

a long way behind us: pray, let us go back; pray, let us make haste from this frightful place."

"No, no," said the magician, seizing hold of Aladdin's arm, "no going back at present. I will show you more wonderful things than any you have seen yet, and what no person ever saw before." Aladdin followed his uncle still further into the valley, till they seemed to be surrounded with high and bleak mountains, and had lost all view of the country behind them. Suddenly, the magician stood still, and in a rough tone of voice, perfectly unlike his former mode of speaking, commanded Aladdin to gather together some loose sticks for a fire.

Aladdin obeyed him with trembling, and when he had collected a large heap, the magician set them on fire. Presently the blaze rose high; the magician threw some powder into the midst of the fire, and pronounced some mystical words, which Aladdin did not understand. Instantly they were surrounded by a thick smoke, the earth shook beneath their feet, the mountain burst asunder, and exposed a broad flat stone with a large brass ring fixed very firmly in the middle of it.

Aladdin was now so exceedingly terrified, that he was going to run away; but the magician perceiving his design, gave him such a box on the ear, that he knocked him down. Poor Aladdin got up again, and with tears running down his cheeks, said: "What have I done, uncle, that you should use me so very cruelly?"

"Child," said the magician in a kinder tone of voice, "I did not mean to strike you so severely. But you must not think of running away from me; I brought you here to do a service for you.

Know, Aladdin, that under this stone lie hid treasures, that will make you richer than the greatest monarch on earth, and of which I alone know how to make you master." Aladdin forgot the box of the ear when he heard of the treasures; and he eagerly promised to do whatever he was desired to perform.

"Come, then," said the magician, "take hold of that brass ring, and lift up the stone."

When the stone was pulled up, there appeared a deep hollow cave in the earth, and a narrow flight of steps. "Go, child," said the magician, "go down into that cavern. At the bottom of these steps you will find a door open, which will lead you into a vaulted place divided into three great halls, full of silver and gold coin. Pass through them quickly, for if you touch anything they contain, you will meet with instant death. At the end of the third hall you will see a fine garden; cross the garden by a path, that will bring you on a terrace, where you will see a lighted lamp, standing in a niche. Take the lamp down, and put out the light; and when you have thrown away the wick, and poured out the oil, put the lamp into your bosom, and bring it to me. If you wish for any of the fruit of the garden, you may gather as much as you please."

Having said this, the magician drew a ring off his finger, and putting it on Aladdin's, told him it was a preservative against all evil, if he faithfully obeyed his directions. "Go down boldly, my son," he added, "and we shall both be rich and happy all the rest of our lives."

Aladdin jumped into the cave, went down the steps, and found the three halls just as the magician had described them. He went through them without touching them; and crossed the garden without