

days without tasting food, and on the third day looked upon death as inevitable. Claspings his hands in agony, to think of his own destruction and his mother's sorrow, he chanced to press the ring the magician had put on his finger, and immediately an enormous geni rose out of the earth, and said: "What wouldst thou have with me? I am ready to obey thy commands—I and the other slaves of that ring."

Aladdin, trembling with affright, said: "Deliver me, I beseech thee, from this place, if thou art able."

He had no sooner spoken these words, than the earth opened, and he found himself on the very spot where he had been brought by the magician. He remembered the way he had come, and made all the haste he could to get back to the city; but when he reached his mother's threshold, joy, to find himself at home again, and the fatigue he had undergone, overcame his strength, and he fainted away at the step of the door.

When Aladdin had recovered from his fit, and had been embraced a thousand times by his mother, he hastened to relate to her all that had befallen him; and then entreated her to bring him some food, as he was almost starved. Alas! the poor old woman had neither food nor money in the house, for while her son had been absent, she had neglected her spinning to run up and down the streets in search of him.

"Well, mother," said Aladdin, "do not mind it. Pray, dry up your tears, and reach me the lamp I put upon the shelf just now, and I will go and sell it." The old woman took down the lamp, and thinking it would sell better if it were cleaner, she began to rub it with sand. Instantly a hideous geni stood before her, and said, in a voice like thunder,

"What wouldst thou have? I am ready to obey thy commands—I and the other slaves of that lamp."

Aladdin having seen the former geni, was less frightened than his mother, who fainted away, while he said boldly: "I am hungry; bring me something to eat." The geni disappeared, and presently returned with twelve large plates of silver, full of the most savory meats, six white loaves, two bottles of wine, and two silver drinking-cups. Having placed them all in order on the table, upon which a clean cloth had just been spread, he vanished.

Aladdin, sprinkling some water on his mother, entreated her, as she recovered from her swoon, to arise, and eat of the goodly banquet.

The poor old woman was astonished, and could not conceive who had furnished such a repast; but Aladdin soon eased her anxiety, by relating to her the manner in which it had been supplied. They made a hearty meal, and set aside enough to serve them for two days more.

On the following morning, Aladdin sold one of his silver plates to a Jew, to purchase a few necessaries that were wanting to their dwelling. He next went about among the merchants and shopkeepers, and thereby gained a knowledge of men and manners, and greatly improved himself by their discourse.

One day, while Aladdin was walking through the city, he heard a proclamation commanding all the people to retire into their houses, as the beautiful princess Balroudour, whom no one must look upon, was coming to the public baths. Poor Aladdin was a long way from home; people were running this way and that, and he was quite at a loss where to go; and hearing the drums and trumpets that preceded the princess approaching, he ran