; my master, Sindbad, wishes to speak with you."



Hindbad was surprised at the compliment. After the words he had uttered, he began to fear Sindbad sent to reprimand him, and therefore tried to excuse himself from going, saying that he could not leave his load in the street; but the servant assuring him it should be taken care of, pressed him so that he could no longer refuse.

He led him into a spacious room, where a number of persons were seated round a table covered with all kinds of delicate viands. In the principal seat was a grave and venerable personage, whose long white beard hung down to his breast; and behind him were standing a crowd of officers and servants. This was Sindbad. The porter, confused by the number of the company and the magnificence of the entertainment, made his obeisance with trembling. Sindbad desired him to approach, and seating him at his right hand, helped himself to the choicest dishes, and gave him some excellent wine.

When Sindbad perceived his guests had done eating, addressing himself to Hindbad by the title of brother, he inquired his name and profession. "Sir," replied he, "my name is Hindbad." "I am happy to see you," said Sindbad, "and can answer for the pleasure the rest of the company also feel at your presence, but I wish to know what it was you said just now in the street;" for Sindbad had heard the whole from the window. Hindbad hung down his head, and replied, "Sir, I must confess my fatigue had put me so out of humour that I uttered some indiscreet words, which I entreat you to pardon."

"O!" resumed Sindbad, "do not for a moment imagine I am so unjust as to have any resentment on that account. I feel for your situation, and instead of reproaching, I pity you heartily; but I must undeceive you on one point respecting myself, where you seem to be in error. You suppose the riches I enjoy have been obtained without any labour; you are mistaken. I have endured, for many years, the greatest sufferings you can conceive. Yes, gentlemen," addressing the company, "my sufferings have been extraordinary; I will, with your leave, relate the dangers I have encountered."

Sindbad gave orders, before he began, to have Hindbad's burden brought in, and placed where he should wish; this done, he spoke as follows:—

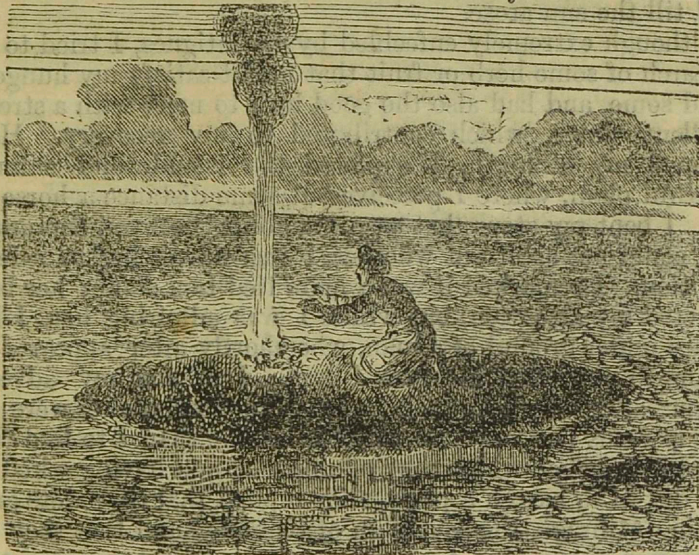




## FIRST VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

**D**ISSIPATED my paternal inheritance in the excesses of youth; but at length seeing my folly, became convinced riches were vain when so applied; and so moreover reflected the time wasted was of greater value than gold, and that nothing could be more deplorable than poverty in old age. I recollected the words of Solomon, which my father had often repeated, that it is better to be in the grave than poor. Feeling the truth of all these reflections, I resolved to collect the remains of my patrimony and sell my goods by auction. I repaired to Balsora, where I embarked with several merchants in a vessel which had been equipped at our united expense.

We steered towards the East Indies. I was at first rather incommodated with sea-sickness, but soon recovered my health. In the course of our voyage we touched at several islands, and sold or exchanged our merchandise. One day we were becalmed



before a small island appearing just above water, and which resembled a beautiful meadow. The captain ordered the sails to be lowered, and gave permission to those who wished to go ashore, of which number I formed one. But while we were regaling ourselves with eating and drinking, by way of relaxation from the fatigues at sea, the island suddenly trembled and we felt a severe shock.



They who were in the ship perceived the earthquake, and called to us to re-embark, or we should perish, for what we supposed to be an island was no more than the back of a whale. The most active jumped into the boat, whilst others threw themselves into the water to swim to the ship; as for me, I was still on the island, or more properly on the whale, when it plunged into the sea, and I had only time to seize hold of a piece of wood, which had been brought to make a fire with. Meantime the captain, willing to avail himself of a fair breeze which had sprung up, set sail with those who had reached his vessel, and left me to the mercy of the waves. I remained in this situation the whole of that day and the following night: and in the morning had neither strength nor hope left, when a breaker happily dashed me on an island. The shore was steep, and I should have found difficulty in landing, had not some roots of trees, which fortune seemed to have furnished for my preservation, assisted me. I threw myself on the ground, where I continued more than half dead till the sun arose.

Although extremely enfeebled by my fatigues, I tried to creep in search of some herb or fruit that might satisfy my hunger. I found some, and had also the good luck to meet with a stream of excellent water, which contributed to my recovery. Having regained my strength, I explored the island, and entered a beautiful plain, where I perceived at some distance a horse grazing. I bent my steps that way, trembling between fear and joy, for I could not ascertain whether I was advancing to safety or perdition. I remarked it was a mare tied to a stake; her beauty attracted my attention, but whilst I was admiring her, I heard a voice under ground of a man, who shortly after appeared, and coming to me, asked me who I was. I related my adventure to him; after which he took me into a cave where were some other persons not less astonished to see me than I to find them.

I ate some food which they offered me; and having asked what they did in so barren a place, they replied that they were grooms to King Mihragè, the sovereign of that isle; and that they came every year about that time with some mares belonging to the king, for the purpose of having a breed between them and a sea-horse, which came on shore at that spot. They tied the mares in that manner, because they were obliged almost immediately, by their cries, to drive back the sea horse, otherwise he began to tear them in pieces. As soon as the mares were with foal, they carried them back, and these colts were called sea colts, and set



apart for the king's use. To-morrow was the day fixed for their departure, and if I had been one day later I must certainly have perished, because they lived so far off that it was impossible to reach their habitations without a guide.

Whilst they were talking, the horse rose out of the sea as described, and attacked the mares. He would then have torn them to pieces, but the grooms began to make such a noise that he let go his prey, and again plunged into the ocean.

The following day they returned to the capital, whether I accompanied them. On our arrival, King Mihragè, to whom I was presented, asked me who I was, and by what chance I had reached his dominions; and when I had satisfied his curiosity, he expressed pity at my misfortune, and gave orders that I should be taken care of, and have everything I might want.

I associated with persons of my own profession. In particular, such as were foreigners, as much to hear some intelligence of Bagdad, as with the hope of meeting with some one whom I could return with; for the capital of King Mihragè has a beautiful port, where vessels from all the world daily arrive. I also sought the society of the Indian sages, and found great pleasure in their conversation; this, however did not prevent me attending court regularly, nor from conversing with the governors and less powerful kings, tributaries of Mihragè, who were about his person. They asked me a thousand questions about my country; and I was not less inquisitive about their different states.

In the dominions of King Mihragè there is an island called Cassel. I had been told that in that island there was heard every night the sound of symbals, which had given rise to the sailors' opinion, that Degial (the Mahometan Antichrist), had chosen that spot for his residence. I felt a great desire to witness these wonders, and during my voyage I saw some fish of one or two hundred cubits in length, which occasion much fear, but do no harm; they are so timid that they are frightened away by beating on a board. I remarked, also, some other fish not above a cubit long, and whose head resembled that of an owl.

After I returned, as I was standing one day near the port, I saw a ship come towards the land; when they had cast anchor, they began to unload its goods, and the merchants took them away to their warehouses. Happening to cast my eyes on some of the packages, I saw my name written, and, having attentively examined them, I concluded them to be those which I had embarked in the ship in which I left Balsora. I also recollected



the captain; but as I was persuaded he thought me dead, I went up to him and asked him to whom those parcels belonged. "I had on board with me," replied he, "a merchant of Bagdad named Sindbad; one day, when we were near an island, he with some other passengers went ashore on this supposed island, which was no other than an enormous whale that had fallen asleep on the surface of the water. The fish no sooner felt the heat of the fire they had lighted on its back, to cook their provisions, than it began to move and flounce about in the sea. The greater part of the persons who were on it were drowned, and the unfortunate Sindbad was one of the number. These parcels belonged to him, and I have resolved to sell them, that if I meet with any of his family I may be able to return them the profit I shall have made of the principal." "Captain," said I, then, "I am that Sindbad, and these parcels are mine."

When the captain heard me speak, he exclaimed, "Great God, whom shall I trust? There is no longer truth in man. I with my own eyes saw Sindbad perish; the passengers I had on board were also witnesses of it, and you have that assurance to say that you are Sindbad? what audacity! At first sight you appeared a man of honour, yet you assert an impious falsity to possess yourself of some merchandise." "Have patience," replied I, "and listen to what I have to say." "Well," said he, "what can you say?" I then related in what manner I had been saved, and by what accident I had met with King Mihragè's grooms, who had brought me to his court.

He was staggered at my discourse, but was soon convinced that I was not an impostor; for people arriving from his ship knew me, and congratulated me on my escape. At last he recollected me himself, and embracing me, "Heaven be praised," said he; "here are your goods; take them, for they are yours." I thanked him, and praised his honourable conduct, and begged him to accept part of the merchandise, but he refused.

I selected the most precious things in my bales, as presents for King Mihragè. He asked me where I had obtained such rare curiosities. I related the manner in which I had recovered my property, and he expressed his joy on the occasion; he accepted my presents, and gave me others of far greater value. After that, I took my leave of him, and re-embarked in the same vessel, having exchanged what merchandise remained with that of the country. We touched at several islands, and at last landed at Balsora, from whence I came here, having realised about



a hundred thousand sequins. I returned to my family, and was received with the joy which a true friendship inspires. I bought a magnificent house and grounds, and determined to forget the disagreeable things I had endured, and enjoy the pleasures of life.

Sindbad here ordered the musicians to go on with their concert, which he had interrupted. When it was time to retire, Sindbad gave a purse, containing a hundred sequins, to the porter. "Take this, Hindbad," said he; "return to your home, and come again to-morrow, to hear the continuation of my adventures." The porter retired; his wife and children rejoiced very much, and did not fail to return thanks to Providence for the bounties bestowed by means of Sindbad.

Hindbad dressed himself in his best clothes on the following day, and returned to the house of his liberal patron, who received him with smiling looks. As soon as the guests were arrived, the table served, and the repast finished, Sindbad thus addressed his guests:—



## SECOND VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

**H**AD resolved to pass the rest of my days in tranquillity, but soon grew weary of an idle life. The desire of seeing foreign countries returned; I bought merchandise, and set off with some merchants, upon whose probity I could rely; embarked in a good vessel, and having recommended ourselves to the care of the Almighty, began our voyage.

One day we landed on an island, covered with fruit-trees, but so wild that we could not discover any habitation. We walked in the meadows, and along the brooks, and whilst some were amusing themselves with gathering fruits and flowers, I took out some provisions I had brought, and seated myself by a stream under the shade of some trees. Having satisfied my hunger, sleep gradually stole over my senses. When I awoke the ship was no longer in view. I was much surprised, and got up to look out for my companions, but they were gone; and I could only perceive the vessel in full sail, at a great distance.

I thought I should have died with grief: I groaned and cried aloud; beat my head, and threw myself on the ground. Overwhelmed with distressing thoughts, I reproached myself for my folly in not being contented with my first voyage. At length I



resigned myself to the will of Heaven, ascended a high tree, from whence I looked for some object to inspire hope. Casting my eyes towards the sea, I could discern only the water and sky; but perceiving on the land side something white, I descended, and walked towards the object, which was at first so distant that I could not distinguish what it was. As I approached, I perceived it to be a white ball of a prodigious size, and when I got near enough, I found it was soft. I walked round it to find an opening, but could find none; and it appeared so even that it was impossible to get up it. The circumference might be about fifty paces.

The sun was then near setting, the air grew suddenly dark, as if obscured by a thick cloud. I was surprised at this change, but much more so when I perceived it to be occasioned by a bird of a most extraordinary size, which was flying towards me. I recollected having heard sailors speak of a bird called a roc; and I conceived that the great white ball must be the egg of this bird. I was not mistaken, for it alighted on it, and placed itself as if to sit upon it. When I saw it coming, I drew near to the egg, so that I had one of its claws just before me, which was as big as the trunk of a large tree. I tied myself to it with the linen of my turban, in hopes that the roc, when it took its flight the next morning, would carry me out of that desert island. My project succeeded; the roc carried me to such a height that I could not distinguish the earth; then it descended with such rapidity that I almost lost my senses. When it alighted, I quickly untied the knot that confined me to its foot, and had scarcely loosed myself when it darted on a serpent of an immeasurable length, and seizing it in its beak, flew away. I found myself in a deep valley, surrounded on all sides with mountains of such height that the tops were lost in the clouds, and so steep that there was no possibility of climbing them. This was a fresh embarrassment.

In walking along this valley, I remarked that it was strewed with diamonds of an astonishing size. I amused myself in examining them, but soon perceived other objects which created greater fear; these were a great number of serpents, so long and large that the smallest would have swallowed an elephant. They hid themselves in caves during the day on account of the roc, their mortal enemy, and only came out when it was dark. I passed the day walking about the valley, resting myself occasionally, and when the sun set I retired into a cave where I thought I



should be in safety. I closed the entrance, which was low and narrow, with a stone large enough to ensure me from the serpents, but which yet admitted a little light. I supped on part of my provisions, but the hissing of the serpents, which now made their appearance, caused me such terror that I could not sleep. At day-break the serpents retired; I left my cave trembling, and may truly say that I walked upon diamonds, without feeling any desire to touch them. At last I sat down and fell asleep. I had scarcely begun to doze, when something tumbling near me, with a great noise, awoke me. It was a large piece of fresh meat, and at the same moment I saw a number of them rolling down the rocks from above.

I had always supposed the account which I had heard related by seamen of the valley of diamonds, and of the means by which merchants procured them, to be fictitious; I now knew it to be true. The method is this: the merchants go to the mountains which surround the valley, about the time the eagles hatch their young. They cut large pieces of meat, and throw them into the valley, and the diamonds on which they fall stick to them. The eagles, which are larger and stronger in that country than in any other, seize these pieces of meat to carry to their young. The merchants then run to their nests, and by various noises oblige the eagles to retreat; and then take the diamonds that have stuck to the pieces of meat. I had begun to look on this valley as my tomb; but on seeing this I turned my thoughts to the preservation of my life. I began by collecting the largest diamonds, and with them filled my leather bag in which I had carried my provisions. I then took one of the largest pieces of meat, and tied it round me with the linen of my turban; and so laid myself on the ground, having fastened my leather bag securely.

Not long thereafter, the eagles began to descend, and each seized a piece of meat. One of the strongest darted on the piece to which I was attached, and carried me to its nest. The merchants then began to frighten away the eagles, and when they had obliged them to quit their prey, one of them approached me, but was surprised and alarmed on seeing me. He soon, however, recovered from his fear, and instead of inquiring how I came there, began to quarrel with me for trespassing on what he called his property. "You will speak with pity instead of anger," said I, "when you learn how I reached this place. Console yourself, for I have diamonds for you as well as myself, more valuable than those of all the other merchants together. I



have chosen some of the finest in the valley, and have them in this bag." On saying this, I showed it to him. I had scarcely finished speaking, when the other merchants perceiving me, flocked round me with great astonishment. They were less surprised at the stratagem I had conceived to save myself, than at my courage in attempting to put it in execution.

They conducted me to the place where they lived; and on seeing my diamonds expressed their admiration, and declared they had never seen any to equal them. I entreated the merchant to whom the nest into which I had been transported belonged—for each merchant has his own—I entreated him to choose as many as he pleased. He contented himself with taking only one, and that too the smallest: and as I pressed him to take more, "No," replied he; "I am very well satisfied with this, which is sufficiently valuable to spare me further voyages to complete my fortune."

I passed the night with these merchants, to whom I recounted my history. We set off the following day, and travelled over high mountains infested by prodigious serpents, which we had the good fortune to escape. From the nearest port we embarked for the isle of Roha, which produces the tree from whence the camphor is extracted; a tree so large and thick that a hundred men may be shaded by it. The juice of which the camphor is formed runs out at a wound made at the top of the tree, and is received in a vessel, where it remains till it acquires a proper consistence, and becomes what is called camphor. The juice being thus extracted, the tree withers and dies. The rhinoceros is a native of this island; it is smaller than the elephant, yet larger than the buffalo. It has a horn on the nose, about a cubit in length; this horn is solid, and cut through the middle from one extremity to the other, and on it are several white lines, which represent the figure of a man. The rhinoceros fights with the elephant, and piercing him in his belly with his horn, carries him off on his head; but as the fat and blood of the elephant run down on his eyes and blind him, he falls on the ground, and what will astonish you, the roc comes and seizes them both in his claws, and flies away with them to feed its young.

I exchanged some of my diamonds for valuable merchandise. From thence we went to other islands, and after touching at several ports, reached Balsora, from which I returned to Bagdad.



## THIRD VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

**I**HAD forgotten the dangers experienced in my two voyages; and as I grew tired of slothful repose, set off from Bagdad with some rich merchandise to Balsora, where I again embarked with other merchants; and made a long voyage, with much advantage.

One day, when in the open sea, we were overtaken by a tempest which made us lose our reckoning. It continued several days, and drove us near an island, which the captain would gladly have been excused from touching at, but we were under the necessity of casting anchor there. When the sails were furled, the captain told us that this, as well as some of the neighbouring isles, was inhabited by hairy savages, who would come to attack us; and that although only dwarfs, we must make no resistance; for as their number was inconceivable, if we should happen to kill one, they would pour upon us like locusts and destroy us. This account put the whole crew in a terrible consternation, and we were too soon convinced of the truth. We saw coming towards us an innumerable multitude of hideous savages, entirely covered with red hair, and about two feet high. They threw themselves into the sea, and swam to the ship. They spoke to us, but we could not understand their language. They began to climb the sides and ropes of the vessel with so much swiftness and agility, that their feet scarcely seemed to touch them, and soon reached the deck.

You may imagine the situation we were in, not daring to defend ourselves, nor even to speak to them, to endeavour to avert the impending danger. They unfurled the sails, cut the cable from the anchor, and after dragging the ship to shore obliged us to disembark; after this they conveyed us to another island, from whence they had come. All voyagers carefully avoided this island, for the dismal reason you are going to hear.

We left the shore, and advancing inland, found some fruits, which we ate, to prolong our lives, for we all expected to be sacrificed. We perceived a large palace, with a folding door of ebony, which opened as we pushed it. We entered the courtyard, and facing us saw a vast apartment, with a vestibule, on one side of which was a large heap of human bones, and on the opposite one a number of spits for roasting. We trembled at this spectacle; and as we were fatigued, our legs failed us, and



we fell on the earth, where we remained, unable to move from fear.

The sun was setting while we were in this piteous state, when the door of the apartment suddenly opened with a noise, and the frightful figure of a black man, as tall as a large palm-tree, came forward. In the middle of his forehead one eye, red and fiery as a burning coal, stood alone; his front teeth were long and sharp, and projected from his mouth, which was as wide as that of a horse, with the under lip hanging on his breast; his ears resembled those of an elephant, and covered his shoulders, and his long and curved nails were like the talons of an immense bird. At the sight of this hideous giant we fainted, and remained like dead men.

As our senses returned, we saw him seated under the vestibule, examining us with his piercing eye. When he had viewed us well, he advanced, and taking me up by the neck, turned me round as a butcher would the head of a sheep. Finding I was little more than skin and bone, he released me. He took up each of the others in turn, in the same manner, and as the captain was the fattest, he held him in one hand as I should a sparrow, and with the other thrust a spit through his body; then kindling a large fire, roasted him, and ate him for supper in the apartment, whether he retired. Having finished his repast, he returned to the vestibule, where he lay down to sleep, and snored louder than thunder. We passed the night in agonizing suspense; when daylight returned, the giant awoke and went abroad, leaving us in the palace.

When we supposed him at a distance, we gave vent to our lamentations, for the fear of disturbing the giant had kept us silent during the night. The palace resounded with groans. Although we were a considerable number, and had one common enemy, yet the idea of delivering ourselves by his death never occurred. Submitting ourselves to the will of God, we passed the day in walking over the island, and eating such fruit as we met with. Towards evening we sought for shelter, but finding none, were obliged to return to the palace.

The giant did not fail to return to sup again on one of our companions, after which he fell asleep and snored till daybreak, when he arose and went out as before. Our situation appeared so helpless, that some of my comrades were on the point of throwing themselves into the sea rather than be sacrificed in so dreadful a manner, but one of the company said:—"We are forbidden to kill ourselves;



and even were that permitted, would it not be more rational to endeavour to destroy the barbarous monster who had destined us to such a cruel death?"

I had formed a project of that nature, and now communicated it to my fellow-sufferers, who approved of it. "My friends," said I, then, "there is a deal of wood on the sea shore; you will make rafts, and when finished, leave them in a proper place, till we find opportunity to use them. In the meantime we can put in execution the design to deliver ourselves from the giant; if it succeeds, we may wait with patience till some vessel passes, by which we may quit this fatal isle; if we miss our aim, we shall have recourse to our rafts, and put to sea. I own that in exposing ourselves to the fury of the waves on such fragile barks, we run a great hazard of losing our lives; but if we are destined to perish, is it not preferable to meet with a watery grave than to be buried in the entrails of that monster, who has already devoured two of our companions?" My advice was approved, and we immediately built rafts large enough to contain three persons each.

We returned to the palace towards evening, and as the giant arrived, another of our party was sacrificed. But we were soon revenged of his cruelty. After he had finished his horrible meal, he as usual lay down to sleep. As soon as we heard him snore, nine of the most courageous amongst us and myself took each a spit, and heating the points red hot, thrust them into his eye and blinded him.

The pain made him groan hideously; he suddenly raised himself, and extended his arms on all sides to seize some one, but fortunately we had time to get away, and to throw ourselves on the ground in places where he could not set his feet on us. Having sought us in vain, he at last found the door, and went out, bellowing with pain.

We immediately repaired to the shore, where our rafts lay. We set them afloat, and waited till daybreak to board them, in case we should see the giant approach, with some guide to lead him to us; but we hoped that if he did not make his appearance by that time, and if his cries, which resounded through the air, were discontinued, we might suppose him dead; and we proposed remaining in the island till some safer conveyance should offer. But the sun had scarcely risen, when we perceived our cruel enemy, accompanied by two giants of nearly his own size, who conducted him and a great number of others who ran before.

We ran to our rafts, and rowed away as fast as possible. The



giants, seeing this, provided themselves with large stones, hastened to the shore, and even ventured to their middles into the sea to throw them at us, which they did so adroitly as to sink all the rafts excepting that I was upon, so that myself and two companions were alone fortunate—the others being drowned. We soon got out of reach of the stones.

When in the open sea, we became the sport of the winds and waves, and we passed that day and night in cruel suspense, but on the morrow had the good fortune to be thrown on an island. We found excellent fruits, which served to re-establish our strength.

Towards night we went to sleep on the sea shore, but were soon awakened by the noise which the scales of an immense serpent, long as a palm-tree, made on the ground. It devoured one of my companions, notwithstanding the efforts he made to extricate himself, for the serpent shook him several times, and then crushing him on the earth, quickly swallowed him.

My other comrade and myself took flight, and although at some distance, we heard a noise which made us suppose the serpent was vomiting the bones of the unhappy man. On the morrow we perceived our suspicions correct. "O God!" I exclaimed, "to what are we exposed? Yesterday we were rejoicing at our escape from the cruelty of a giant and the fury of the waves, and to-day we are terrified by a peril not less imminent."

As we walked along, we remarked a high tree, on which we proposed to pass the following night, to be in safety. We ate some fruits, and at the approach of night climbed the tree. We soon heard the serpent come hissing to the foot of the tree; it raised itself against the trunk, and meeting with my companion, who was lower than I was, swallowed him and retired.

At daybreak I descended, more dead than alive; indeed, I could only expect to meet the same fate. The idea chilled me with horror, and I proposed to throw myself into the sea—but as life is desirable as long as it will last, I resisted this impulse of despair, and submitted myself to the will of God, who disposes of our lives as is best for us.

I collected a great quantity of wood and furze, and tying it in fagots, put it round the tree in a large circle, and tied some across the top to cover my head. This done, I enclosed myself within this circle when the evening came on, having the dismal consolation I had done all in my power to preserve my life. The serpent did not fail to return and try to devour me, but could not succeed



on account of the rampart. The whole night he was besieging me; and at last day returned, and he retired.

I was so fatigued, and had suffered so much from his pestilential breath, that death appearing preferable to a repetition of such horror, I again ran towards the sea with the intention of putting an end to my existence, but God pitied my condition, and at the moment that I was going to throw myself into the sea, I perceived a vessel at a great distance. I cried with all my strength, and unfolded the linen of my turban to attract the attention of those on board. This had the desired effect, and the captain sent a boat for me.

When on board, the merchants and seamen were eager to learn by what chance I had reached that desert island, and after I had related all that had happened, the oldest of them told me they had often heard of the giants who lived in that island; that they were anthropophagi, and devoured men raw as well as roasted. With regard to the serpents, they added there were many in that island, which hid themselves in the day and appeared at night.

Expressing their joy at my escape from so many perils, as they supposed I must be in want of something to eat, they pressed me to partake of their best; and the captain, observing my dress much torn, generously gave me one of his.

At length we landed on the island of Salahat, where the sandal-wood is cultivated. As the merchants began to unload their goods, to sell or exchange them, the captain called me and said, "Brother, I have some goods which belonged to a merchant who was for some time on board my ship. As this merchant is dead, I am going to have them valued, that I may render some account of them to his heirs, should I ever meet with them." The bales he was speaking of were already upon deck. He showed them me, saying, "These are the goods; I wish you to take charge of them, and negotiate them, on the condition of what is usually due for your trouble." I consented, and thanked him.

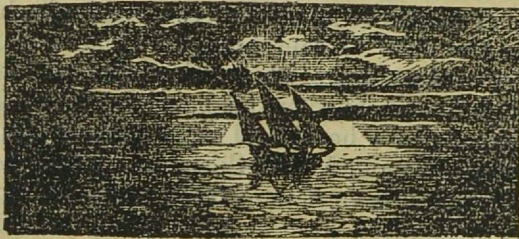
The writer of the ship registered the bales with the names of the merchants to whom they belonged. When he asked the captain by what name he should register those destined for my charge, the captain replied, "By the name of Sindbad the Sailor." I could not hear my own name without emotion, and looking at the captain, recognised him to be the same who in my second voyage had left me on the island. As he thought me dead, it is not to be wondered he did not recognise me. "Captain," said I, "was the merchant called Sindbad?" "Yes," returned he;



“he was from Bagdad, and embarked at Balsora. One day when we went ashore for water, by mistake he was left behind; none of the crew perceived it till four hours after, when the wind blew so fresh it was impossible to return.” “You believe him dead,” resumed I. “Assuredly,” replied the captain. “Well, then,” said I, “open your eyes and know that the same Sindbad whom you left on the island is now before you. I fell asleep on the banks of a little stream, and when I awoke perceived the ship was gone.”

At these words, the captain fixed his eyes on me, and after having examined me very attentively, at last recollected me. “God be praised!” cried he, embracing me; “I am delighted that fortune has given me an opportunity of repairing my fault. Here are your goods, which I have preserved with care, and always had valued at every port I stopped at. I return them to you with the profit I have made on them.” I received them with the gratitude which such an action demanded.

From the island of Salahat we went to another, where I furnished myself with cloves, cinnamon, and other spices. When we had sailed some distance from it, we perceived an immense tortoise that was twenty cubits in length and breadth. Also an amphibious animal that had milk like a cow (the hippopotamus): its skin is so hard that bucklers are made of it. I saw another of the make and colour of a camel. At length, after a long voyage, we arrived at Balsora, from whence I came to Bagdad with so much wealth that I did not know the amount of it. I gave a great deal to the poor, and made considerable additions to my landed estates.





## FOURTH VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

**M**Y love for traffic and novelty tempted me to a fourth voyage. I travelled towards Persia, and at last reached a port, where I embarked. We set sail, and touched at Terra Firma, and some oriental islands: but one day, making a great tack, we were surprised by a sudden squall, which obliged the captain to lower the sails. He gave the necessary orders for preventing danger, but all our precautions were fruitless; the sails were torn in a thousand pieces, and the vessel becoming ungovernable, was driven on a sand-bank and went to pieces, by which a great number of the crew, as well as the cargo, perished.

I had the good fortune, with other merchants and seamen, to get hold of a plank; we were drawn by the strength of the current towards an island that lay before us. We found some fruits and fresh water, which re-established our strength, and lay down to sleep in the spot where the waves had thrown us; the grief we felt at our misfortune rendered us careless of our fate. The next morning, advancing into the island, we perceived some habitations. When we drew near, a number of blacks came out and surrounded us, seized our persons, of which they seemed to make a division, and conducted us to their houses.

Five of my comrades and myself were taken into the same place. They made us sit down, and offered us a certain herb, inviting us by signs to eat it. My companions, without considering that they who gave it us did not eat of it, only consulted their appetites, and devoured it with avidity. I, who had a sort of presentiment that it was for no good purpose, refused to taste it; and it was well I did, for a short time after I perceived my companions soon lost all recollection, and did not know what they said. They then served us with rice dressed with the oil of the cocoa-nut, and my comrades ate it ravenously. I ate a very little.

The blacks had presented the herb first to affect our heads, and banish our sorrow, and the rice was given to fatten us. As they were anthropophagi, they designed to feast on us when in good condition. My poor comrades fell victims to this barbarous custom, having lost their senses. As for me, instead of fattening I grew thinner every day. The fear of death, which constantly haunted me, turned the aliments I took to poison, and I fell



into a state of languor, which was in the end very beneficial: for the blacks, having eaten my comrades, were contented to let me remain till I was better picking.

In the meantime, I was allowed a great deal of liberty. This afforded me the opportunity one day of escaping. An old man, who guessed my intention, called me to return; but I only quickened my pace, and soon got out of his sight. All the other blacks were absent, and were not to return till night. I continued my flight till evening, when I stopped to rest and satisfy my hunger. I soon proceeded, and walked without intermission for seven days, avoiding those places which appeared inhabited, and living on cocoa-nuts.

On the eighth day I came to the sea-shore. Here I saw some white people employed gathering pepper; I approached them without fear. They asked me whence I came.

Delighted to hear my native language, I related the manner I had been shipwrecked, and got into the hands of the blacks. "But these blacks," said they, "eat men; by what miracle could you escape their cruelty?" I gave them the account, and they were much surprised.

I remained with them until they had collected all the pepper they chose, and then embarked with them in the vessel which conveyed them to another island, from whence they had come. They presented me to their king, who was a good prince. He listened to my adventures, which astonished him. This island was very populous, and abounded in all sorts of articles for commerce. This agreeable retreat consoled me for my misfortunes, and the kindness of this generous prince made me completely happy. Indeed, I was soon considered more as a native than a stranger.

One thing appeared to me very singular; every one, the king not excepted, rode on horseback without either bridle or stirrups. I one day took the liberty to ask his majesty why such things were excluded. He replied that he was entirely ignorant of what I meant.

I immediately went to a workman, and gave him a model to make the tree of a saddle from; that finished, I covered it with leather, richly embroidered in gold, and stuffed it with hair. I then applied to a locksmith, who made me a bit according to the pattern I gave him, and some stirrups also.

When these were completed, I presented them to the king, and tried them on one of his horses: the prince then mounted it, and was so pleased that he made me considerable presents. I was



obliged to make several saddles for his ministers and principal officers, who rewarded me with rich presents. I also made some for the most respectable inhabitants, by which I gained a great reputation.

As I attended court, the king said one day, "Sindbad, I love you; and I know that my subjects entertain a high regard for you. I have one request to make, which you must not deny me." "Sire," replied I, "your power over me is absolute." "I wish you to marry," resumed the prince, "that you may have a more tender tie to attach you to my dominions." As I did not dare to refuse, he married me to a lady of his court, who was noble, beautiful, rich, and accomplished. After the ceremony, I took up my abode in the house of my wife, and lived for some time happily. Nevertheless, I was discontented with my situation, and designed to make my escape the first convenient opportunity, and return to Bagdad.

As the wife of one of my neighbours fell sick and died, I went to console him. "May God preserve you," said I to him, "and grant you a long life!" "Alas!" replied he, "how can I obtain what you wish? I have only one hour to live." "Oh," resumed I, "do not suffer such dismal ideas to take possession of your mind; I hope to enjoy your friendship many years." "I wish with all my heart," said he, "that your life may be of long duration; as for me, this day I shall be buried with my wife. Such is the custom in this island."

Meanwhile his relations, friends, and neighbours arrived to be present at the funeral. They dressed the corpse in the richest attire, as on the day of her nuptials, decorated with her jewels. They placed her, uncovered, on a bier, and the procession set out. The husband, dressed in mourning, went immediately after the body of his wife, and the rest followed. They bent their course towards a high mountain, and when arrived, a large stone, which covered a deep pit, was raised, and the body let down into it. Then the husband took his leave of his friends, and suffered himself to be placed on a bier, with a jug of water, and seven small loaves by his side; he was then let down, as his wife had been. This mountain extended a great way, and served as a boundary to the ocean, and the pit was very deep. When the ceremony was completed, the stone was replaced, and the company retired. I could not avoid telling the king my sentiments. "Sire," said I, "I cannot express my astonishment at the strange custom of interring the living with the dead: I have visited many nations,



but I never heard of so cruel a law." "What can I do, Sindbad?" replied the king; "it is a law common to all, and even I submit to its decree; I shall be interred alive with the queen, if she die first." "Sire," resumed I, "will your majesty allow me to ask if foreigners are obliged to observe this custom?" "Certainly," said the king, smiling at the motive of my question; "they are not exempted when they marry in the island."

I returned home thoughtful and sad. The fear that my wife might die first, and that I must be interred with her, was most



distressing. I must have patience, and submit to the will of God. Nevertheless, I trembled at the slightest indisposition of my wife; and, alas! she was taken dangerously ill, and died in a few days. The king, accompanied by his whole court, honoured the procession with his presence, and the principal inhabitants of the city also, out of respect to me, were present at my interment.

When all was in readiness, the corpse of my wife, decorated



with her jewels, was placed on the bier, and the procession set out. I followed the body, my eyes bathed in tears, and deploring my miserable destiny. Before we arrived at the mountain, I addressed myself to the king, then to those who were near me, and bowing to the ground to kiss the hem of their garment, I entreated them to have pity on me. "Consider," said I, "that I am a stranger, who ought not to be subject to so rigorous a law, and that I have another wife and children in my own country." I pronounced these words in an affecting tone, but no one seemed moved; on the contrary, they hastened to put the corpse in the pit, and soon after I was let down also, on another bier, with a jug of water and seven loaves. The fatal ceremony being completed, they replaced the stone over the mouth of the pit, notwithstanding my piteous lamentation.

As I approached the bottom, I discovered, by the little light that shone from above, the shape of the subterraneous abode. It was a vast cavern, about fifty cubits deep. I soon felt an insupportable stench, which arose from the carcases spread around. I even fancied I heard the last sighs of some who had but lately fallen victims. I left the bier, and stopping my nostrils, went to a distance from the dead bodies. I threw myself on the ground, where I remained a long time bathed in tears; then reflecting on my cruel fate, "It is true," said I, "that God disposes of us as seems best to his all-seeing Providence; but, unhappy Sindbad, is it not your own fault that you are now brought to this singular death? Would to Heaven I had perished in some of the dreadful wrecks from which I have been saved; I should not now have had to languish in this miserable abode of lingering death. But have I not brought it on myself by my accursed avarice? Ah, wretch! I ought to have remained with my family, and enjoyed peaceably the fruits of my former labours."

Such were the useless expressions of rage and despair with which I made the cavern re-echo. I beat my head and breast, and gave way to the most violent grief. Nevertheless, instead of calling on death to release me from this habitation of despair, the love of life still glowed within me. I felt my way to the bier, notwithstanding the intense obscurity; I found my bread and water, and ate of it. I subsisted for some days on my provisions; but when exhausted, prepared to die. I was resigned to my fate, when I heard the stone above raised. A corpse and living person were let down. The deceased was a man. It is natural to have recourse to violent methods when reduced to the last ex-



tremity. While the woman was descending, I approached the spot where her bier was to be placed, and when I perceived the aperture above to be closed, I gave the unhappy female two or three great blows on the head with a large bone. I killed her; I had only committed this inhuman action to obtain her bread and water: I had now provisions for some days. At the end of that time a dead woman and her living husband were let down. I killed the man in the same manner; and as there happened, fortunately for me, to be a mortality in the city, I was not in want of food, employing always the same means to obtain it.

One day, when I had just put an end to an unfortunate woman, I heard a sound like breathing and a footstep. I advanced to the part from whence the sound proceeded; I heard a louder breathing at my approach, and I fancied I saw something fleeing from me. I followed this species of shadow, which occasionally stopped, and then again retreated, panting as I drew near. I pursued it so long, and went so far, that at last I perceived a small speck of light resembling a star. I continued to walk towards this light, sometimes losing it, according to the obstacles which arose, but always recovering it again, till I arrived at an opening in the rock large enough to allow me to pass.

At this discovery, I stopped to recover from the violent emotion occasioned by my walking quick; then passing through the crevice, I found myself on the sea-shore. My joy was so great I could scarcely believe my imagination did not deceive me. When I became convinced it was a reality, I perceived that the thing which I had heard pant, and which I had followed, was an animal that lived in the sea, and was wont to enter the cave to devour the dead bodies.

I examined the mountain, and observed it was situated between the city and the sea, without any communication between them, for it was so steep that it was not practicable. I prostrated myself on the shore, to thank God for his mercy. I then returned to the cave to get some bread, which I brought out and ate with much better appetite than I had enjoyed since my interment in that gloomy mansion.

I returned again, to collect as well as I could, by feeling on the different biers, all the diamonds, rubies, pearls, golden bracelets, and everything of value I could find, and brought them to the shore. I tied them up in packets with the cords which had served to let down the biers, and left them in a convenient place till a proper opportunity should offer.



At the end of two or three days I perceived a vessel sailing out of the harbour, and passing the spot where I was. I made signs with the linen of my turban, and cried aloud. They heard me on board, and despatched a boat to fetch me. When the sailors inquired by what misfortune I had got into that place, I replied that I had been wrecked with all my merchandise. Fortunately these people did not consider whether my story was probable, but, satisfied with my answer, took me on board with my bales.

When we had reached the vessel, the captain, happy in being instrumental to my safety, and occupied with the management of the ship, believed the tale of the wreck.

We passed several islands, amongst others the island of Bells, distant about ten days' sail from that of Serendib (Ceylon), sailing with a fair wind, and six days' from the isle of Kela (Calabar), where we landed. Here there were some lead-mines, some Indian canes, and excellent camphor.

The king of the isle of Kela is very rich and powerful. His authority extends over the island of Bells. The inhabitants eat human flesh. After we had made an advantageous traffic, we again set sail. At length I arrived happily at Bagdad with immense riches, of which it is needless to give you a detail. To show my gratitude to Heaven for the mercies shown me, I spent a great deal in charity, some for the support of mosques, and some for the subsistence of the poor. I then entirely gave myself up to the society of my relations and friends, and passed my time in feasting and entertainments.

Sindbad here concluded the relation of his fourth voyage, which occasioned still more surprise in his audience than the three preceding ones had done. He repeated his present of a hundred sequins to Hindbad, whom he requested, with the rest of the company, to return the following day to dine, and hear the details of his fifth voyage. Hindbad and the others took their leave and retired. The next day, when all were assembled, they sat down to table, and when the repast was over, Sindbad began the account of his fifth voyage as follows.





## FIFTH VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

**T**HE pleasures I enjoyed could not prevent my forming the resolution of venturing a fifth voyage. I provided myself with merchandise, packed it, and sent it by land-carriage to the nearest seaport, where, unwilling to trust any more to a captain, and wishing to have a vessel of my own, I built and equipped one at my own expense. When finished, I loaded it and embarked; and as I had not sufficient cargo to fill it myself, I received several merchants of different nations with their goods.

After sailing a considerable time, we stopped at a desert island, where we found the egg of a roc, as large as that I spoke of on a former occasion; it contained a small roc, just ready to hatch, its beak having begun to make its appearance. The merchants who were with me broke the egg with hatchets, and cut out the young roc piece by piece, and roasted it. I had advised them not to touch the egg.

They had scarcely finished their meal, when two immense clouds appeared in the air at a considerable distance. The captain, knowing what it was, cried out that it was the father and mother of the young roc, and warned us to re-embark and escape as quickly as possible. We took his advice, and set sail immediately.

The two rocs approached, uttering the most frightful screams, which they redoubled on finding the young one was no more. Determining to revenge themselves, they flew away and disappeared for some time, during which we used all diligence to sail away. Nevertheless they returned, and we perceived they each had an enormous piece of rock in their claws. When exactly over our ship, suspending themselves in the air, one of them let fall the piece of rock he held. By the address of the pilot, who suddenly turned the vessel, it did not tumble on us, but fell close to us into the sea, in which it made such a chasm that we could almost see the bottom. The other bird, unfortunately for us, let the piece of rock fall so immediately on the ship that it broke and split it into a thousand pieces. The sailors and passengers were all either crushed to death, or drowned. I was myself under water for some time, but rising again to the surface, had the good fortune to seize a piece of the wreck. Thus, swimming sometimes with one hand and sometimes with the other, still holding what



I had fixed myself to, and having the wind and current both in my favour, I reached an island where the shore was very steep; I nevertheless overcame this difficulty and got on land.

I seated myself on the grass to rest, after which I advanced into the island. It seemed to be a delicious garden. Wherever I turned my eyes I saw beautiful trees, some loaded with green, others with ripe fruits, and transparent streams meandering between them. I ate of the fruits, which I found to be excellent, and quenched my thirst at the brooks.

Night being arrived, I lay down on the grass, but did not sleep an hour at a time; my sleep was continually interrupted by the fear of being alone in such a desert place, and I employed the night reproaching myself for venturing from home. These reflections led me so far, that I began to form a project against my life; but day returning, its cheerful light dissipated this gloomy idea. I walked amongst the trees, though not without much fear.

When I had advanced a little way, I perceived an old man, who appeared much broken down. He was seated on the bank of a rivulet: at first I supposed he might be shipwrecked. I saluted him, to which he made no other return than a slight bow. I asked him what he was doing, but instead of replying, he made signs to me to take him on my shoulders and cross the brook, making me understand he wanted to gather fruit. So taking him on my back, when I had reached the other side I stooped and desired him to alight; instead of which this old man who appeared so decrepit, nimbly threw his legs, which I now saw were covered with a skin like a cow's, over my neck, and seated himself fast on my shoulders, squeezing my throat so violently that I expected to be strangled; this alarmed me so much that I fainted.

Notwithstanding, the old man kept his place on my neck; he only loosed his hold sufficiently to allow me to breathe. When I recovered, he pushed one of his feet against my stomach, and kicking my side with the other, obliged me to get up. He then made me walk under some trees, and forced me to gather and eat the fruit. He never quitted his hold during the day, and when I wished to rest at night, he laid himself on the ground with me, always fixed to my neck. He never failed to awaken me in the morning, which he effected by pushing me, and then made me get up and walk, kicking me all the time. Conceive, gentlemen, the plague of bearing this burden, without the possibility of getting rid of it.



One day, having found on the ground several dried gourds, which had fallen from a tree, I took a pretty large one, and having cleared it well, squeezed into it the juice of several bunches of grapes. When I had filled the gourd, I placed it in a particular spot, and some days after returned with the old man, when tasting the contents, I found it to be excellent wine, which for a little made me forget the ills that oppressed me. It gave me new vigour, and raised my spirits so that I began to sing and dance as I went along.

The old man, perceiving the effect, made signs to me to let him taste it. I gave him the gourd, and the liquor pleased his palate so well that he drank it all, and the fumes of the wine soon rose into his head, and he began to sing and stagger on my shoulders. The blows he gave himself made him return what he had on his stomach, and his legs loosened by degrees; so that finding he no longer held me tight, I threw him on the ground, and with a large stone crushed him to death.

I was rejoiced at having got rid of this old man, and walked towards the sea-shore, where I met some people who belonged to a vessel which had anchored there to get water. They were astonished at seeing me, and hearing the account of my adventure. "You had fallen," said they, "into the hands of the Old Man of the Sea, and you are the first whom he has not strangled; he never left those whom he had once mastered till he had put an end to their existence; and this island is notorious for the number he has killed. The sailors and merchants who land never approach, excepting in a strong body."

They took me to their ship, where the captain received me with politeness. He set sail, and in a few days we landed at the port of a large city, where the houses were built of stone.

One of the merchants having contracted a friendship for me, entreated me to accompany him, and conducted me to the lodging destined for foreign merchants. He gave me a large sack, and then introduced me to some people, also furnished with sacks: having desired them to take me with them to gather cocoa, "Go," said he, "follow them, and do as they do; and do not stray from them, for your life will be in danger if you leave them." He gave me provisions for the day, and I set off with them.

We arrived at a large forest of tall straight trees, the trunks of which were so smooth that it was impossible to climb up to the branches where the fruit grew. They were cocoa-trees, and we



wanted to knock down the fruit and fill our sacks. On entering the forest, we saw an amazing number of monkeys, of all sizes, which fled at our approach, and ran up the trees with surprising agility. The merchants collected stones and threw them at the monkeys. I did the same, and soon perceived that these animals, aware of our design, gathered the cocoa-nuts and threw them at us, with gestures which plainly showed their anger. We picked up the cocoa-nuts, and at intervals threw up stones to irritate the monkeys. By this contrivance we filled our sacks with the fruit; a thing utterly impracticable by any other method.

We returned to the city, where the merchant who had sent me gave me the value of the cocoa-nuts I had collected. "Continue to do so every day," said he, "till you have amassed sufficient money to convey you to your own country." I thanked him for the good advice, and by degrees acquired such a quantity of cocoa-nuts, that I sold them for a considerable sum.

The vessel in which I came had sailed with the merchants who had loaded it with the cocoa-nuts they had purchased. I waited for the arrival of another, which shortly after came into harbour for a lading. I sent on board all my cocoa-nuts, and when it was ready to sail, took leave of the merchant to whom I was under so many obligations. As he had not yet settled his affairs, he could not embark with me.

We set sail, and steered towards the island where pepper grows in such abundance. From thence we made the island of Comari, where the best species of the aloe grows, and whose inhabitants submit themselves to a law not to drink wine nor suffer any kind of debauchery. In these two islands I exchanged all my cocoa-nuts for pepper and aloe-wood, and engaged myself, with other merchants, in a pearl-fishery. I collected a number of very large and perfect pearls, with which I joyfully put to sea, and arrived safely at Balsora, from whence I returned to Bagdad, where I sold the pepper, aloes, and pearls for a large sum, and bestowed a tenth part of my profits in charity, as I had done on my return from every former voyage, and endeavoured to recover from my fatigues by every kind of diversion.





## SIXTH VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

**I** WAS tempted again to expose myself to the caprice of fortune, to venture myself a sixth time on the unstable sea, notwithstanding the entreaties of my friends.

I passed through the provinces of Persia and the Indies, and arrived at a seaport, where I embarked in a good ship, with a captain determined on a long voyage. Long indeed it proved, but, at the same time, so unfortunate that captain and pilot lost their way. They at length got right again, but we had no reason to rejoice, for the captain astonished us by suddenly quitting his post, and uttering the most lamentable cries. He threw his turban on the floor, tore his beard, and beat his head, as if distracted. We asked what occasioned these signs of affliction. "I am obliged to announce to you," said he, "that we are in the greatest peril. A rapid current carries the ship, and we shall all perish in a quarter of an hour. Pray God to deliver us, for nothing can save us, unless he takes pity on us." He then gave orders for setting the sails, but the ropes broke, and the ship, without a possibility of managing it, was dashed against a rock, where it went to pieces; we had, however, time to secure our safety, and disembark our provisions and most valuable lading.

This effected, the captain said, "God's will be done. Here we may dig our graves, and bid each other an eternal farewell; for we are in so desolate a place that no one ever cast on this shore has returned to his own home." This speech increased our affliction, and we embraced each other, with tears deploring our fate.

The mountain at the foot of which we were, formed one side of a large and long island. This coast was covered with the remains of vessels which had been wrecked on it; and by the infinity of bones which everywhere met the eye, we were convinced of the dreadful certainty that many lives had here been lost. Incredible quantities of merchandise strewed the shore.

In every other part it is common for a number of small rivers to discharge themselves into the sea, instead of which, here a large river of fresh water takes its course from the sea, and runs along the coast through a dark cave, the opening of which is extremely high and wide. What is most remarkable is, that the mountain is composed of precious stones. Here, too, a kind of



pitch distils from the rock into the sea, and the fishes eating it, return it again in the form of ambergris, which the waves leave on the shore. The greatest part of the trees are aloes, equal in beauty to those of Comari.

From this whirlpool, it is impossible that a ship can avoid being dragged thither, if it comes within a certain distance. If a sea-breeze blows, that assists the current, and if the wind comes from land, the high mountain impedes its effect, and causes a calm, which allows the current full force, and then it whirls the ship against the coast and dashes it to pieces as ours was. Besides, the mountain is so steep that it is impossible to reach the summit, or to escape.

We remained on the shore, quite distracted, expecting to die. We divided our provisions, so that each individual lived more or less according to the consumption of his portion.

They who died first were interred by the others. I had the office of burying my last companion; for besides managing my provisions with more care, I had also a secret store. Nevertheless, I had so little left that I dug a grave and resolved to throw myself into it. Whilst thus employed, I reproached myself as the sole cause of my misfortune, and most heartily repented this voyage. I bit my hands with despair, and nearly put an end to my existence.

But God had pity on me, and inspired me with the thought of going to the river, which lost itself in the cave. I examined it with attention, and it occurred to me that, as the river ran under ground, it must in its course come out to daylight again; if I construct a raft, thought I, and place myself on it, the current may bring me to some inhabited country; if I perish, it is but changing the manner of my death; but if I get safely out of this fatal place, I shall not only avoid a cruel death, and may meet with some opportunity of enriching myself. Who knows that fortune does not await me on my arrival out of this frightful cavern, to recompense me for all the losses I have sustained.

I worked at my raft with vigour, and made it of thick pieces of wood and great cables, of which there was an abundance. I tied them closely together, and formed a strong vessel. When completed, I placed on it a cargo of rubies, emeralds, ambergris, crystal, and also some gold and silver stuffs. Having placed these in a proper equilibrium, and fastened them to the planks, I embarked with two little oars, and trusting to the current, resigned myself to the will of God.



I soon lost the light of day, and the current carried me on without my being able to discern its course. I rowed for some days in this obscurity without perceiving the least ray of light. At one time the vault of the cavern was so low that it almost knocked my head, which rendered me attentive to avoid the



danger again. I consumed no more of my provisions than was absolutely necessary, but however frugal, I consumed them all. I then fell into a sweet sleep. I cannot tell how long, but when I awoke I was surprised to find myself in an open country, near a bank of the river, to which my raft was fastened, and in the midst of a large concourse of blacks. I rose and saluted them; they spoke, but I could not understand their language.

I felt so transported with joy, that I could scarcely believe myself awake. Being at length convinced it was not a dream, I exclaimed in these Arabic words, "Invoke the Almighty, and he will come to thy assistance; thou needest not care for aught besides. Close thine eyes, and while thou sleepest, God will change thy fortune from bad to good."

One of the blacks who understood Arabic, having heard me pronounce these words, spoke as follows:—"Brother," said he, "be not surprised at seeing us; we live in this country, and came hither to-day to water our fields from this river, which flows from the neighbouring mountain, by cutting canals to admit a passage for the water,



“We observed that the current bore something along, and we immediately ran to the bank to see what it was, and perceived this raft; one of us instantly swam to it and conducted it to shore. We fastened it, and were waiting for you to wake. We entreat you to relate to us your history; tell us how you could venture on this river, and from whence you come.” I first requested food, after which I satisfied their curiosity.

They produced several kinds of meat, and when I had satisfied my hunger, I related to them all that had happened to me, which they listened to with admiration. As soon as I had finished my history, their interpreter told me that I had astonished them with my relation, and I must go myself to the king to recount my adventures; for they were too extraordinary to be repeated by any one but by myself. The blacks then sent for a horse, placed me on it, and whilst some walked by my side to show me the way, others of a more robust make hauled the raft out of the water, and carried it on their shoulders, with the bales of rubies, and followed.

We went together to the city of Serendib, for this was the name of the island, and the blacks presented me to their king. I approached his throne, and saluted him, as it is usual to accost the kings of India. The prince made me rise, and placed me by his side. He asked me my name. I replied Sindbad, and surnamed the Sailor, from having made several voyages; and added I was a citizen of Bagdad. “But,” replied he, “how then came you into my dominions? From whence are you arrived?”

I related my story; he was so pleased with it that he ordered the history of my adventures to be written in letters of gold, and preserved among the archives of his kingdom. The raft was then produced, and the bales opened. He admired the aloe-wood and ambergris, but above all, the rubies and emeralds, as he had none in his treasury equal to them in value.

Perceiving he examined my precious stones with pleasure, I prostrated myself before him, and said, “Sire, not only my person is at your commands, but the cargo of my raft also, if your majesty will do me the honour of accepting it.” He smiled, and replied he did not desire anything which belonged to me, for as God had given it me, I ought not to be deprived of it; that instead of diminishing my riches he should add to them; and that when I left his dominions I should carry with me proofs of his liberality. I could only reply by praying for his prosperity, and praising his generosity.



He ordered one of his officers to attend me, and gave me servants to wait upon me at his own expense. The officers faithfully fulfilled the charge they were intrusted with, and conveyed all the bales to the place destined for my lodging. I went every day at certain hours to pay my court to the king, and employed the rest of my time in seeing the city, and whatever was most worthy of my attention.

The island of Serendib is exactly under the equinoctial line, so that the days and nights are equal. It is 470 miles long, and as many in breadth. The principal town is situated at the extremity of a beautiful valley, formed by a mountain which is in the middle of the island, and which is the highest in the world; it is discernible at sea within three days' navigation of it. Rubies and many sorts of minerals are found in it, and most of the rocks are formed of emery, which is a sort of metallic stone used for cutting precious stones.

All kinds of rare and curious plants and trees, particularly the cedar and cocoa-tree, grow here in great abundance, and there are pearl-fisheries on the coast at the mouth of the rivers: some of its valleys also produce diamonds. I made a devotional journey up the mountain, to the spot where Adam was placed on his banishment from Paradise; and I had the curiosity to ascend to the summit.

I entreated the king to grant me permission to return to my native country, which he did in the most obliging manner. He compelled me to receive a rich present, and when I went to take my leave, deposited in my care another still more considerable, and at the same time gave me a letter for the Commander of the Believers, our Sovereign lord, saying, "I beg you to present from me this letter and the present to the Caliph Haroun Alraschid, and to assure him of my friendship." I took the present and the letter with the greatest respect, and promised his majesty to execute the orders with which he was pleased to honour me, with the greatest punctuality. Before I embarked, the king sent for the captain and merchants with whom it was arranged that I was to sail, and charged them to pay me all possible attention.

The letter of the king of Serendib was written on the skin of a certain animal, highly prized in that country on account of its rareness. The colour of it approaches to yellow. The letter itself was in characters of azure, and it contained the following words in the Indian language:—



*“The King of the Indies, who is preceded by a thousand elephants: who lives in a palace, the roof of which glitters with the lustre of a hundred thousand rubies, and who possesses in his treasury twenty thousand crowns, enriched with diamonds, to the Caliph Haroun Alraschid.*

“Although the present that we send you be inconsiderable, yet receive it as a brother and a friend, in consideration of the friendship we bear you in our heart: and which we feel happy in having an opportunity of testifying to you. We ask the same share in your affections, as we hope we deserve it, being of a rank equal to that which you hold. We salute you as a brother. Farewell.”

The present consisted, first, of a vase made of one single ruby, pierced and worked into a cup of half a foot in height, and an inch thick, filled with fine round pearls, all weighing half a drachm each; secondly, the skin of a serpent, which had scales as large as a common piece of money, the peculiar property of which was to preserve those who lay on it from all disease; thirdly, fifty thousand drachms of the most exquisite aloe-wood, together with thirty grains of camphor, as large as a pistachio-nut; and lastly, all this was accompanied by a female slave of the most enchanting beauty, whose clothes were covered with jewels.

The ship set sail, and after a fortunate voyage, we landed at Balsora, from whence I returned to Bagdad. The first thing I did after my arrival was to execute the commission I had been intrusted with. I took the letter of the king of Serendib, and presented myself at the gate of the Commander of the Faithful, followed by the beautiful slave, and some of my family, who carried the presents committed to my care. I mentioned the reason of my appearance there, and was immediately conducted before the throne of the caliph. I prostrated myself at his feet, and having made a short speech, gave him the letter and the present. When he had read the contents, he inquired whether it was true the king of Serendib was as rich and powerful as he reported himself to be in his letter. I prostrated myself a second time, and when I arose, “Commander of the Faithful,” said I, “I can assure your majesty that he does not exaggerate his riches and grandeur; I have been witness to it. Nothing can excite greater admiration than the magnificence of his palace. When this prince wishes to appear in public, a throne is prepared for him on the back of an elephant; on this he sits and proceeds between two files, composed of his ministers, favourites,



and others. Before him, on the same elephant, sits an officer with a golden lance in his hand, and behind the throne another stands with a pillar of gold, on the top of which is placed an emerald about half a foot long and an inch thick. He is preceded by a guard of a thousand men habited in silk and gold stuffs, and mounted on elephants richly caparisoned.

"While the king is on his march, the officer who sits before him on the elephant, from time to time cries with a loud voice, 'This is the great monarch, the powerful and tremendous sultan of the Indies, whose palace is covered with a hundred thousand rubies, and who possesses twenty thousand diamond crowns. This is the crowned monarch, greater than ever was Solima, or the great Mihrage.'

"After he has pronounced these words, the officer who is behind the throne, cries in his turn, 'This monarch, who is so great and powerful, must die, must die, must die.' The first officer then replies, 'Hail to him who lives and dies not.'

"The king of Serendib is so just that there are no judges in his capital nor in any part of his dominions; his people do not want any. They know and observe with exactness the principles of justice, and never deviate from their duty; therefore, tribunals and magistrates would be useless." The caliph was satisfied with my discourse, and said, "The wisdom of this king appears in his letter; and after what you have told me, I must confess that such wisdom is worthy of such subjects, and such subjects worthy of it." At these words he dismissed me with a rich present.



## SEVENTH AND LAST VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR.

**I**N my return from my sixth voyage I absolutely relinquished all thoughts of ever venturing again on the seas. I was now arrived at an age which required rest; I prepared therefore to enjoy my life in quiet.

One day my servant came to tell me that an officer of the caliph wanted to speak to me. I got up from table and went to him. "The caliph," said he, "wishes to see you." I followed the officer to the palace, and he presented me to the prince. "Sindbad," said he, "I want you to do me a service, and go



to the king of Serendib with my answer and presents; it is but right I should make him a return for the civility he has shown me.

This order of the caliph was a thunderbolt to me. "Commander of the Faithful," replied I, "I am ready to execute anything your majesty may desire; but humbly entreat you to consider that I am worn down with the unspeakable fatigues I have undergone—I have vowed never to leave Bagdad." I recounted the detail of my adventures, which he listened to attentively. "I confess," said he, "these are extraordinary adventures; nevertheless, they must not prevent your making the voyage I propose, for my sake; it is only to the island of Serendib; you must go, for you must be sensible it would be highly indecorous, as well as derogatory to my dignity, to be under obligations to the king of that island."

I signified I was ready to obey his commands. He seemed much pleased, and ordered me a thousand sequins to pay the expenses of the voyage.

As soon as I had received the presents of the caliph, together with a letter written with his own hand, I set off and took the route of Balsora, from whence I embarked. After a pleasant voyage, I arrived at Serendib. I immediately acquainted the ministers with my commission, and begged an audience. They conducted me to the palace. I saluted the king by prostrating myself according to the usual custom.

This prince immediately recollected me, and evinced great joy at my return. "Welcome, Sindbad," said he; "I have often thought of you. Blessed be this day, in which I see you again." After thanking him for his kindness, I delivered the letter and presents of the caliph, which he received with satisfaction and pleasure.

The caliph sent him a complete bed of gold tissue, estimated at a thousand sequins, fifty robes of a very rich stuff, a hundred more of white linen, the finest that could be procured from Cairo, Suez, Cufa, and Alexandria; another bed of crimson, also another of a different make: a vase of agate, greater in width than in depth, of the thickness of a finger; on the sides there was sculptured in bas-relief a man kneeling on the ground, and in his hand a bow and arrow, with which he was going to let fly at a lion. Besides these he sent him a richly ornamented table, which was supposed to have belonged to Solomon. The letter of the caliph was written in these terms:—



*“Greeting in the name of the sovereign guide of the right road, to the powerful and happy Sultan from Abdalla Haroun Alraschid, whom God hath set in the place of honour, after his ancestors of happy memory.*

“We have received your letter with joy, and we send you this reply, dictated by the council of our porte, the garden of superior wits. We hope that when you look upon it you will perceive our good intention, and think it agreeable. Adieu.”

The king of Serendib was greatly rejoiced to find that the caliph returned a testimony of his friendship. Soon after this audience, I requested another to take my leave, which I had some difficulty to obtain. At length I succeeded, and the king, at my departure, ordered me a very handsome present. I re-embarked immediately, intending to return to Bagdad, but had not the good fortune to arrive so soon as I expected, for God had disposed it otherwise.

Three or four days after we had set sail we were attacked by corsairs, who easily made themselves masters of our vessel, as we were not in a state for defence. Some persons in the ship attempted to make resistance, but it cost them their lives. I and all those who had the prudence not to oppose the intention of the corsairs were made slaves. After they had stripped us, and substituted old clothes for our own, they bent their course towards a large island at a very great distance, where they sold us.

I was purchased by a rich merchant, who conducted me to his house, gave me food to eat, and clothed me as a slave. Some days after, as he was not well informed who I was, he asked me if I knew any trade. I replied that I was not an artisan, but a merchant by profession, and that the corsairs who had sold me had taken from me all I was possessed of. “But tell me,” said he, “do you think you could shoot with a bow and arrow?” I replied that it had been one of my youthful sports, and that I had not entirely forgotten it. He then gave me a bow and some arrows, and making me mount behind him on an elephant, he took me to a vast forest at the distance of some hours’ journey from the city. We went a great way in it, and when he came to a spot where he wished to stop, he made me alight. Then showing me a large tree, “Get up in that tree,” said he, “and shoot at the elephants that will pass under it, for there is a prodigious



quantity in this forest: if one should fall, come and acquaint me of it." Having said this, he left me some provisions and returned to the city: I remained in the tree on the watch the whole night.

I did not perceive any during that time; but the next morning, as soon as the sun had arisen, a great number made their appearance. I shot many arrows at them, and at last one fell. The others immediately retired; and left me at liberty to go and inform my master of the success I had met with. To reward me for this good intelligence, he regaled me with an excellent repast, and praised my address. We then returned together to the forest, where we dug a pit to bury the elephant I had killed. It was my master's intention to let it rot in the earth, and then to take possession of its teeth for commerce.

I continued this occupation for months, and not a day passed in which I did not kill an elephant. I did not always place myself on the same tree; sometimes one, sometimes another. One morning, when waiting for the elephants, I perceived to my astonishment, that instead of traversing the forest as usual, they stopped and came towards me with a terrible noise, and in such numbers that the ground was covered with them, and trembled under their footsteps. They approached the tree where I was placed, and surrounded it with their trunks extended, having their eyes fixed on me. At this surprising spectacle I remained motionless, and so agitated by fright that my bow and arrows fell from my hands.

My fears were not groundless. After the elephants had viewed me for some time, one of the largest twisted his trunk round the body of the tree, and shook it so violently that he tore it up by the roots, and threw it on the ground. I fell with the tree; but the animal took me up with his trunk, and placed me on his shoulders, where I remained more dead than alive. He put himself at the head of his companions, who followed, and carried me to a spot where, having set me down, he and the rest retired. Conceive my situation! I thought it a dream. At length seeing no other elephants, I rose, and perceived I was on a little hill of some breadth, entirely covered with bones and teeth of elephants. This sight filled my mind with a variety of reflections. I admired the instinct of these animals, and did not doubt that this was their cemetery, and that they had brought me hither to show it me, that I might



desist from destroying them, as I did it merely for the sake of possessing their teeth. I did not stay long on the hill, but turned my steps towards the city, and having walked a day and a night, at last arrived at my master's. I did not meet any elephants in the way, which plainly evinced that they had entered farther into the forest, to leave me an unobstructed passage from the hill.

As soon as my master saw me, "Ah! poor Sindbad," exclaimed he, "I was in pain to know what could have become of you. I have been to the forest, and found a tree newly torn up by the roots, and a bow and arrows on the ground: after having sought you everywhere in vain, I despaired of ever seeing you again. What has happened to you, and by what happy chance are you still alive?" I satisfied his curiosity, and the following day, having accompanied me to the hill, was with joy convinced of the truth of my history. We loaded our elephant with as many teeth as he could carry, and when we returned, he said:—"Brother, for I will no longer treat you as a slave after the discovery you have imparted to me, and which cannot fall to enrich me, may God pour on you all sorts of blessings and prosperity? Before him I give you your liberty. I had concealed from you what I now relate. The elephants destroy an infinite number of slaves, whom we send in search of ivory. Whatever advice we give them, they are sure, sooner or later, to lose their lives by the wiles of these animals. God has delivered you from their fury, and has conferred this mercy on you alone. It is a sign that he cherishes you, and that he wants you in the world to be of use to mankind. You have procured me a surprising advantage: we have not hitherto been able to get ivory without risking the lives of our slaves, and now our whole city will be enriched by your means. Do not suppose that I think I have sufficiently recompensed you by giving you your liberty; I intend to add to it considerable presents; I might engage the whole city to join and make your fortune, but that is an honour I will enjoy alone."

To this obliging discourse I replied, "Master, God preserve you! the liberty you grant me acquits you of all obligation towards me, and the only recompense I desire for the service I have had the good fortune to procure for you and the inhabitants of your city, is permission to return to my country with all speed." "Well," resumed he, "the monsoon will soon bring us vessels, which come to be laden with ivory. I will



then send you away with a sufficiency to pay your expenses home." I again thanked him for the liberty he had given me, and for the good will he showed me. I remained with him till the season for the monsoon, during which we made frequent excursions to the hill, and filled his magazines with ivory. All the other merchants in the city did the same, for it did not long remain a secret.

The ships at length arrived, and my master having chosen that in which I was to embark, loaded it with ivory, half of which was on my own account. He did not omit an abundance of provisions for my voyage, and he obliged me to accept some rare curiosities of that country besides. After I had thanked him as much as possible for all the obligations he had conferred on me, I embarked. We set sail, and as the adventure which had been the means of procuring me liberty was very extraordinary, it was always on my mind.

We touched at several islands to procure refreshments. Our vessel having sailed from a port of the Indian Terra Firma, we went there to land: and fearful of the dangers of the sea to Balsora, I landed the ivory which belonged to me, and resolved to continue my journey by land. I sold my share of the cargo for a large sum of money, and purchased a variety of curious things for presents: when I was equipped, I joined a caravan of merchants. I remained a long time on the road, and suffered a great deal; but I bore all with patience, when I reflected that I had neither tempests nor corsairs, serpents, nor any other peril that I before encountered, to fear.

All these fatigues being at last concluded, I arrived happily at Bagdad. I went immediately and presented myself to the caliph, and gave him an account of my embassy. This prince told me that my long absence had occasioned him much uneasiness; but that he had always hoped that God would not forsake me.

When I related the adventure of the elephants, he appeared much surprised and would scarcely have believed it, had not my sincerity been well known to him. He thought this, as well as the other histories I had detailed to him, so curious, that he ordered one of his secretaries to write it in letters in gold, to be preserved in his treasury. I retired, well satisfied with the presents and honours he conferred on me, and have since resigned myself entirely to my family, my relations, and friends,



Sindbad thus concluded the recital of his seventh and last voyage; and addressing himself to Hindbad, "Well, my friend," added he, "have you ever heard of one who has suffered more than I have, or been in so many trying situations? Is it not just that, after so many troubles, I should enjoy an agreeable and quiet life?"

As he finished these words, Hindbad approached him, kissed his hand, and said, "I must confess, sir, that you have encountered frightful perils; my afflictions are not to be compared with yours. If I feel them heavily at the time I suffer them, I console myself with the small profit which they produce. You not only deserve a quiet life, but are worthy of all the riches you possess, since you make so good a use of them, and are so generous. May you continue to live happily till the hour of your death!"

Sindbad ordered him to have another hundred sequins; he admitted him to his friendship, told him to quit the profession of a porter, and to continue to eat at his table; for that he should all his life have reason to remember Sindbad the Sailor.





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