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SINBAD
THE SAILOR

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THE FIRST VOYAGE OF SINBAD.

MY father was a native of the city of Bagdad, but dying while I was very young, and leaving me a considerable fortune, I pursued a course of dissipation, continuing my excesses till I fell into a fit of sickness. Having recovered, I collected together the remains of my fortune, and embarked with several merchants on board a ship, which we had jointly laden with merchandise for the port of Balsora.

“In the course of our voyage we touched at several islands, where we sold or exchanged our goods. One day, being becalmed near a small island, which resembled a beautiful green meadow, we determined to carry our provisions to, and dine upon this pleasant little island. While we were preparing for dinner, and had kindled a fire to dress our provisions, the island began to move, and at the same moment those who were left in the ship called us to re-embark instantly, or we should all be lost, as what we had taken to be an island was only the back of a monstrous whale. Every one hastened to save himself as he could; but for my part I was still on the back of the



when he
into the sea, and had only time to catch hold of a broad
of wood that had been brought out of the ship to serve

as a table. On this piece of wood I floated; but the current carried me away from the ship, and the captain, concluding that I was lost, hoisted his sails, and pursued his voyage.

“I struggled to save myself all the rest of the day and the following night. Next morning I found my strength gone, and despaired of my life, when happily a wave threw me against an island. The bank was steep and rugged, yet exhausted as I was I climbed it by means of some roots of trees, and then lay down till sunrise, when, crawling on my hands and knees in search of some herbs to eat, I found a spring of excellent water. Having refreshed myself with the water, I came to a cave, wherein I lay down, and slept profoundly during many hours. When I awoke it was almost sunset. I left my cave to search for some habitation. However I found none; but I soon came to a small plain surrounded with fine trees bearing all sorts of fruits; and what surprised me most was, to see a great number of young colts grazing together. I supped upon fruit, and climbed into a tree for my lodging. About midnight I was greatly alarmed to hear the sound of trumpets and drums, which seemed to pass all round the island, and continued through the night; but when the morning came, it still appeared to be uninhabited.

“On the third day, to my great joy, a party of men landed, who were astonished to find me there. They informed me they were the grooms of King Mihrage, and that the island upon which I was thrown belonged to the geni Degial, who visited it every night with drums and trumpets; and that the geni being the friend of King Mihrage, permitted him to have his young colts trained upon the island, and that they were sent at the expiration of every six months to select such of them as were fit to be placed in the royal stables.

“The grooms carried me with them to the capital of King Mihrage, which was a fine harbour where ships arrived daily from all quarters of the world. The king allowed me apartments in one of his palaces, and delighted in my conversation.

“One day, having walked to the quay, several seamen were busily employed in unloading a ship newly arrived. As I cast my eye on some of the bales of goods I perceived them to be the same that I had put on board when I embarked for Balsora. I also knew the captain, and I carelessly asked him to whom

those bales belonged. 'To a merchant of Bagdad,' he replied, 'who perished at sea.'

" 'Captain,' said I, 'I am Sinbad, and those bales are mine.' The captain started, and, lifting up his hands and eyes with amazement, cried out aloud, 'Is there no faith left among men? I and many of my passengers saw Sinbad swallowed up in the waves, and yet you tell me you are him.'

" But some other persons coming from the ship, instantly knew me, and I was not long in convincing the captain that I was no imposter; upon which he presented me my bales.

" I then selected the most valuable articles, and presented them to King Mihrage; and, taking leave of him, went on board the ship and came home. Here I bought fine lands, and built a great house, and determined to forget my past dangers, and to enjoy the pleasures of life."

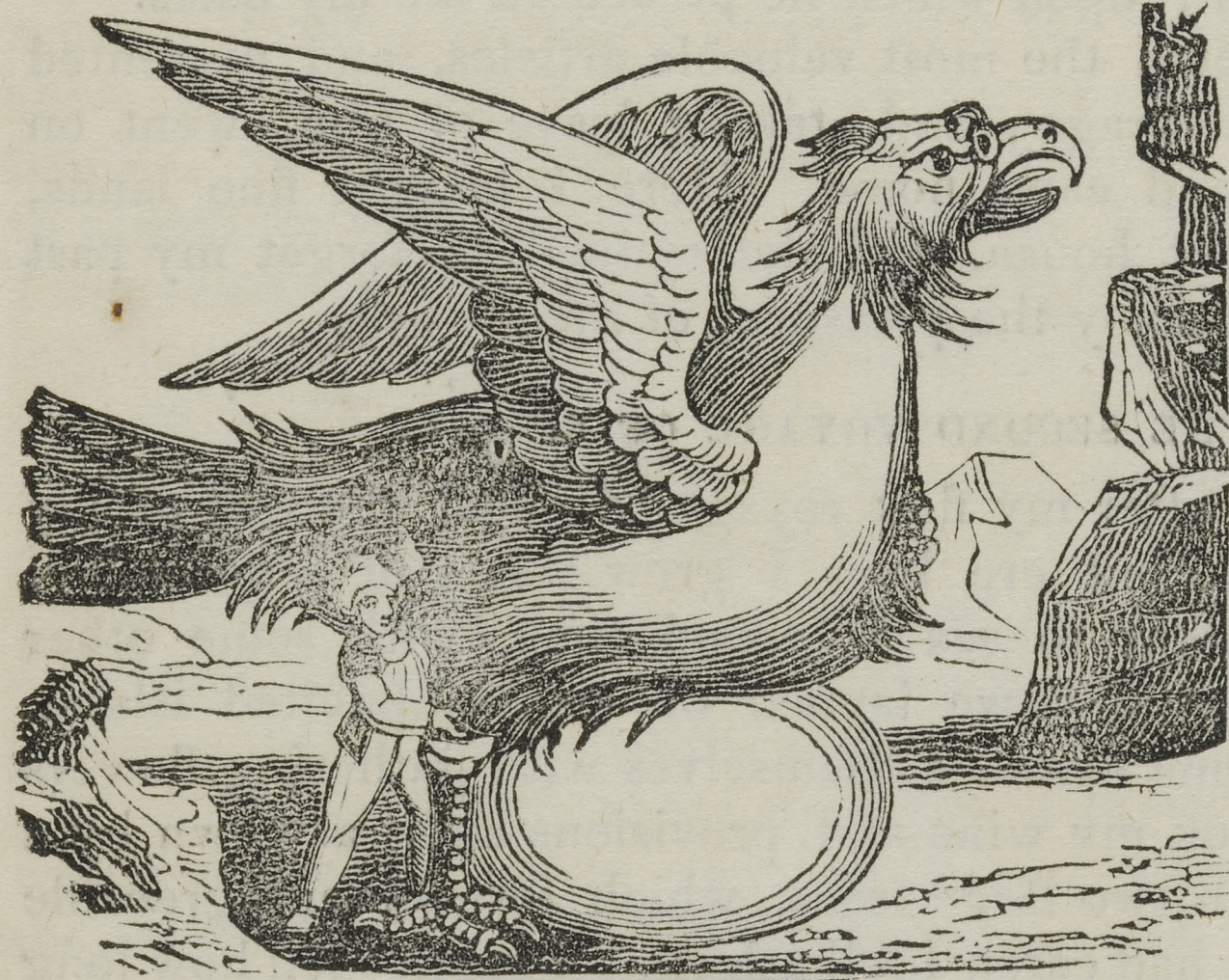
THE SECOND VOYAGE OF SINBAD.

" I designed after my first voyage to spend the rest of my days at Bagdad, but ere long I grew weary of a quiet life. Accordingly I went to sea a second time, with some other merchants. One day we landed on an uninhabited island, where, while some diverted themselves with gathering flowers and fruits, I took my wine and provisions and sat down by a stream, between two large trees, which formed an agreeable shade. After I had eaten I fell asleep. I cannot tell how long I had slept; but when I awakened, not only my companions, but the ship itself was gone. Nothing could exceed my grief and consternation at this event.

" At last I became more resigned, and climbed to the top of a high tree to see if there was any thing that could give me hopes. Towards the sea I beheld nothing but sky and water; but looking towards the land, I perceived at a distance something large and white; and hastening down from the tree, ran towards it. As I came nearer, I thought it was a large white bowl; and when I came quite up to it, and touched it, I found it as smooth as ivory, and at least fifty paces round.

" On a sudden the sky became quite darkened, and, looking up to see what had occasioned this sudden darkness, I beheld a bird of enormous size moving like a great black cloud towards me. I immediately recollected that I had heard of a bird called

a roc, so large that it could carry away young elephants, and I concluded that the great white bowl must be its egg. I was right in my supposition, for the bird alighted, and sat over the egg. I crept close to the egg, and tied myself firmly to the leg of the roc with the cloth of my turban, in hopes that, when she flew away, she would carry me out of the desert island; and having passed the night in this condition, the bird flew away the next morning, and carried me so high into the



air that I could not see the earth, and suddenly descended so swift, that I lost my senses. On coming to myself, and finding the roc on the ground, I untied the cloth which bound me to her leg, and the bird, having taken up a large serpent in her bill, again took her flight.

“The place in which the roc left me was a deep valley, encompassed on every side with high mountains, whose sides were so steep that it was impossible to ascend them. This was a new perplexity.

“As I paced up and down, musing on my hard fortune, I observed that the ground was strewed with diamonds of a surprisingly large size.

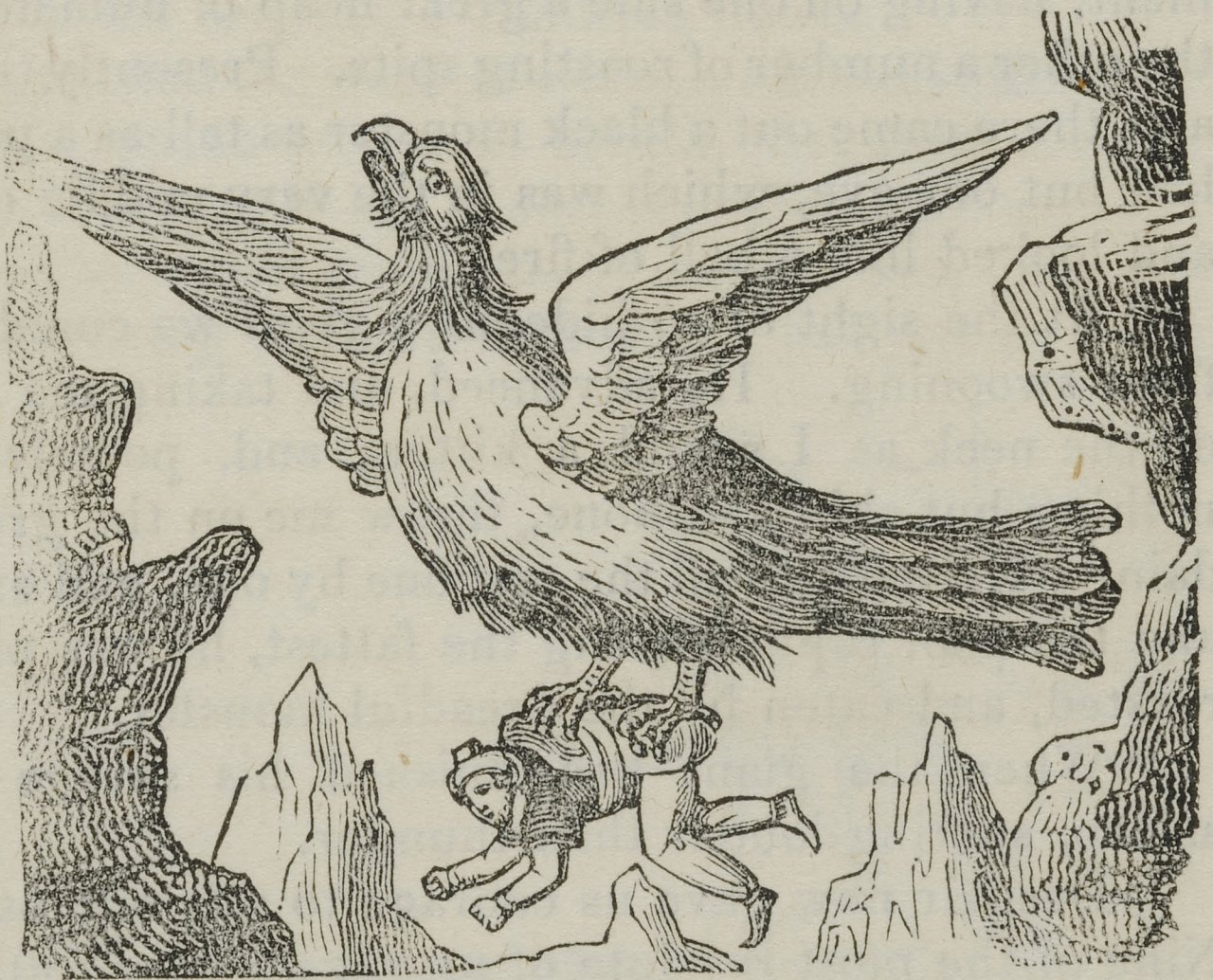
“At last I sat down, and, being overcome with fatigue, I fell asleep. I was awakened by the noise of something that fell close beside me. This was a great piece of fresh meat; and immediately I saw several others fall from the rocks in different places.

“I had heard of the famous Diamond Valley, and the stratagems used to get jewels from thence, how the merchants came to the top of these impassable mountains near where the eagles

wild their nests, and throwing joints of raw meat down into the valley, the diamonds upon which they fell stick to them; then the eagles, lured by the smell of the meat, pounce upon it, and carry it to their nests, when the merchants, being on the watch, frighten away the eagles, and take the diamonds.

“This gave me hopes of getting out of this dreadful abyss. I therefore hastened to pick up some of the largest diamonds I could find, which I put into a bag, and fastened it to my girdle. I then selected the largest piece of meat in the valley, which I tied to my waist with the cloth of my turban, and then lay down upon my face to wait the descent of the eagles. They were not long in coming, and one of the strongest having pounced upon the meat on my back, flew with me to the nest at the top of the mountain.

The merchants began shouting to frighten the eagles, and when they had obliged them to quit their prey, one of them came to the nest where I was. At first he was much fright-



ened at seeing me, but, recovering himself, he began to quarrel with me, and accused me of stealing his goods. ‘You will treat me,’ replied I, with more civility when you know me better. Do not be uneasy; I have diamonds enough for both of us, far more than all the other merchants put together.’

“The merchants having gathered their diamonds, we left the place and crossed the mountains till we arrived at a port where we took shipping for Balsora, and I continued my journey over land to Bagdad. Being once more arrived in my native city, I gave great alms to the poor and lived there very happily, for some time.”

THE THIRD VOYAGE OF SINBAD.

“ I was still in the prime of life, and, being resolved upon a third voyage, I once more took shipping at the port of Balsora.

“ After we had been at sea some weeks we were overtaken by a dreadful storm, and at last were obliged to cast anchor before an island, inhabited by frightful savages, about two feet high, and covered all over with red hair, who came swimming towards us, and boarded our ship, and carried her off in triumph to another island.

“ We went forward into the island on which we were landed, and when we had got a little way, we beheld a huge pile of building, and made towards it. We found it to be a lofty palace, with a folding gate of ebony, which led to a vast apartment, having on one side a great heap of human bones, and on the other a number of roasting spits. Presently the gate opened, and there came out a black monster as tall as a palm-tree. He had but one eye, which was in the very middle of his forehead, and looked like a ball of fire.

“ At the sight of so hideous a giant we could scarcely keep from swooning. He advanced, and taking me up by the skin of the neck as I would a kitten, and, perceiving that I was nothing but skin and bone, threw me on the ground with disdain. He took up all the rest one by one, and examined them, and the poor captain being the fattest, he was presently killed, roasted, and eaten by the dreadful monster.

“ When the giant had finished his savage meal, he fell asleep, snoring louder than thunder.

“ Despair now gave us courage to attempt our deliverance. Nine of the most resolute of us got up very softly, and taking nine spits, we held the points of them in the fire till they were red-hot, and then thrusting them all at once into the monster's eye, we blinded him. He uttered a frightful scream, and began to grope about with his hands to catch us; but we took care to keep out of his reach, and hastening down to the shore, we made floats of timber we found on the coast, waiting for daylight to embark; but scarcely was the first dawn of day visible when we beheld our monstrous enemy approaching, led by others of the same species. We immediately jumped upon our floats, and pushed them off; but the giants hurled great pieces of rocks from the cliffs, which sunk every float but the one

I was upon, and all my companions, except two, were drowned.

“For two days we were tossed about at sea. On the evening of the second day, however, we drove upon an island where we found excellent fruit and good water, and lay down to sleep under the shade of the trees.

“We were soon awakened by the hissings of an enormous serpent. One of my comrades was swallowed by him in a moment, while I and the other fled, and climbed up into the highest tree we could find. Presently the serpent came hissing to the root of the tree, and reared his head so high that he soon reached my only remaining companion, who sat much lower on the tree than I did, and devoured him like the former one.

“I waited on the tree till it was late the next day, and perceiving nothing of the serpent, I ventured down.

“I was so exhausted for want of sleep, and had suffered so greatly from the serpent’s poisonous breath, that death seemed to me more desirable than living in such a deplorable condition, from which there appeared no means of escape, and I ran towards the sea, resolving to throw myself in; but just as I was

about to fulfil my rash determination I perceived a ship in full sail at a considerable distance. I shouted as loud as I could to attract their notice, and the captain at length sent his boat for me. As soon as I



got on board, they all gathered round me, to learn how I came on the desert island. I related the misfortunes of my voyage, and they testified their joy at my wonderful escape.

“When we came to an anchor at the port of Jalabat, the captain told me that he had some bales of goods belonging to

a merchant now dead, and intended to dispose of them for the benefit of the heirs.

“I eagerly inquired the name of the owner, and to my astonishment was told it was Sinbad!

“Looking earnestly at the captain, I recollected him to be the person who, in my second voyage, had left me on the desert island. ‘You believe then,’ said I, ‘that Sinbad is dead?’—“‘Certainly,’ he replied; ‘for one day, when we landed on a small uninhabited island to take in water, by some mistake I set sail without him, nor was his absence discovered till it was too late; and there can be no doubt that he perished.’—‘No, captain,’ I exclaimed, ‘in me you behold Sinbad, who escaped that and many other perils!’ The captain being convinced, delivered me up the goods, so that I returned to Bagdad with great riches.”

THE FOURTH VOYAGE OF SINBAD.

“At the expiration of one year, I prepared for a fourth voyage, against the entreaties of my kindred. I began my voyage, which proved very long and most unfortunate; for the pilot lost his course, and knew not which way to steer. At length he knew where he was; but we all were seized with fear when we saw him tear his beard and beat his head like a madman. We demanded the reason of his conduct, and he exclaimed, that we must all inevitably perish, for within a quarter of an hour the ship would be dashed to pieces against a mountain, to which the current rapidly bore us. It was too true; the sails presently split, the ropes burst asunder, with the force with which the ship drove against the foot of an inaccessible mountain, and was a complete wreck; yet we saved our lives, the most of our provisions, and our goods.

“To climb this mountain, which almost reached the skies, was impossible; for it was of smooth granite, mixed with rocks of the finest crystals. In the midst of this mountain was a dark cavern, into which ran a broad black river, the roaring of whose waves stunned us with the sound.

“In this wretched place we continued till my comrades died one after the other. I survived them all, and my stock of food being exhausted, I suddenly made a desperate resolution to trust myself to the current of the black river.

“I made a float, and loaded it with bales of rich stuffs, and,

fastening my cargo with ropes, I went on board my float with two little oars I had made, and left it to the mercy of the current.

“As soon as I was in the cavern, I lost all light. I floated for several days, and once found the arch so low that it nearly broke my head. At length a pleasing sleep seized me; when I awoke I found myself at the brink of a river, where my float was tied up amidst a great number of negroes.



“I begged of them to give me food, which they did, and after I had appeased my hunger, I gave them a true account of all that had befallen me. They requested I would go with them to their king, and they placed me on a fine horse, bringing my cargo and float after me.

“We marched thus till we came to Serindib, for it was in that island I landed. I prostrated myself before the monarch, to whom I related my story, with which he was so surprised and pleased that he ordered it to be written in letters of gold, and laid up among the archives of the kingdom.

“When I paid my next visit to the king, I presented him with the choicest pieces of my rock-crystal, and then prayed him to allow me to return to my own country, which request he granted, and sent by me a brilliant present to the sovereign, the Caliph Haroun Alraschid, with many rich gifts for myself. At last I came safe to Bagdad, and presented myself before the caliph, who received the present of the King of Serindib with the greatest satisfaction, and having testified his thanks, he dismissed me with a handsome present.”

THE END.

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