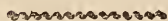


THE
HISTORY
OF
SINDBAD,
THE SAILOR.

CONTAINING
AN ACCOUNT OF HIS SEVEN SURPRISING
VOYAGES.



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SINBAD relating his Adventures.

See p. 6, 7.

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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 much ground still 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 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 the smell of different sorts of viands, led him to suppose, that some grand feast was given there. To satisfy his curiosity, therefore, he approached some servants, who were standing, magnificently dressed, at the door, and inquired who was the master of that mansion. "What (replied the servant) are you an inhabitant in 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 with his own, which was so

deplorable; and distressed by the reflection, he raised his eyes, and exclaimed with a loud voice, "Almighty Creator of all things, 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 entirely given up to despair. He was still musing on his fate, when a servant came towards him from the house, and taking hold of his arm, said, "Come, follow me; my master, Sindbad, wishes to speak with you."

It may easily be imagined that Hindbad was not a little surprised that Sindbad sent for him; and therefore began to excuse himself from going, saying, that he could not leave his load in the middle of the street; but the servant assuring him it should be taken care of, pressed him so much, that the porter could no longer refuse to go.

He led him into a spacious room, where a number of persons were seated at a sumptuous banquet, consisting of the most choice viands and delicacies. In the principal seat was a grave and venerable person, with a long white beard. This person was Sindbad. The porter made his obeisance with fear and trembling; which Sindbad perceiving, desired him to approach, and seating him at his right hand, helped him himself to the choicest dishes, and gave him some excellent wine to drink.

After the repast, Sindbad addressed himself to the porter by the name of brother, and in-

quired his name. "Sir, (replied he) my name is Hindbad." "I am glad to see you; but I wish to know from your own lips, what it was you said just now in the street:" At this request, Hindbad, full of confusion, hung down his head, and replied, "Sir, I must confess to you, that my fatigue had put me so out of humour, that I uttered some indiscreet words, which I entreat you to pardon me." "Oh, (resumed Sindbad) do not imagine, that I am so unjust, as to have any resentment on that account. I feel for your situation, and instead of reproaching, I pity you; but I must undeceive you from one error respecting myself. You suppose, no doubt, that the riches and comforts I enjoy, have been obtained without any labour or trouble. To arrive at this state, I have endured the greatest bodily as well as mental sufferings you can possibly conceive. Yes, gentlemen, (addressing himself to the whole company) I assure you, my sufferings have been of a nature so extraordinary, as would deprive the greatest miser of his love of riches. That you may judge of this, I will, with your leave, relate the dangers I have encountered.

FIRST VOYAGE.

My father left me a considerable estate, most part of which I spent during my youth; but I perceived my error, and called to mind, that

riches were perishable, and quickly consumed by such ill husbands as myself. I gathered together the ruins of my estate, and sold all my moveables in the public market to the highest bidder. Then I entered into a contract with some merchants that traded by sea: and, resolving to improve what money I had, I went to Balsora, a port on the Persian Gulph, and embarked with several merchants, who joined with me to fit out a ship on purpose.

In our voyage we touched at several islands, where we sold or exchanged our goods. One day, whilst under sail, we were becalmed near a little island, even almost with the surface of the water, which resembled a green meadow. The captain ordered his sails to be furled, and suffered such persons, as had a mind, to land upon the island, among whom I was one. But, while we were diverting ourselves with eating and drinking, and refreshing ourselves from the fatigue of the sea, the island trembled and shook all of a sudden.

They perceived the trembling of the island on board the ship, and called to us to reimbark speedily, or we should all be lost; for what we took for an island, was only the back of a whale. The nimblest got into the sloop, others betook themselves to swim; but, for my part, I was still on the back of the whale, when he dived into the sea, and had time only to catch hold of a piece of wood, that we had brought out of the



ship to make a fire. Meanwhile, the captain, having received those on board who were in the sloop, and taken up some of those that swam, pursued his voyage, so that it was impossible to recover the ship.

Thus I was exposed to the mercy of the waves, and struggled for my life all the rest of the day and the following night. Next morning I found my strength gone, and despaired of saving my life, when a wave threw me happily against an island. I advanced into the island, and came at last into a fine plain, where I perceived a horse feeding. Whilst I looked upon him, I heard the voice of a man from under ground, who immediately appeared to me, and asked who I was. I gave him an account of my adventure, after which, taking me by the hand, he led me into a cave, where there were several other people, no less amazed to see me, than I was to see them.

I asked them what they did in such a desert place? they answered, that they were grooms belonging to King Mihrage, sovereign of the island; and that every year, at the same season, they brought thither the king's horses, and fastened them as I saw that horse, till they were washed with the water of a neighbouring pool.

Next morning they returned with their horses to the capital of the island, took me with them, and presented me to King Mihrage. He asked me who I was, By what adventure I came into his dominions? And after I had satisfied him, he ordered that I should want for nothing.

As I was one day at the port of the city, a ship arrived, and as soon as she cast anchor they began to unload her, and the merchants on board ordered their goods to be carried into the magazine. As I cast my eye upon some bales, and looked to the name; I found my own, and perceived the bales to be the same that I had embarked at Balsora. I also knew the captain: but being persuaded that he believed me to be drowned, I went and asked him whose bales these were? He replied, that they belonged to a merchant of Bagdad called Sindbad, who came to sea with him; but one day, being near an island, as we thought, he went ashore with several other passengers upon this supposed island; which was only a monstrous whale, that lay asleep upon the surface of the water; but as soon as he felt the heat of the fire, they had kindled on his back to dress some victuals, he began to move, and dived under water; most of the persons who were upon him perished, and among them unfortunate Sindbad. Those bales belonged to him, and I am resolved to trade with them, until I meet with some of his family, to whom I may return the profit. Captain, says I, I am that Sindbad whom you thought to be dead, and those bales are mine. He would not believe me; upon which I told him how I escaped.

At last, he knew me, and embracing me, "Heaven be praised, says he, for your happy escape, I cannot enough express my joy for it;

there are your goods, take and do with them what you will." I thanked him, and offered him part of my goods as a present, which he generously refused.

I took leave of King Mihrage, and went on board the same ship, after I had exchanged my goods with the commodities of that country. I carried with me wood of aloes, sanders, camphire, nutmegs, cloves, pepper, and ginger. We passed by several islands, and at last arrived at Balsora, from whence I came to Bagdad, with the value of 100,000 sequins. My family and I received one another with all the transports that can happen from true and sincere friendship. I bought slaves of both sexes, fine lands, and built me a house. And thus I settled myself, resolving to forget the miseries I had suffered.

SECOND VOYAGE.

I soon became weary of a quiet life in Balsora; and therefore having purchased commodities, I again went to sea with some merchants.

After having touched at several places, we landed one day at an uninhabited island. We amused ourselves in different ways; but I, having taken my wine and provisions, sat down and fell asleep. When I awoke, I found that my companions were gone; and that the ship had sailed.

At first I was dreadfully agitated; but in a short time I became more resigned to my fate.

I climbed to the top of a very high tree, and perceived at a distance an object that was very large and white. I descended to the ground, and ran towards this strange looking object.

When I approached it, I found it was about fifty paces in circumference, quite round; and as smooth as ivory: but had no sort of opening. It was now almost sun-set, and suddenly the sky became darkened. I looked up and beheld a bird of enormous size, moving like a prodigious cloud towards me.

I recollected that I had heard of a bird called the Roc, so large that it could carry away young elephants: and I therefore conjectured that the large object I had been looking at, was the egg of this bird.

As the bird approached, I crept close to the egg; so that I had one of the legs of this winged animal before me: this limb being as large as the trunk of a tree, I tied myself firmly to it with the cloth of my turban.

The next morning the bird flew away, and carried me from this desert island. I was borne so high that I could not see the earth; and then carried downwards so swiftly that I lost my senses. When I recovered, finding myself on the ground, I quickly untied the cloth that bound me; and scarcely was I free, when the bird, having taken up a large serpent; again flew away.

I found myself in a deep valley, the sides of which were too steep to be ascended. As I

walked up and down in despair, I perceived that the valley was strewed with diamonds of surprising magnitude. But I soon perceived other objects of much less inviting appearance.

Serpents of the most terrific size were peeping out of holes on every side. When night came I took shelter in a cave, the entrance of which I guarded with the largest stones I could find: but the hissing of the serpents entirely deprived me of sleep. When day returned the serpents retired to their holes; and I came out of my cave, but with extreme fear.

I walked heedless of the serpents until I became weary; and then sat down and fell asleep. I was awakened by something which fell near me. It was a large piece of fresh meat; and presently I saw several other pieces.

I was now convinced that I must be in the famous valley of diamonds: and that the pieces of meat were thrown in by merchants, who expected eagles to pounce upon the flesh, to which diamonds were almost sure to adhere.

I hastened to pick up some of the largest diamonds I could find, which I put into a little bag, and fastened it to my girdle. I then selected the largest piece of flesh in the valley, which I tied to my waist with the cloth of my turban, and then lay down upon my face to wait for the eagles.

Very soon one of the strongest pounced upon the meat on my back, and flew with me to its nest on the top of the mountain. The merchants



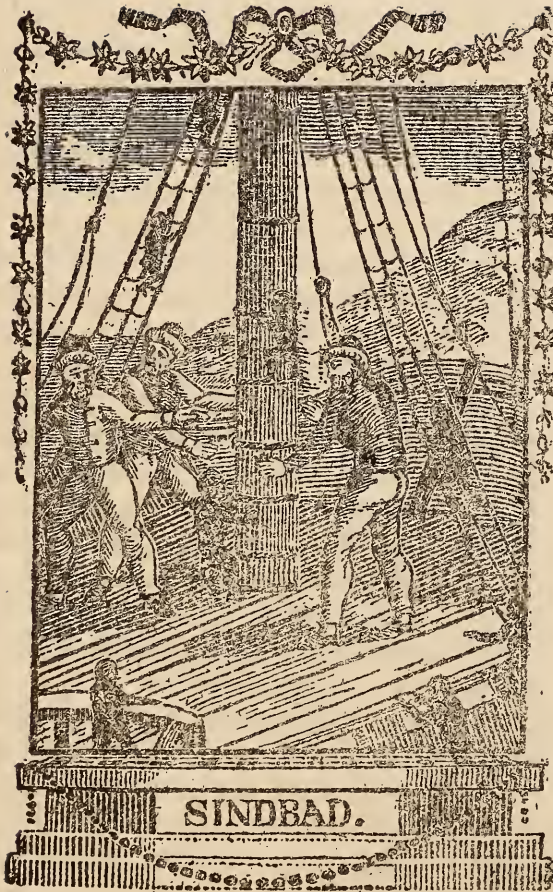
began shouting, to frighten the eagles; and when they had obliged the birds to quit their prey, one of them came to the nest where I was.

At first the man was frightened when he saw me there; but having recovered himself, he asked me how I came thither. I soon told him and the rest of the merchants my story: they were equally surprised at my ingenuity and courage. I then opened my bag, and they declared that they had never seen diamonds of equal lustre and size with mine.

The merchants having gathered their diamonds together, we left the place the next morning; and crossed the mountains until we reached a port: we there took shipping, and proceeded to the island of Roha. There I exchanged some of my diamonds for other merchandise; and we proceeded to Balsora. From Balsora I proceeded to my native city, Bagdad; in which I lived in ease upon the vast riches I had acquired.

THIRD VOYAGE.

THE pleasures of the life which I then led, soon made me forget the risks I had run in my two former voyages; and hardening myself against the thought of any danger I might incur, I went from Bagdad with the richest commodities of the country of Balsora. There I embarked again with other merchants. One day being out in the main ocean, we were attacked by a horrible tempest, which made us lose our course.



The tempest continued several days, and brought us before the port of an island, where the captain was very unwilling to enter, but we were obliged to cast anchor near an island which the Captain had endeavoured to avoid: for he assured us, that this and several other neighbouring islands, were inhabited by pigmy savages, covered with hair, who would speedily attack us; and if we happened to kill one of them, they would all fall upon us and destroy us.

Very soon an innumerable multitude of frightful savages, covered all over with red hair, and about two feet high, came swimming towards us, and climbed up the sides of the ship with surprising agility. They took down our sails, cut the cable, and hauling to the shore, made us all get out, and afterwards carried the ship into another island, from whence they came.

We went toward the interior of the island, and discovered a large building. It was a lofty palace, having a gate of ebony, which we pushed open; and soon discovered an apartment in which were human bones and roasting spits,

Presently there appeared a hideous black man, who was as tall as a palm tree: he had but one eye, his teeth were long and sharp, and his nails like the talons of a great bird. At the sight of so frightful a giant, we lost our senses and lay like men dead.

At last we came to ourselves, and saw him sitting at the porch looking at us; he advanced and

took me up by the nape of the neck, and turned me round as a butcher would do a sheep's head, but perceiving me to be so lean that I had nothing but skin and bone, he let me go. He took up all the rest, in the same manner, and the captain being the fattest, he held him with one hand, as I would do a sparrow, and thrusting a spit through him, kindled a great fire, and roasted and ate him in his apartment for his supper; which being done, he returned to his porch, where he lay and fell asleep, snoring louder than thunder. This monstrous cannibal destroyed two more of our companions: when seeing no prospect of getting off the island, but that we should all in like manner become his prey, I suggested to my companions the propriety of falling on some scheme for our deliverance. The plan I proposed was, to construct as many floats as should carry us, and leave them on the coast, till we could put my designs in execution; accordingly one night after he had made his horrid repast, and fallen asleep, nine of the boldest of us, and myself, took each of us a spit, and putting the points of them into the fire till they were burning hot, we thrust them into his eye all at once, and blinded him. The pain occasioned him to make a frightful cry, when he groped for the gate, and went out howling dreadfully.

We went out of the palace after the giant, and came to the shore, where we had left our floats, and put them into the sea; but day had scarce

appeared, till we perceived our cruel enemy, accompanied with two others almost of the same size, leading him; and a great number more coming before him, with a very quick pace.

The giants, who perceived us putting off from the shore, took up great stones, entered the water up to the middle, and threw so exactly, that they sunk all the floats but that I was upon, and all my comrades, except the two with me, were drowned. Next morning we had the good luck to be thrown upon an island, where we landed with much joy. We found excellent fruit there, that gave us great relief, so that we pretty well recovered our strength.

In the evening we fell asleep on the bank of the sea, but were awakened by the noise of a serpent as long as a palm tree, whose scales made a rustling as he crept along. He swallowed up one of my comrades, notwithstanding his loud cries; and the efforts he made to rid himself from the serpent; which, after shaking him several times against the ground, crushed him, and we could hear him gnaw the poor wretch's bones, when we had fled at a great distance from him.

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

sat lower than I, swallowed him at once, and went off.

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

Providence interposed in a remarkable manner to preserve me from this fatal resolution; for just as I was going to throw myself into the sea, I perceived a ship at a considerable distance. I called as loud as I could, and taking the linen from my turban, displayed it, that they might observe me. This had the desired effect, all the crew perceived me, and the captain sent me his long-boat. As soon as I came aboard, the merchants and seamen flocked about me, to know how I came into that desert island; and after I had told them all that befel me, the oldest among them told me, they had several times heard of the giants who dwelt in that island, that they were cannibals, and eat men raw as well as roasted; and as to the serpents, they added, that there were abundance in the isle that hid themselves by day, and came abroad at night. After having testified their joy at my escaping so many dangers, they brought me the best of what they

had to eat; and the captain, seeing that I was all in rags, was so generous as to give me one of his own suits.

In short, after a long voyage, I arrived at Balsora, and from thence returned to Bagdad, with so much riches, that I knew not what I had. I gave a great deal to the poor, and bought another great estate to what I had already.

FOURTH VOYAGE.

THE pleasures I took after my third voyage, had not charms enough to divert me from another. I was again prevailed upon by my passion for traffic, and curiosity to see new things, to embark in a fresh adventure, and having provided a stock of goods fit for the places where I designed to trade, I set out on my journey. I took the way of Persia, of which I travelled several provinces, and then arrived at a port, where I embarked. We set sail, but were soon overtaken by a terrible tempest, by which the ship and cargo were entirely lost, and many of the merchants and seamen drowned. I had the good fortune, however, with some others, to reach the shore of an island which lay before us. It was inhabited by blacks, whom we found to be cannibals, and who, after feeding my companions with a certain herb, and with rice prepared with oil of cocoas, till they became fat, eat them all up. The horror of my situation

threw me into a lingering distemper, by which means, my death was deferred till another time. I had abundance of liberty, and one day, when the blacks had gone out not to return till evening, I made my escape, and in eight days reached the sea, where I found white people gathering pepper. I was overjoyed to hear them speak in my own language, and willingly satisfied their curiosity respecting who I was, and whence I came.

I staid with them till they gathered their quantity of pepper, and then sailed with them to the island from whence they came. They presented me to their king, who was a good prince, and commanded care to be taken of me.

The island was very well peopled, plentiful of every thing, and the capital was a place of great trade. This agreeable place of retreat was very comfortable to me after my misfortune, and the kindness of this generous prince towards me completed my satisfaction. In a word, there was not a person more in favour with him than myself, and in consequence every man in court and city sought how to oblige me; so that in a very little time I was looked upon rather as a native than a stranger.

As I made my court very exactly to the king, he says to me one day, "Sindbad, I love thee, and all my subjects who know thee treat thee according to my example. I have one thing to demand of thee, which thou must grant, and that immediately." "Sir, answered I, there is

nothing but what I will do, as a mark of my obedience to your majesty, whose power over me is absolute." "I have a mind that thou shouldst marry, (replies he,) that so thou mayest stay in my dominions, and think no more of thy own country." I dared not to resist the prince's will, and so he gave me one of the ladies of his court, a noble, beautiful, chaste, and rich lady. The ceremonies of marriage being over, I went and dwelt with the lady, and for some time we lived in perfect harmony. I was not, however, very well satisfied with my condition, and therefore designed to make my escape on the first occasion, and to return to Bagdad; which my present settlement, how advantageous soever, could not make me forget.

While I was thinking on this, the wife of one of my neighbours, with whom I had contracted a very strict friendship, fell sick, and died. I went to see and comfort him in his affliction, and finding him swallowed up with sorrow, I said to him as soon as I saw him, God preserve you, and grant you a long life. Alas! replies he, how do you think I should obtain that favour you wish me? I have not above an hour to live. Pray, says I, don't entertain such a melancholy thought, I hope it will not be so, but that I shall enjoy your company for many years. I wish you, says he, a long life; but for me, my days are at an end, for I must be buried this day with my wife. This is a law, which our ancestors established in

this island, and always observed it inviolably. The living husband is interred with the dead wife; and the living wife with the dead husband. Nothing can save me; every one must submit to this law.

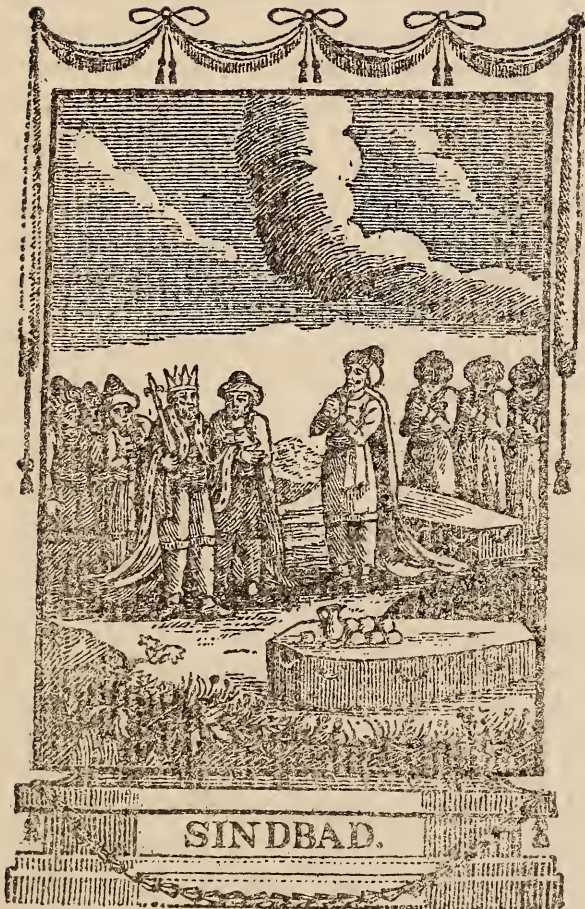
While he was entertaining me with an account of this barbarous custom, the very hearing of which frightened me cruelly, his kindred, friends, and neighbours came in a body to assist at the funerals. They put on the corpse the woman's richest apparel, as if it had been her wedding-day, and dressed her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

I could not forbear speaking my thoughts of this matter to the king; "Sir, (says I,) I cannot enough express my wonder at the strange custom

in this country, of burying the living with the dead. I have been a great traveller, and seen many countries, but never heard of so cruel a law. "What do you mean, Sindbad, (says the king,) it is a common law; I shall be interred with the queen, my wife, if she dies first." "But Sir, (says I,) may I presume to demand of your majesty, if strangers be obliged to observe this law?" "Without doubt, (replied the king, smiling at the occasion of my question,) they are not exempted if they be married in this island."

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

To be interred alive, seemed to me as deplorable an end, as to be devoured by cannibals; but I must submit. The king and all his court would honour the funeral with their presence, and the most considerable people of the city did the like. When all was ready for the ceremony, the corpse was put into a coffin with all her jewels and magnificent apparel, and as second actor of this doleful tragedy, I went next the corpse, with my eyes full of tears bewailing my deplora-



ble fate. Before I came to the mountain, I addressed myself to the king in the first place, and then to all those who were round me, and bowing before them to the earth, to kiss the border of their garments, I prayed them to have compassion upon me. "Consider, (said I) that I am a stranger, and ought not be subject to this rigorous law, and that I have another wife and children in my own country." It was to no purpose for me to speak thus, no soul was moved at it; on the contrary, they made haste to let down my wife's corpse into the pit, and put me down the next moment in an open coffin, with a vessel full of water, and seven loaves. In short, the fatal ceremony being performed, they covered up the mouth of the pit, notwithstanding the excess of my grief, and my lamentable cries.

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

Though the darkness of the cave was so great that I could not distinguish day and night, yet I

always found my coffin again, and the cave seemed to me to be more spacious, and fuller of corpses than it appeared to me at first. I lived for some days upon my bread and water, which being all spent I was preparing for death.

As I was thinking of death, I heard the stone lifted up from the mouth of the cave, and immediately the corpse of a man was let down; while they let down the woman, I approached the place where her coffin was to be put, and as soon as I perceived they were covering again the mouth of the cave, I seized the bread and water that was in her coffin, and thus I had provisions for some days more; and, as good luck would have it for me, there was then a sort of mortality in the town, so by this means I did not want for provisions.

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

Upon this, I stopt some time to rest myself;

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

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

I considered the mountain, and perceived it to be situated betwixt the sea and the town, but without any passage or way to communicate with the latter, the rocks on the side of the sea, were so rugged and steep. I fell down upon the shore to thank God for his mercy, and afterwards entered the cave and groped about among the biers for all the diamonds, rubies, pearls, gold, bracelets, and rich stuffs I could find; these I brought to the shore, and tying them up neatly into bales, with the cords that let down the coffins, I laid them together upon the bank, when next day I perceived a ship that had but just come out of the harbour, and passed near the place where I was. I made a sign with the linen of my turban, and called to them as loud as I could: they heard me, and sent a sloop to bring me on board. When the mariners asked by what misfortune I came thither, I told them that I suffered ship-

wreck two days ago, and made shift to get ashore with the goods they saw. It was happy for me that those people did not consider the place where I was, nor enquire into the probability of what I told them; but without any more ado, took me on board with my goods. When I came to the ship, the captain was so well pleased to have saved me, and so much taken up with his own affairs, that he also took the story of my pretended shipwreck upon trust, and generously refused some jewels which I offered him.

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

After we had finished our commerce in that island, we put to sea again, and touched at several other ports; at last I arrived happily at Bagdad with infinite riches; of which it is needless to trouble you with the detail. Out of thankfulness to God for his mercies, I gave great alms for the entertainment of several mosques, and for the subsistence of the poor, and employed myself wholly in enjoying my kindred and friends.

FIFTH VOYAGE.

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

We sailed with the first fair wind, and, after a long navigation, the first place we touched at was a desert island, where we found an egg of a roc, equal in bigness, with that I formerly mentioned. There was a young roc in it just ready to be hatched, and the bill of it began to appear. The merchants, whom I had taken on board my ship, and who landed with me, broke the egg with hatchets, and made a hole in it, from whence they pulled out the young roc piece after piece, and roasted it. I had earnestly dissuaded them from meddling with the egg, but they would not listen to me.

This was no sooner over, than the he and she

rocs appeared in the air like two clouds. Perceiving their loss, they immediately returned whence they came, and notwithstanding all our speed in embarking, overtook the ship, and hovering over her, dropt two immense stones from their talons, which dashed the ship in pieces, and either killed or sunk all on board, except myself, who was preserved by laying hold of a piece of the wreck, and swimming to an island that appeared a short way before me.

When I was a little advanced into the island, I saw an old man, who to me seemed very weak and feeble. I asked him what he did there; instead of answering me, he made a sign for me to take him upon my back, and carry him over the brook, signifying that it was to gather fruit; so I took him on my back, and having carried him over, bid him get down, and for that end I stooped, that he might get off with ease; but instead of that, the old man clasped his legs nimbly about my neck, and held my throat so strait, that I thought he would have strangled me, the fright of which made me faint away and fall down.

Notwithstanding my fainting, the ill-natured old fellow kept fast about my neck, but opened his legs a little to give me time to recover my breath. When I had done so, he thrust one of his feet against my stomach, and struck me so rudely on the side with the other, that he forced me to rise up against my will. Being got up,



he made me walk under the trees, and forced me now and then to stop, to gather and eat such fruit as we found. He never left me all day, and when I lay down to rest me by night, he laid himself down with me, holding always fast about my neck. Every morning he pushed me, to make me awake, and afterwards obliged me to get up and walk, and pressed me with his feet. You may judge then what trouble I was in, to be charged with such a burden as I could no ways rid myself from.

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

The old man perceiving the effect which this drink had upon me, and that I carried him with more ease than I did before, made a sign for me to give him some of it. I gave him the calabash, and the liquor pleasing his palate, he drank it all off. There being enough of it to fuddle him, he became drunk immediately, and the fumes getting up into his head, he began to sing after

his manner, and to dance with his breech upon my shoulders. His jolting about made me vomit, and he loosened his legs from about me by degrees; I threw him upon the ground, where he lay without motion, and then I took up a great stone with which I crushed his head to pieces.

I was extremely rejoiced to be freed thus from this cursed old fellow, and walked upon the bank of the sea, where I met the crew of a ship that had cast anchor, to take in water and refresh themselves. They were extremely surprised to see me, and to hear the particulars of my adventures. You fell, said they, into the hands of the old man of the sea, and are the first that ever escaped strangling by him.

After having informed me of those things, they carried me with them to the ship, the captain received me with great satisfaction, when they told him what had befallen me. One of the merchants of the ship, who had taken me into his friendship, took me to a place appointed for a retreat for all foreign merchants. He gave me a great bag, and having recommended me to some people of the town, who used to gather cocoas, he desired them to take me with them to do the like: Go, says he, follow them, and do as you see them do, and don't separate from them, otherwise you endanger your life. Having thus spoke, he gave me provisions for the journey, and I went with them.

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

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

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

The vessel in which I came, sailed with merchants, who loaded her with cocoas. I expected the arrival of another, which landed speedily for the like loading. We put out again to sea,

and after some days sail, and touching at some harbours in the course of the voyage, where they bartered their goods for pepper and wood of aloes, I left the ship, and embarked on board another vessel, that arrived happily at Balsora; from thence I returned to Bagdad, where I made vast sums of my pepper, wood of aloes, and pearls. I gave the tenth of my gains in alms, as I had done upon return from other voyages, and endeavoured to ease myself from my fatigues, by diversions of all sorts.

SIXTH VOYAGE.

It must appear astonishing, after being shipwrecked five times, and escaping so many dangers, I could resolve again to try my fortune, and expose myself to new hardships. But be that how it will, after a year's rest, prepared for a sixth voyage, notwithstanding the prayers of my kindred and friends. Arriving at a sea-port, I embarked on board a ship, the captain of which was resolved on a long voyage, which like the rest proved unfortunat; for that the captain and the pilot lost their course, so as they knew not where they were. We were all seized with extraordinary fear when we saw the ship, without being possible to help it, carried by the current to the foot of an inaccessible mountain, where she run ashore and broke to pieces, yet so as we saved our lives, our provisions, and the best of our goods.

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

The mountain at the foot of which we were cast, was the coast of a very large island. This coast was covered all over with wrecks, and by the vast number of men's bones we saw every where, and which filled us with horror, we concluded that abundance of people had died there. It is also incredible to tell, what a quantity of goods and riches we found cast ashore there.

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

Those who died first were interred by the rest; and as for my part, I paid the last duty to all my companions: nor are you to wonder at this; for I husbanded the provisions that fell to my share better than they; yet when I buried the last, I had so little remaining, that I thought I could not hold out any longer.

A thought came into my mind to go to the bank of the river which runs into the great cave, where, considering the river with great

attention, I said to myself, " This river, which runs thus under ground must come out some where or other. If I make a float, and leave myself to the current, Providence may bring me to some inhabited country where I may, perhaps, find some new occasion of enriching myself.

After this, I immediately made a float, and loaded it with bales of rubies, emeralds and rich stuffs, and so resigning myself to the will of God, entered the cave; which I had no sooner done, than I lost all light, and the stream carried me I know not whither. Thus I sailed some days in perfect darkness, and once found the arch so low, that it well nigh broke my head, which made me very cautious afterwards of avoiding the like danger. All this while I ate nothing but what was just necessary to support nature; yet notwithstanding this frugality, all my provisions were spent. Then a pleasant sleep seized upon me. I cannot tell how long it continued; but when I awaked, I was surprised to find myself in the middle of a vast country, at the brink of a river, where my float was tied, amidst a great number of negroes. I got up as soon as I saw them, and saluted them. They spoke to me, but I did not understand their language.

One of the blacks who understood Arabic, hearing me speak in that language, came towards me, and said, " Brother tell us your history, for it must be very extraordinary; and whence



do you come?" I begged of them first to give me something to eat, and then I would satisfy their curiosity. They gave me several sorts of food, and when I had satisfied my hunger, I gave them a true account of all that had befallen me, which they listened to with admiration. As soon as I finished my discourse, they told by the person who spoke Arabic and interpreted to them what I said, that it was one of the most surprising stories they ever heard, and I must go along with them and tell it to their king myself.

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

I concealed nothing from the king; I told him all that I have now told you, and his majesty was so surprised and charmed with it, that he commanded my adventures to be writ in letters of gold, and laid up in the archives of his kingdom. At last my float was brought him, and the bales opened in his presence; he admired

the quantity of wood of aloes, and ambergris, but above all, the rubies and emeralds, for he had none in his treasury that came near them.

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

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

I entreated the king to allow me to return to my country, which he readily granted. And when I went to take my leave of him, he gave me a

rich present, and at the same time a letter for Caliph Haroun Alraschid.

The present consisted of a ruby made into a cup, and decorated with pearls; the skin of a serpent which appeared like burnished gold; and which could repel disease: some aloe-wood, camphire, and a female slave of excessive beauty.

The ship set sail, and after a long and very successful voyage, we landed at Balsora, from whence I went to Bagdad, and delivered the letter to the Caliph. When he had read what the king of Serendib wrote to him, he said to me, "The wisdom of that king, appears in his letter, and after what you tell me, I must confess, that his wisdom is worthy of his people, and his people deserve so wise a prince. Having spoke thus, he discharged me, and sent me home with a rich present.

SEVENTH VOYAGE.

BEING returned from my sixth voyage, I absolutely laid aside all thoughts of travelling any further: so that I thought of nothing but to pass the rest of my days in quiet. One day as I was treating a parcel of my friends, one of my servants came and told me, that an officer of the Caliph's asked for me. "The Caliph," says he, "has sent me to tell you, that he must speak with you." I followed the officer to the palace, where being presented to the Caliph, I

saluted him by prostrating myself at his feet. "Sindbad, (says he to me) I stand in need of you: you must do me the service to carry my answer and present to the king of Serendib. It is but just I should return his civility.

I prepared for my departure in a few days, and as soon as the Caliph's letter and present was delivered to me, and I went to Balsora, where I embarked, and had a very happy voyage. I arrived at the isle of Serendib, where I acquainted the King's ministers with my commission, and prayed them to get me speedy audience.

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

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

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

I fell into the hands of a rich merchant, who as soon as he bought me, carried me to his house,

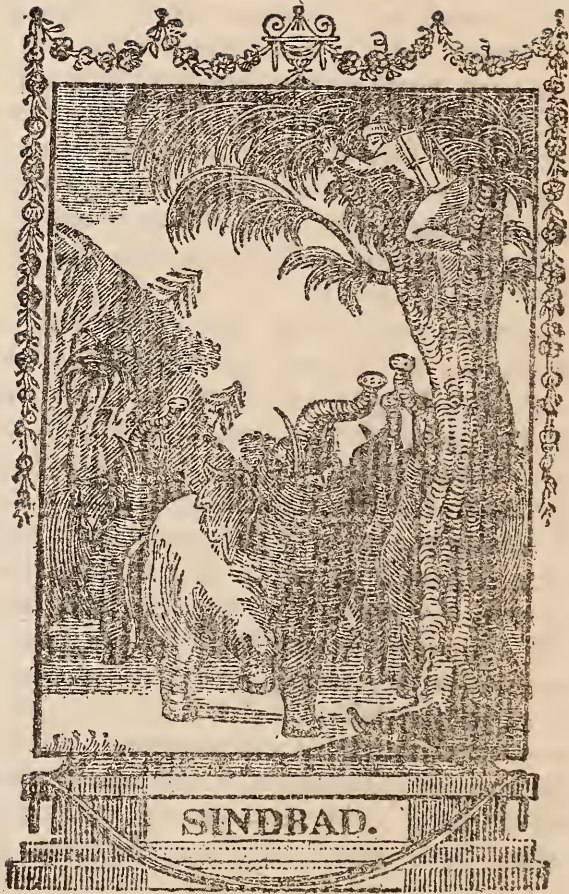
treated me well, and clad me handsomely for a slave. Some days after, not knowing what I was, he asked if I understood any trade; I answered, that I was no mechanic, but a merchant, and that the Corsairs, who sold me, robbed me of all I had. "But tell me," (replies he) can you shoot with a bow?" I answered "That the bow was one of the exercises of my youth, and I had not yet forgot it." Then he gave me a bow and arrows, and carried me to a forest some leagues from the town. We went a great way into the forest, and when he thought fit to stop, he bid me alight; then shewing me a great tree. "Climb up that tree, (says he) and shoot at the elephants as you see them pass by, for there is a prodigious number of them in this forest, and if any of them fall, come and give me notice of it." Having spoke thus, he left me victuals, and returned to the town, and I continued upon the tree all night.

I saw no elephant during that time, but the next morning, as soon as the sun was up, I saw a great number: I shot several arrows among them, and at last one of the elephants fell; the rest retired immediately, and left me at liberty to go and acquaint my patron with my booty: when I told him the news, he gave me a good meal, commended my dexterity, and caressed me mightily.

I continued this game for two months, and killed an elephant every day, getting sometimes

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

My fears were not in vain; for after the elephants had stared upon me some time, one of the largest of them put his trunk round the root of the tree, and pulled it so strong, that he plucked it up, and threw it on the ground; I fell with the tree, and the elephant taking me up with his trunk, laid me on his back, where I sat more like one dead than alive, with my quiver on my shoulder; he put himself afterwards at the head of the rest, who followed him in troops, and carried me to a place where he laid me down on the ground, and retired with all his companions. Conceive, if you can, the condition I was in: I thought myself to be in a dream; at last, after having laid some time, and seeing the elephants gone, I got up and found I was upon a long and broad hill, covered all over with the bones and teeth of elephants. I did not stay on the hill, but turned



SINDBAD.

towards the city, and, after having travelled a day and a night, I came to my patron. As soon as he saw me, "Ah, poor Sindbad," says he, "I was in great trouble to know what was become of you. I have been at the forest where I found a tree newly pulled up, and a bow and arrows on the ground, and after having sought for you in vain, I despaired of ever seeing you more. Pray tell me what befel you, and by what good hap thou art still alive." I satisfied his curiosity, and going both of us next morning to the hill, he found, to his great joy, that what I told him was true. We loaded the elephant upon which we came, with as many teeth as he could carry; and when we were returned, "Brother, (says my patron) for I will treat you no more as a slave, after having made such a discovery as will enrich me. God bless you with all happines and prosperity. I declare before him, that I give you your liberty." I thanked him again for my liberty, and his good intentions towards me. I staid with him expecting the Mocan; and during that time, we made so many journies to the hill, that we filled our warehouses with ivory, as did the other merchants who traded in it.

The ships arrived at last, and my patron himself having made choice of the ship wherein I was to embark, he loaded half of it with ivory on my account, he laid in provisions in abundance for my passage, and besides obliged me to

accept a present of the curiosities of the country of great value. After I had returned him a thousand thanks for all his favours, I went aboard.

All these fatigues ended at last, and I came safe to Bagdad. I went immediately to wait upon the Caliph, and gave him an account of my embassy. That prince told me, that he had been uneasy, by reason I was so long in returning; but that he always hoped God would preserve me. I told him the adventure of the elephants. He reckoned this story, and the other relations I had given him, to be so curious, that he ordered one of his secretaries to write them in characters of gold, and lay them up in his treasury. I retired very well satisfied with the honours I received, and the presents which he gave me; and after that I gave myself up wholly to my family, kindred and friends.



