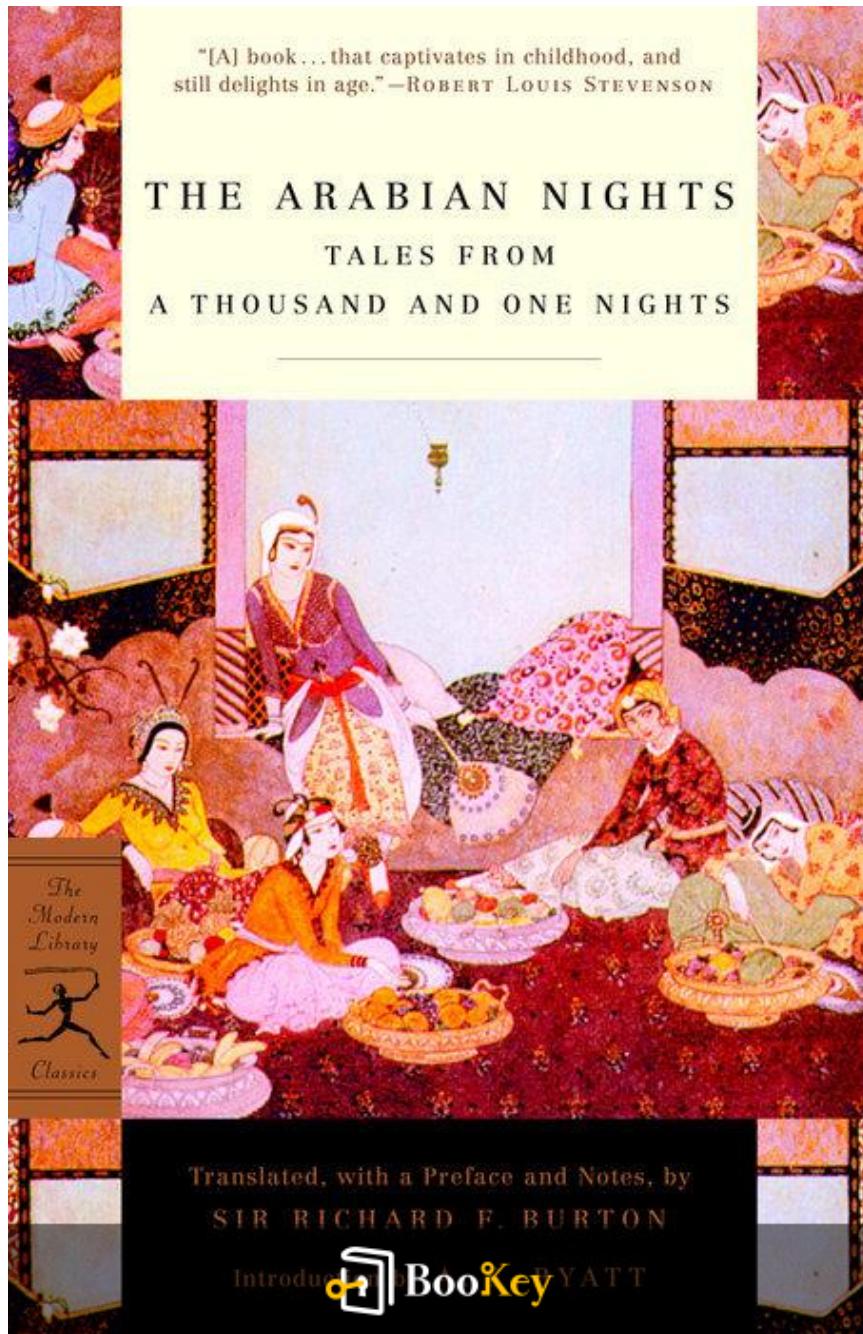


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The Arabian Nights Summary

Tales of Adventure and Wisdom from the Middle East.

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About the book

"The Arabian Nights," also known as "One Thousand and One Nights," is an enchanting collection of tales that effortlessly blend fantasy, adventure, and moral lessons, captivating readers for centuries. Set against the backdrop of a rich and diverse tapestry of Middle Eastern culture, the narrative follows the clever Scheherazade, who weaves a mesmerizing story each night to postpone her execution by the vengeful king. Through a series of exhilarating escapades featuring genies, thieves, kings, and mystical creatures, these stories explore timeless themes of love, loyalty, betrayal, and the power of storytelling itself. As you delve into this magical world, prepare to be transported to far-off lands where every turn of the page offers a new adventure, inviting you to lose yourself in the allure of imagination and the art of narrative.

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About the author

The Arabian Nights, also known as One Thousand and One Nights, is a collection of Middle Eastern folk tales compiled during the Islamic Golden Age, though the exact authorship remains attributed to the term "Anonymous." This designation reflects the collaborative nature of storytelling across various cultures and generations, as many stories were passed down orally before being written down. The tales draw upon a rich tapestry of influences, including ancient Persian, Indian, and Arabic folklore, showcasing the diverse heritage of these narratives. The collective unknown authors contributed to a vibrant literary tradition, merging moral lessons with adventure, romance, and the supernatural, capturing the imagination of readers across the world and securing a lasting legacy in the realm of world literature.

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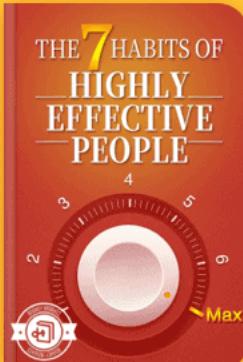
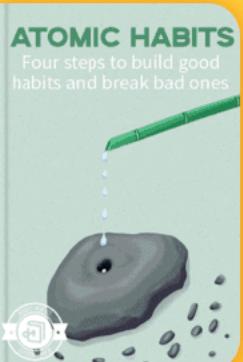
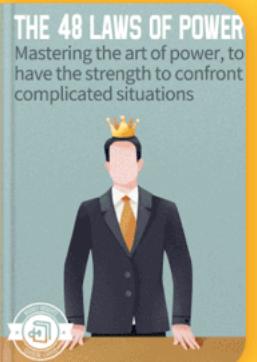
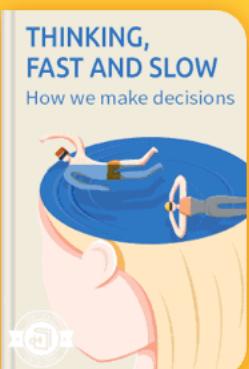
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Chapter 1 Summary: The Arabian Nights

Summary of Key Chapters from The Arabian Nights

Chapter 1: The Tale of King Schahriar

The story begins with the Sassanidae dynasty, renowned for its great kings who ruled from Persia to parts of China. Among them, King Schahriar is praised as the most admirable ruler, beloved by his people and feared by his foes. Upon his death, Schahriar's two sons, Schahriar and Schahzeman, face a painful separation due to the laws forbidding shared rule. After ten years of heartache, Schahriar gives Schahzeman the domain of Great Tartary to ease his burden.

However, Schahriar's life takes a tragic turn when he discovers that his wife, whom he adored, has betrayed him. Overcome with rage and heartbreak, he enforces a brutal decree: every day, he marries a new woman only to execute her the next morning, believing all women to be inherently deceitful. This horror spreads despair throughout the kingdom, causing widespread mourning among families.

The grand-vizir, who is forced to provide these brides, has two daughters: Scheherazade, the intelligent and courageous elder, and Dinarzade, her less

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distinguished sister. Scheherazade, determined to end the Sultan's cruelty, persuades her father to allow her to marry Schahriar, despite the fatal consequences she faces. With her father's reluctant consent, she requests her sister to be allowed to spend their wedding night together, where she plans to weave an intricate tale to captivate the Sultan.

Chapter 2: The Merchant and the Genius

In the subsequent tale, a wealthy merchant embarks on a journey across the desert, carrying a few provisions. While resting under a walnut tree, he unwittingly throws date stones that strike and kill the son of a powerful genius, who appears enraged and demands vengeance. Terrified, the merchant pleads for his life, claiming the act was unintentional, but the genius insists on retribution.

Desperate, the merchant requests a year's reprieve to settle his affairs and bid farewell to his family. The genius grants this request, believing the merchant may not return. When the merchant eventually returns home, he prepares his family for the worst, faced with overwhelming sorrow.

As the day of reckoning approaches, the merchant waits at the appointed spot. Here, he encounters three old men, each intrigued by his tale and eager to witness the impending confrontation. When the genius arrives, he is once again met with pleas for mercy. One of the old men offers to tell a story in

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hope of mitigating the merchant's punishment, leading to a suspenseful and climactic moment of narrative exchange.

Conclusion

The intertwining tales of Scheherazade and the merchant set the stage for The Arabian Nights, a rich tapestry of storytelling, survival, and cleverness against tyranny. Through the art of narrative, Scheherazade seeks to save not only herself but also the innocent lives endangered by the Sultan, while the merchant learns about the delicate balance of fate and mercy in the face of supernatural justice. The ongoing relationship between these stories illustrates the essence of The Arabian Nights: the ability of stories to transform despair into hope and to forge connections among both peace and peril.

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Chapter 2 Summary: The Story of the Merchant and the Genius

The Story of the Merchant and the Genius

Once, a wealthy merchant embarked on a long journey, carrying with him minimal provisions to cross a desolate desert. After successfully concluding his business, he paused under a walnut tree to rest and ate some dates he had brought. However, while discarding the stones from his snack, he unwittingly struck the son of a powerful genius, thus provoking the wrath of the creature. The furious genius appeared, sword in hand, and declared his intent to take revenge for his son's death by killing the merchant.

The merchant trembled in fear and protested his innocence, explaining that he had no knowledge of the boy. The genius, unmoved, insisted on his vengeance, and as he prepared to execute the merchant, the latter begged for mercy. In a desperate plea, the merchant offered to return in exactly a year to face his punishment, promising to bid farewell to his family and organize his affairs. The genius, intrigued and wary of the merchant's likely escape, reluctantly granted him a year's reprieve.

Upon returning home, the merchant shared his grim fate with his distraught family, who fell into deep sorrow. He took care to settle his affairs, provide

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for his family, and seek forgiveness for his impending doom. The year passed quickly, and when the appointed day arrived, the merchant anxiously returned to the walnut tree to honor his promise.

As he waited, an old man approached, accompanied by a hind (a female deer), and expressed concern for the merchant's plight. Upon hearing of the impending encounter with the genius, the old man, curious about the unfolding drama, decided to stay. Soon, two other old men, drawn by the curiosity of the unusual gathering, joined them, each hoping to witness the outcome of the merchant's fate.

At that moment, the genius appeared, demanding to fulfill his threat. The merchant's fear was palpable, leading all present to weep for him. In a desperate bid to save the merchant's life, the old man with the hind implored the genius to listen to his story, asserting that it might be more marvelous than the merchant's tale. Amused but intrigued, the genius agreed, offering to reduce the merchant's punishment if the old man's story was captivating enough.

The Story of the First Old Man and the Hind

The old man began by revealing that the hind was, in fact, his wife. When they were unable to conceive children, he adopted the son of a favored slave

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and made plans to raise him as his heir. Unfortunately, the old man's wife grew envious of both mother and child and, driven by dark sorcery, transformed them into livestock. She sent the slave's mother as a cow to the steward and changed her adopted son into a calf while claiming they were dead.

Upon returning home after a yearlong journey, the old man was devastated to find his wife feigning ignorance about their whereabouts. When a sacrificial ritual approached, the old man was struck by the cow's weeping—a sign of its impossible sadness—prompting him to spare it. His wife derided his pity, but he could not sacrifice the cow, which unbeknownst to him was his beloved slave.

Later, when the steward brought a fat calf for sacrifice, the calf desperately tried to rush towards the old man, pleading for mercy in its own silent way. Realizing the truth, he spared the calf as well. Eventually, he learned from the steward's daughter, who practiced magic, that both animals were connected to him: the overwhelmed cow was indeed his wife transformed, and the calf was his adopted son.

Agreeing to the conditions set by the steward's daughter, the old man allowed her to reverse the enchantments, resulting in his son's restoration and a vow of marriage to the magical girl. In turn, the daughter punished the old man's wife by transforming her into a hind. Thus, the old man explained,

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he took his wife along on his quest to find his son, which is why they were before the genius now.

Convinced by this marvel, the genius granted the first old man a third reduction in the merchant's penalty.

As the first old man concluded his tale, the second old man, who led two black dogs, interjected that his story was even more remarkable and sought the same leniency for the merchant's fate. The genie, intrigued, agreed, inviting the second old man to share his tale.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of facing our fears and honoring commitments.

Critical Interpretation: In moments of fear and uncertainty, like the merchant who faced the wrath of the genius, we are reminded that life demands courage to confront our challenges head-on. The merchant's decision to return, despite knowing his fate, illustrates the power of integrity and accountability. Instead of running away from his responsibilities, he chose to honor his promise, teaching us the value of facing our fears rather than avoiding them. This lesson can inspire us to tackle our own daunting situations, understand that accountability is part of our growth, and that sometimes, true bravery is not in the absence of fear, but in the resolve to stand firm amidst it.

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Chapter 3 Summary: The Story of the First Old Man and of the Hind

The Story of the First Old Man and the Hind

As the first old man begins his tale, he introduces the hind by his side as his wife. Lacking children of their own, he adopted the son of a beloved slave, intending to make him his heir. Unknown to him, his wife harbored a deep resentment toward both the child's mother and the boy. While he was away on a year-long journey, she studied magic and enacted a cruel plan. Upon his return, she deceitfully informed him that both his son and the slave had vanished, with the slave now dead.

Months passed without news of his son until the festival of Bairam approached, prompting the old man to order a cow for sacrifice. The cow turned out to be his former slave, who, when brought forth, wept and lowed in a way that touched the old man's heart. Despite his wife's insistence to proceed, he could not sacrifice the cow and, irritated with the steward for bringing such a meager creature, sent it away.

Eventually, another calf was brought to him, unbeknownst to him, it was his son transformed. The calf attempted to approach him and show affection, stirring the old man's pity again. Ignoring his wife's objections, he

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instructed not to sacrifice the calf.

The next day, the steward sought private counsel, revealing that his daughter, who understood magic, had seen the calf and wept for its mother, sacrificed as a cow. Shocked, the old man begged the steward to introduce him to her. The steward's daughter confirmed that she could restore the boy to his human form if the old man agreed to give him to her in marriage and allow her vengeance on the wicked wife. He consented with some reservations, and she performed the magic that returned the boy to his former self. In return, she changed the old man's wife into a hind, allowing her to remain within the family without repulsion.

With his son now a young man, the old man set off to find him after he had become a widower. He took the hind along to ensure her care, sharing this remarkable tale with the watching genius, who was so moved he decided to grant the old man a part of the merchant's punishment.

The Story of the Second Old Man and the Two Black Dogs

Next, the second old man, the brother of two black dogs, initiated his tale. He explained that the three brothers had started with a legacy of a thousand sequins each from their father, becoming merchants. The eldest brother, seeking fortune abroad, returned a year later as a beggar, having lost everything. The second brother shared the same fate after also journeying

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away. The third brother took them in, sharing his success and funds, helping them regain their footing.

Eventually, the brothers proposed a joint venture. After much deliberation, the third brother agreed. However, after spending their capital on merchandise, the brothers discovered their endeavors led them back to poverty. During a trading expedition, the brother met an impoverished yet enchanting woman whom he ultimately married, despite the initial reservations. As their journey continued, he found himself more in love with her qualities.

But jealousy consumed his brothers, leading them to betray him by throwing him and his new wife into the sea. Fortunately, the wife was a fairy and saved him, transporting them to a distant island. Grateful for her rescue, he learned she was furious with his brothers for their treachery. Upon pleading for mercy for them, she agreed, returning him home afterward with all his riches restored.

In a shocking twist, he discovered that his brothers had been transformed into black dogs as part of the fairy's punishment for their betrayal. Nearly ten years later, he stood ready to search for the fairy to restore their original forms.

This tale, too, was deemed remarkable by the genius, who acknowledged it

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and promised to grant the third part of the merchant's punishment to the second old man.

Conclusion

The third old man then approached the genius for the same consideration, promising a story to surpass the others. However, the details of this tale remain unknown, yet it was evidently more astonishing, leading the genius to grant the final portion of punishment to the merchant. Each old man played a crucial role in this mysterious chain of events, ultimately saving the merchant from his fate and reuniting him with his family. The stories captivated the audience, with Scheherazade hinting that while they were glorious, they paled in comparison to the forthcoming tale of the Fisherman, building anticipation for what was yet to come.

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Chapter 4: The Story of the Second Old Man, and of the Two Black Dogs

The Story of the Second Old Man, and of the Two Black Dogs

In a land filled with magic and mystery, three brothers—one of whom is now transformed into a black dog—inherit a heritage of a thousand sequins each upon their father's death. Embarking on a journey of commerce, the eldest brother sets out on a year-long voyage, only to return as a beggar, bearing tales of misfortune instead of riches. His younger brother, filled with the same ambition, ventures forth as well, only to meet a similar fate of loss. The narrator, the last brother who has doubled his wealth, includes both in his life, sharing his fortune generously to help them rebuild their lives.

Eventually, the two brothers persuade the last brother to join them on another trading journey. Despite his initial reluctance and their prior failures, he eventually agrees, dividing his wealth once more among them. This time, they embark on a voyage, trading successfully in a foreign land. During their return, the last brother meets a beautiful yet poorly dressed woman, who implores him to marry her. Charismatic and genuine, she captures his heart, but his brothers, envious of his newfound prosperity, conspire against him.

In a cruel act, they throw him and his wife into the sea, but she reveals her

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true nature as a fairy, saving them both by transporting them to a distant island. Enraged by the betrayal, she expresses a desire to punish the brothers, yet the husband, moved by compassion, convinces her to spare their lives. In gratitude, she returns him to his home and reveals that his brothers have been cursed to live as black dogs for ten years.

As the story unfolds, the merchant reflects on his past and the almost complete passage of the curse's duration. He meets the third old man and a merchant along the journey and shares his tale, prompting the genie to lessen the merchant's punishment. The third old man's story, even more remarkable, also earns him a reduction in the merchant's curse. The grateful merchant returns to his family, cherishing a life enriched by the goodwill and adventures of his companions.

The Story of the Fisherman

In another part of the realm, a weary fisherman struggles to support his family and strictly limits his daily catch to just four throws of his net. One morning, under the light of the moon, he casts his nets but pulls up only an assortment of misfortunes: a decaying donkey carcass, a basket of rubbish, and finally, stones and mud, leading him to despair.

However, on his fourth and final cast, he surprisingly retrieves a heavy, sealed pot. Optimistic, he hopes to sell it for wheat, but upon opening it, a

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thick smoke billows forth, transforming into an imposing genius—an enormous spirit of the sea. The genie, enraged at being freed, declares he will kill the fisherman, offering him the choice of how he prefers to die.

Desperate, the fisherman pleads for his life, establishing a rapport with the

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Chapter 5 Summary: The Story of the Fisherman

The Story of the Fisherman

Once upon a time, there lived an impoverished fisherman, struggling to provide for his wife and three children. Each day, he adhered to a self-imposed limit of casting his nets only four times. One moonlit morning, he went to the sea, optimistic about his catch. To his dismay, his first haul was the decaying carcass of a donkey instead of fish. Undeterred, he mended his nets and cast again, only to retrieve a basket of worthless rubbish.

Despondent, he cast for a third time and pulled in only stones and shells—his hope dwindling as he faced the reality of his poor fortune. On his fourth and final cast, however, he felt a heavy weight. Expecting fish, he instead found a sealed yellow pot. Thinking it might contain something valuable, he decided to sell it for food.

After a closer inspection, he opened the pot, but nothing emerged at first. Suddenly, thick smoke billowed out, enveloping the air and forming into a gigantic genie. Terrified, the fisherman struggled to maintain his composure. The genie proclaimed that he would grant the fisherman one final favor—the choice of his own death, due to a curse placed upon him for rebelling against the king of genies.

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As despair washed over him, the fisherman cleverly managed to delay the genie's grim intent. He incredulously questioned how such a large genie could fit in the small pot, prompting the genie to demonstrate. As the genie transformed into smoke and returned to the pot, the fisherman seized the opportunity, quickly sealing the lid.

With the genie trapped again, the fisherman threatened to keep him locked away, warning him of his nefarious deeds. The genie pleaded but was unable to escape his enchanted prison. Instead, he attempted to negotiate, promising rewards if released. But the fisherman, recalling the tale of a duplicitous king and his treacherous vizier, resolved to keep the genie confined, intent on warning others against his malice.

The Story of the Greek King and the Physician Douban

In the Persian kingdom of Zouman, a Greek king suffered from leprosy, and despite numerous doctors, he found no cure. A brilliant physician named Douban arrived, renowned for his knowledge of languages, herbs, and medicine. Confident in his abilities, Douban promised the king a cure without the use of medicines.

Intrigued, the king pledged riches to Douban if he succeeded. The physician

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crafted a hollow polo club containing a special remedy. He instructed the king to play polo vigorously until his body warmed, allowing the drug to penetrate and cure him. After playing and following Douban's advice, the king found himself entirely healed the next day.

Overjoyed, the king honored Douban with lavish gifts, elevating him to a position of high favor in the court. However, envy soon festered in the heart of the king's grand vizir, a greedy and treacherous man. He plotted to destroy Douban's reputation, casting doubt on the physician's loyalty to the king.

The vizir warned the king that trusting an unproven advisor was precarious, suggesting that Douban might be a traitor. Despite the vizir's manipulations, the king defended Douban fiercely, recalling an incident involving a wise vizir who advised King Sindbad not to heed everything said by a mother-in-law, hinting at the dangers of baseless accusations.

Intrigued, the vizir pressed for the full story, eager to undermine Douban further. This tension highlighted the vulnerability that often accompanies power and favor, as envy and suspicion can corrupt judgment and lead to betrayal, mirroring the precarious balance between loyalty and treachery in both human and supernatural realms.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Cleverness and Strategic Thinking Can Overcome Adversity

Critical Interpretation: Imagine yourself as the fisherman, facing seemingly insurmountable challenges and dire situations. Just when you think despair has won, you tap into your inner cleverness to navigate the storm. The importance of strategic thinking in adversity becomes crystal clear; when you encounter obstacles, it's not sheer luck that will see you through, but your ability to outsmart your challenges. Like the fisherman who trapped the genie, you find strength in creativity and wit, teaching you that your greatest weapon lies within your mind. This lesson inspires you to embrace challenges as opportunities to devise clever strategies, reminding you that with resourcefulness and patience, you too can turn daunting circumstances into pathways for success.

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Chapter 6 Summary: The Story of the Greek King and the Physician Douban

Summary of "The Story of the Greek King and the Physician Douban" and "The Story of the Husband and the Parrot"

In the Persian land of Zouman, a Greek king afflicted with leprosy had exhausted all options for healing. However, a clever physician named Douban arrived at court, boasting extensive knowledge of languages and medicinal herbs. Douban proposed an unconventional treatment: instead of traditional medicines, he would design a polo club, hollowing its handle to contain a medicinal drug. If the king played polo vigorously enough to heat the club, the remedy would penetrate his body effectively.

The king eagerly accepted Douban's plan, and after a session of intense polo, he followed the physician's instructions by bathing and sleeping. Miraculously, upon waking, he found himself completely cured, bringing immense joy to his courtiers. Douban was richly rewarded with gifts and honors.

However, this newfound favor incited jealousy in the king's grand vizir, a greedy and malicious man. The vizir attempted to sway the king against Douban, insinuating that the physician might be a traitor plotting to kill him.

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The king, confident in Douban's loyalty and intentions—citing an old story of another vizir who warned his sovereign against rumors—refused to believe the vizir's accusations.

This foreshadowing of mistrust leads to a story about a good man who, although deeply in love with his wife, leaves her company for business. To ease his absence, he buys a parrot that can recount events. Upon his return, the parrot relays information that implies infidelity, causing the husband to scold his wife based on the bird's accounts. Enraged, the wife plots revenge, instructing her slaves to torment the parrot, leading to its tragic death after the husband wrongfully believes the bird had lied about a thunderstorm during the night.

The fisherman, recounting this tale, warns the king not to dismiss Douban, fearing he might regret harming an innocent like the husband regretted killing the parrot. The vizir insists on the necessity of sacrifice for the king's safety, further entrenching the tension between loyalty and suspicion within the royal court. The vizir hints at a past incident involving punishment for a poor judgment, suggesting the potential consequences of the king's reliance on Douban. This dialogue establishes a precarious balance of power and provokes discussion on trust and betrayal, setting the stage for further conflict rooted in jealousy and deception.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of trust in relationships

Critical Interpretation: In a world often clouded by jealousy and suspicion, the tale of the Greek King and Douban reminds you of the profound strength found in trust. Just like the king who chose to believe in the loyalty of his physician despite the whispers of deceit, you too can inspire those around you by opting for faith over doubt. By trusting others and standing firm against baseless accusations, you nurture stronger bonds and pave the way for honest connections, recognizing that true relationships flourish when built on a foundation of belief in one another's intentions.

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Chapter 7 Summary: The Story of the Husband and the Parrot

Summary of The Story of the Husband and the Parrot and The Story of the Vizir Who Was Punished

The Story of the Husband and the Parrot

Once upon a time, a devoted husband was deeply in love with his beautiful wife. When he had to leave her for important business, he bought a remarkable parrot that could speak and recount events. He entrusted the bird to his wife's care while he was away. Upon his return, the husband inquired about her activities, and the parrot revealed truths that led him to wrongly accuse her of infidelity. Believing the parrot was merely a gossiping creature influenced by a slave, the wife sought vengeance.

On the husband's next absence, she directed her slaves to torment the parrot by creating distractions beneath its cage. When the husband returned, the parrot claimed it had suffered from a storm that night, a statement the husband dismissed as a lie. Fueled by anger and misguided trust, he killed the parrot. Soon afterward, he realized the bird's statement had been true: there had been a storm. This impulsive act of violence mirrored the fate of the vizir in a cautionary tale that followed, illustrating the perils of hasty

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judgments.

In a parallel narrative, a vizir advised the Greek king about a physician who sought to harm him. The vizir channeled the husband's impulsive regret, emphasizing the importance of discerning true loyalty and protecting oneself from danger.

The Story of the Vizir Who Was Punished

In a kingdom, a hunting prince lost his way while chasing a stag, separated from his negligent vizir. He encountered a sorrowful woman who claimed to be a lost princess from an Indian kingdom. Taking pity, he aided her, but soon discovered she was an ogress planning to eat him. Escaping her clutches, he reported this to his father, the king, who, furious at the vizir for losing his son, executed him without hesitation.

This tale serves as a warning: rash decisions can lead to dire consequences. The vizir reminded the Greek king of this as he aimed to turn the king against the physician, Douban. Misguided by the vizir, the king ordered Douban's execution under the false pretense of conspiracy, marking a cruel twist of fate for someone he wrongly suspected.

Douban, before his death, wheedled for a chance to organize his affairs and

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gifted the king a precious book, promising that his severed head could answer questions if the king followed certain instructions. After executing Douban, the king attempted to heed his posthumous advice, only to unwittingly ingest poison hidden in the pages.

The outcome was tragic; the king, rather than gaining wisdom, met a swift death due to his wrongful actions—typifying the theme of injustice and the consequences of mistrust. The vizir's advice, intended to protect, led ultimately to both the king's demise and the vizir's punishment.

These intertwined stories illustrate the themes of jealousy, deceit, and the repercussions of hasty judgments, cautioning characters against the weight of their decisions and the inevitable justice that follows cruel acts.

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Chapter 8: The Story of the Vizir Who Was Punished

The Story of the Vizir Who Was Punished

In a distant kingdom, a king deeply cared for his son, a passionate hunter. Concerned for his son's safety, the king ordered his grand-vizir to accompany the young prince on all his hunting adventures. One fateful day, while pursuing a stag, the prince became separated from the vizir and soon found himself lost. As he wandered, he encountered a beautiful woman weeping by the roadside. She claimed to be the daughter of an Indian king who had fallen from her horse. Feeling pity, the prince offered to help her.

However, as they passed a dilapidated building, the prince followed her inside, only to overhear her sinister plans. The lady was not what she seemed; she was an ogress who had lured him into her lair to consume him. Realizing the danger, the prince quickly made his escape, riding back to his father. He recounted the incident, blaming the vizir's negligence for his close brush with death. In a fit of rage, the king executed the vizir on the spot.

As the story shifts, we meet a Greek king manipulated by his deceitful vizir, who sows doubt about the physician Douban, the healer who had saved the king's life. The vizir suggested that the king should eliminate Douban to

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ensure his own safety. Misled and fearful, the king ordered the physician's execution. Northe physician pleaded for mercy, proposing to leave behind a precious book that could answer the king's questions after his death. Intrigued, the king postponed the execution.

On the day of his execution, the physician presented his book just as he had promised. Following the gruesome act, the king did indeed open the book, inadvertently triggering his own demise as poisonous ink soaked through the pages, leading to his ruin. The physician's head's final words, taunting the tyrant, echoed through the hall as both the king and the physician met death.

Meanwhile, a fisherman had trapped a genius in a vase. Upon discovering its great power, the fisherman initially contemplated punishing the genius but ultimately released it after the genius promised to reward him. The genius led the fisherman to a lake filled with fish of unique colors, advising him to catch them only once a day for fear of repercussions.

The fisherman followed the genius's guidance and brought the stunning fish to the Sultan, receiving a fortune in gold. However, the kitchen was thrown into chaos as a beautiful maiden emerged from the fish's cooking. After her appearance, the fish became cinders, and the grand-vizir, astonished by the strange happenings, summoned the fisherman again for more fish.

Time passed, and the Sultan's curiosity over the fish led him to the lake.

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Upon arrival, he decided to uncover the mystery behind the lake and the magical fish. Little did he know, the truth would lead him to a shocking encounter with a young man trapped by an enchantress.

The Story of the Young King of the Black Isles

The narrative continues as the young man reveals he is the son of Mahmoud, the king of the Black Isles. A once-thriving kingdom now turned desolate after his enchantress wife cursed him, leaving him half-marble and forever in torment. The prince shared that after discovering her treachery, she transformed his capital into a lake and sentenced him to daily abuse.

Determined to free the young king, the Sultan of the adjacent kingdom devised a plan with him. On the following day, the Sultan executed the young prince's abuser, the enchantress, disguised as her former slave. This act of vengeance transformed the prince back into his human form and restored the kingdom's people trapped as fish.

After conveying the tragic fate of his former companion, the Sultan generously offered to escort the young king back to his realm, promising him a position as his heir. Their journey was filled with camaraderie, rich gifts, and a shared vision of restoring balance to the lands. Upon returning, the Sultan organized a grand assembly to share the tale of their adventure.

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and honor the fisherman for his part in the prince's liberation, ensuring happiness and prosperity for him and his family.

Thus, the stories weave through themes of betrayal, tyranny, and eventual redemption, painting a rich tapestry of fate, magic, and the consequences of one's actions.

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Chapter 9 Summary: The Story of the Young King of the Black Isles

Summary of "The Story of the Young King of the Black Isles"

In the land of the Black Isles, named for four mountains that were once islands, the young prince shares a tragic tale of betrayal and enchantment.

His father, King Mahmoud, passed away, and the prince believed he found love in his cousin, whom he wed. However, overhearing her maids reveals a dark truth: she is an enchantress and no longer loves him, harboring a deadly desire toward him.

After the prince unknowingly injures her favorite slave, the enchantress spirals into deep mourning, transforming their vibrant city into a desolate lake, with the hearts of its inhabitants trapped as colorful fish. She further curses the prince, turning him into a grotesque half-man, half-marble figure, and subjects him to daily beatings.

Compassionate, the Sultan learns of the prince's sufferings and vows to help. They concoct a plan to rid the kingdom of the enchantress. The Sultan kills the enchanted slave, feigning his death, to trick the enchantress into transforming the prince back to his human form. When she does so, believing that the enslaved one can now speak, she unwittingly assists in

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restoring the prince's humanity.

Once the prince is free, the Sultan orders the enchantress to undo all her spells. In a climactic turning point, the Sultan slays the enchantress, avenging the prince's suffering and restoring the kingdom. With the enchantress defeated, the rightful forms of the people are restored, and the kingdom blossoms once more.

Grateful, the prince accompanies the Sultan back home, who adopts him as his heir. The tale concludes with the Sultan rewarding those who aided in the prince's liberation, spreading joy and prosperity throughout the land.

Summary of "The Story of the Three Calenders, Sons of Kings, and of Five Ladies of Bagdad"

During the reign of Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid, a humble yet wise porter finds himself entwined in a riddle of fate when a mysterious veiled lady hires him to carry her lavish purchases across Baghdad. The lady meticulously collects extravagant items, revealing a taste for fine things and hinting at a grand endeavor.

Upon arriving at a splendid palace, the porter discovers three beautiful women: Zobeida, the eldest, Sadie, the porteress, and Amina, the housekeeper. Struck by the opulence and beauty, he is invited to join them

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for an evening of merriment. As they drink wine, the ladies engage in lively conversation, charmed by the porter's candidness.

Their revelry is interrupted by the arrival of three strange figures: the Calenders, blind in one eye and freshly shaven. Amid laughter, the porter, still intoxicated by wine, inadvertently provokes a conflict over their differing lifestyles. Zobeida, intrigued yet cautious, allows them entry under strict conditions of silence concerning the household's secrets.

As the night unfolds, the Calenders perform entertaining dances and share pleasant company, but a sequence of inexplicable events arises—Zobeida punishes two black dogs while showing affection towards them, and Amina faintly reveals scars beneath her flawless facade. The Caliph, disguised as a merchant, witnesses the peculiar scene unfolding and feels a growing curiosity about the origin of these ladies and their anomaly-ridden guests.

After substantial inquiry and defiance of Zobeida's warnings, tension escalates when the men are threatened with death. In a twist of fortune, Zobeida learns that the Calenders are sons of kings who have each suffered misfortunes, leading to their current disguise.

As the characters exchange stories, the humble porter is released from his fears and granted freedom. Initially feeling guilty for being drawn into the drama, he takes center stage among the guests, eager to learn the tales of the

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royal Calenders and their journeys leading to this unexpected gathering. The story hints at deeper mysteries yet to be uncovered as they prepare to share their fates with one another.

Through humor and antics, the narrative weaves threads of fate, loyalty, and the intricacies of royal lineage against the backdrop of a lavish but secretive Baghdad, inviting readers to ponder the balance of power, identity, and consequence.

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Chapter 10 Summary: The Story of the Three Calenders, Sons of Kings, and of Five Ladies of Bagdad

Summary of "The Story of the Three Calenders, Sons of Kings, and of Five Ladies of Bagdad"

In ancient Bagdad, during the reign of Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid, a humble yet perceptive porter finds himself drawn into a remarkable series of events. One day, he is approached by a mysterious lady, who instructs him to follow her. Captivated by her beauty and charm, he complies and is led to a luxurious palace where his basket is filled with exquisite wines, fruits, and flowers. Here, the porter encounters three stunning women: Zobeida, the principal lady; Sadie, the porteress; and Amina, the housekeeper.

At dinner, the porter expresses his delight and is entertained by the ladies, who agree to keep him company, provided he promises to be respectful and to remain silent about their lives. Their revelry is interrupted when Sadie introduces three unusual guests searching for refuge—three Calenders, each missing their right eye. The ladies, reluctantly at first, permit the Calenders to join, establishing rules that restrict their curiosity about the women's private affairs.

As the night progresses, music and merriment ensue, but sudden knocks at the door reveal the arrival of the Caliph, disguised as a merchant. Despite

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Zobeida's plea for discretion, the curious Caliph and his companions are drawn into the night's unfolding drama.

After an evening filled with music and laughter, Zobeida reveals a strange ritual involving two dogs, which shocks the guests. She brutally whips the dogs before tenderly comforting them, creating an air of mystery and concern among the onlookers. This leads to Amina fainting amidst her song—an act that exposes her scarred neck, deepening the enigma of their nightly rituals.

Uncontrollable curiosity compels the Caliph to demand explanations from Zobeida, leading to a tense confrontation. Zobeida, furious at the breach of hospitality, orders her slaves to execute the intruders. However, the humor of the porter's pleas and the plight of the Calenders soften her stance. She shifts her focus to her guests, who reveal their backgrounds as sons of kings, inviting her interest and tempering her anger.

The first Calender recounts his tale: he narrates the tragic series of events that culminate in his betrayal and blindness. Trapped by the jealous grand-vizir, he was tortured and fled his kingdom disguised as a Calender. He shares the heart-wrenching story of his lost cousin and the calamitous love story that ended in death. The revelations trigger a mix of sympathy and intrigue among the ladies, who are compelled to listen, realizing they could not hold onto their secrets for long.

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Zobeida grants the first Calender freedom and allows the others to stay, eager to hear their stories. This act sets the stage for a deeper exploration of the intertwining fates of the Calenders and the ladies, paving the way for a complex narrative that involves love, loss, loyalty, and intrigue against the backdrop of a rich and vibrant Bagdad.

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Chapter 11 Summary: The Story of the First Calender, Son of a King

Summary of the Stories of the First and Second Calender, Sons of Kings

The Story of the First Calender, Son of a King

The narrator, a prince and son of a king, recounts his life and the events leading to his loss of an eye and his current disguise as a Calender. The story begins with his yearly visits to his uncle's court, where he developed a close relationship with his cousin. On his last visit, the cousin hosted a grand feast and revealed a secret project—a newly built tomb he wanted to show off. The prince was sworn to secrecy and guided a mysterious lady, brought to the feast, to the tomb. His cousin then appeared, leading them to a hidden staircase under a trapdoor inside the tomb.

The narrative takes a harrowing turn when the prince learns that upon returning home, a coup led by the Grand Vizier, who held a longstanding grudge against him, has resulted in the king's death and his own imprisonment. The vizier, driven by resentment over a childhood incident, cruelly blinds the prince in one eye. He then orders his execution, but the executioner, moved by the prince's pleas, spares his life and urges him to flee.

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Disguised, the prince escapes to his uncle's kingdom, only to find his cousin missing and presumed dead. Overwhelmed with sorrow, the prince breaks his oath to his cousin and reveals the truth to his uncle. Together, they search for the tomb and discover the bodies of the prince and the lady, both perished in a tragic fate. The uncle, devastated, takes the prince as his new son, further deepening the tale of loss.

As conflict arises with the vizier's approaching army seeking to seize the uncle's kingdom, the prince escapes again through secret passages. Thus begins his journey to the famed Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid in Baghdad, where he hopes to seek retribution and refuge. Along the way, he meets other calenders, uniting in shared misfortune and leading him to a temporary haven in the city.

The Story of the Second Calender, Son of a King

The second Calender introduces his narrative by laying out the background of his early life as a well-educated young prince. His father, impressed by his intelligence, ensured he received comprehensive schooling in various subjects, notably writing. Recognizing his literary talent, the Sultan of the Indies invited the prince to his court. However, during his journey, the prince and his entourage were ambushed by robbers. Although he managed to flee, he wandered for a month, eventually finding himself at the gates of a

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beautiful city.

Visibly distressed and in tatters, the prince sought refuge with a sympathetic tailor, who warned him of the local prince's hostility toward his family. Determined to survive, the prince adapted to life as a woodcutter under the tailor's guidance until one fateful day he discovered a trapdoor in the forest. Descending into the underground palace, he encountered a beautiful woman, the daughter of the king of the Ebony Isle, imprisoned there by a jealous genius.

Entranced by her, he offers to help her escape, but she warns against antagonizing the genius. Despite her pleas, the prince angrily destroys the talisman that binds her, inadvertently invoking the wrath of the genius. A catastrophe ensues as the genie appears, wreaking havoc and demanding the prince's life for the disruption. The prince, showing loyalty toward the princess despite their brief acquaintance, refuses to identify her as his lover. The genius, enraged, beheads the princess's hand as punishment and threatens the prince.

Amidst the chaos, the genius offers the prince a chance at life at a terrible cost—he could be transformed into an animal. In a moment of desperation, the prince recalls a wise tale about forgiveness and turns to storytelling to appease the genius, hoping that narrating the tale may buy him time and save both himself and the princess.

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Conclusion

Both tales, intertwined through themes of loyalty, tragedy, and the consequences of love and betrayal, showcase the resilient spirit of the princes as they endure harrowing obstacles. The stories highlight the complexity of familial bonds, the burden of secrets, and the quest for redemption amid the chaos wrought by the actions of others. As these Calenders come to understand, their paths are irrevocably altered by the choices they make, leading them through trials that test their hearts and minds.

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Chapter 12: The Story of the Second Calender, Son of a King

Summary of the Chapter "The Story of the Second Calender, Son of a King"

The tale begins as a young prince, the son of a king, shares with Zobeida the story of how he lost his right eye. From an early age, the prince was recognized by his father for his intelligence and was educated in various subjects, including the Koran, Arabic writing, history, poetry, and outdoor pursuits. His talent for writing gained attention even as far as India, prompting an invitation from the Sultan of the Indies to visit.

As he embarked on his journey under the care of an ambassador, disaster struck when a band of robbers attacked their caravan. Outnumbered and overwhelmed, the prince managed to escape but ended up alone in an unfamiliar land after his companions were taken captive. After wandering for a month, he finally reached a flourishing city. Despite his disheveled appearance and ragged clothes, he sought refuge at a tailor's shop, where he shared his plight. The tailor advised him to keep his identity secret, as the local prince was an enemy of his father.

In his new life, the prince worked as a woodcutter for over a year. During a fateful expedition into the forest, he discovered a hidden trapdoor leading to

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an underground palace where he encountered a beautiful captive princess of the Ebony Isle. After revealing the tragic circumstances that brought her there, the princess expressed her long yearning for freedom from the clutches of a genius who had taken her on her wedding day.

Overwhelmed by feelings for her, the prince vowed to confront this genius. However, in a moment of foolish bravado, he shattered the talisman controlling the genius, leading to disastrous repercussions. The palace trembled, and out of the chaos, the genius appeared, furious at the princess. Despite the prince's efforts to take the blame for the incident, he was ultimately captured by the genius, who transformed him back into captivity.

The tale evolves as the prince recalls how he pleaded for mercy and shared the story of the Envious Man and the Dervish, which ultimately drew the genius's interest. The narrative shifts to show that even in the depths of despair, forgiveness and redemption are possible, reflecting the book's themes of jealousy, love, and fate.

"The Story of the Envious Man and Him Who Was Envied"

In a quiet town, two neighbors lived in adjacent houses, but one became envious of the other's good fortune and sought to destroy him. The targeted man fled to escape his rival's malice and became a respected dervish in a monastery. The envious neighbor couldn't bear the dervish's success and

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devised a plan to murder him, only to find that fairies in a well saved the dervish from drowning.

The dervish, having survived, learned from the fairies of a royal crisis: the Sultan's daughter had fallen into the clutches of a powerful genius. The

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Chapter 13 Summary: The Story of the Envious Man and of Him Who Was Envied

The Story of the Envious Man and of Him Who Was Envied

In a modest town, two neighboring men were consumed by envy; one man, the envied, decided to leave and seek solitude in another place. He sold his possessions and moved half a mile away to the capital, building a small abode with a garden and a well. Embracing the life of a dervish, he created a tranquil community where his virtuous reputation attracted many followers, including notable visitors who sought his blessings.

However, the envious man could not let go of his jealousy and tracked the dervish down. Posing as a seeker of counsel, he persuaded the dervish to meet him privately in the courtyard after sending the other dervishes to their cells. Once alone, the envious man seized the opportunity and threw the dervish into the old well, believing he had rid himself of his rival. Little did he know, the well was home to fairies and genies, who caught the dervish and kept him safe from harm.

From the depths of the well, the dervish overheard the fairies discussing his fate and the prince's daughter, who was ensnared by the genii named Maimoum, son of Dimdim. A solution lay within the dervish's reach—by

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using the hairs of a mystical black cat, he could cure the princess. The following day, he successfully escaped the well and began gathering the required hairs.

Meanwhile, the Sultan, desperate to save his daughter, visited the dervishes seeking help. The dervish, now fully equipped with knowledge of his enemy's plot and the solution to the princess's affliction, summoned her to the monastery. Once unveiled, the princess awakened from her cursed state, much to the Sultan's delight, and he immediately proposed the dervish as a suitor for his daughter.

As the new son-in-law, the dervish was elevated to grand vizier. Not long after, upon the Sultan's passing, the dervish ascended to the throne himself. During a royal procession, he spotted the envious man among the crowd and ordered him brought forth, greeting him amiably. The Sultan granted him wealth and commodities, demonstrating grace despite the man's treachery.

In reflecting on the tale, the narrator pointed to the Sultan's capacity to extend forgiveness, contrasting it with their own misfortunes created by ill will. However, despite the narrator's desire for mercy, the vengeful genie had other plans, seizing him and transforming him into a monkey.

The Story of the Third Calender, Son of a King

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The Third Calender, known as Agib, recounted a tale that diverged from his companions'. Unlike them, he lost his right eye not due to fate but his own folly. As the son of King Cassib, Agib took an adventurous approach to ruling, eager to sail across seas and visit islands. Eventually, he commanded a fleet to explore distant territories.

However, a fierce storm left them lost at sea, driving them toward the fearsome Black Mountain—a place known for its power to attract iron and cause shipwrecks. As Agib's ship met its terrible fate, he alone survived, clinging to a plank and drifting ashore.

Upon reaching the Black Mountain, he found a brass dome and a statue of a horse. After a dream in which a wise old man instructed him to act against the statue, Agib acceded to his words. Following the instructions, he shot an arrow that toppled the horseman into the sea. This triggered an upheaval, causing the sea to rise dramatically.

Agib boarded a boat rowed by a metal figure who had offered to return him to his homeland. Overcome with joy upon spotting land, he inadvertently exclaimed “Allah be praised!”—a phrase that resulted in his immediate abandonment at sea. After a harrowing swim, he washed ashore and discovered an uninhabited island.

Soon, the arrival of a ship brought slaves who buried a young boy

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underground. Curious, Agib uncovered the boy, who revealed a prophecy foretelling his demise by Agib's hand due to his father's fear of the statue's fall. For thirty-nine days, they shared a bond, but their camaraderie unexpectedly ended when Agib, in a tragic accident, killed the boy.

Heartbroken and fleeing from the subsequent tragedy, Agib concealed himself in the trees as the boy's father and his companions mourned. Left alone again for a month, Agib found the island shrinking and finally crossed to the mainland seeking refuge.

He eventually encountered a castle with ten young men, all blind in one eye, who welcomed him warmly but mysteriously. Despite their warnings, Agib's curiosity urged him to inquire about their unusual customs and fate. They explained that their penalty was due to a shared folly involving a Golden Door they had opened for curiosity.

Determined to learn more, Agib was sewn into a sheep's skin and dropped as bait for the roc, a monstrous bird. After being transported to glory, Agib entered a bejeweled castle filled with beautiful princesses, only for his fatal curiosity to compel him to breach the forbidden Golden Door, leading to yet another eye injury.

The cycle of misfortune continued as he, like his predecessors, was banished to seek his destiny. In the end, the three Calenders found themselves united

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in their shared exile, marked by their sacrifices and naivety, lamenting their fates yet eager to find favor from those willing to listen, meeting Zobeida, who showed them kindness despite their shared misadventures.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of forgiveness and letting go of envy

Critical Interpretation: In the tale of the envious man and the dervish, we see how envy can drive individuals to harmful actions, ultimately leading to their own downfall. The dervish's ability to forgive the envious man, despite being wronged, teaches us a powerful lesson about the necessity of releasing negative feelings and embracing forgiveness. This act of grace not only elevates the dervish to a position of power but also illustrates that true strength lies in overcoming resentment. By letting go of envy and practicing forgiveness, we can free ourselves from the burdens that weigh us down, fostering a sense of peace and empowerment in our own lives.

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Chapter 14 Summary: The Story of the Third Calender, Son of a King

The Story of the Third Calender, Son of a King

Agib, the Third Calender and son of King Cassib, recounts his tale, which starkly contrasts with that of his two blind friends. Unlike them, his own misfortune came from his own mistakes. Upon ascending to the throne, Agib was eager to win the hearts of his subjects. Driven by a newfound enthusiasm for sailing, he prepared an expedition across the sea.

His journey started well but quickly spiraled into disaster when a storm blew them far off course. The pilot, in fear of his life, revealed they had drifted near the notorious Black Mountain, known for its adamantine composition that attracted ships' iron parts, causing them to sink. As foretold, their ships succumbed, but Agib miraculously survived by clinging to a plank.

Worn out but determined, Agib ended up on the Black Mountain, where he discovered a brass dome guarded by a statue of a rider with a brass horse. Exhausted, he fell asleep under the dome, dreaming of an old man instructing him to dig beneath his feet for a bow and arrows. Following the dream's guidance, Agib shot the statue, causing the horse's rider to tumble into the sea while the mountain began to flood. Escaping on a mysterious

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metal boat piloted by a silent oar-driven figure, he accidentally exclaimed "Allah be praised!" during a moment of joy, leading to his ship vanishing beneath him as he floated in the water.

After enduring two days adrift, he washed ashore on a deserted island full of fruit trees. Soon, he discovered a group of ten slaves burying a boy in a trapdoor chamber. After freeing the boy, Agib learned the grim prophecy that foretold his (the boy's) death at the hands of Prince Agib. Not wishing to reveal his identity, Agib befriended the boy, and for thirty-nine days they enjoyed each other's company. Tragically, on the fortieth day, Agib accidentally killed the boy while reaching for a knife. To escape possible punishment, he fled the scene just as the boy's father returned for him, finding only the grave.

Alone again, Agib wandered the island until it miraculously shrank, revealing a path to the mainland. There, he stumbled upon an astonishing castle inhabited by ten blind young men who welcomed him. They were also blind in one eye, a fate linked to their past folly. Despite their warnings to avoid questions, Agib's curiosity overwhelmed him. When he pressed for answers, learning of their fate tied to the opening of a forbidden door, they reluctantly revealed their dark past involving a sheep skin, a roc, and the perils that awaited him.

Choosing to understand their fate firsthand, Agib followed their advice. He

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underwent a strange transformation and was taken to the golden-plated castle where his life took an unexpected twist. After delightful adventures with lovely princesses, he ultimately disobeyed their warning by opening a golden door, losing his right eye in a subsequent violence that mirrored the fate of his new acquaintances. Left to wander with his brothers, all similarly afflicted, Agib presented his story in hopes of finding forgiveness.

Zobeida, the listener's sovereign, granted them pardon. Thus, Agib's tale came to a close, mourning his foolish choices while finding a path to redemption and royal forgiveness.

The Seven Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor

In the reign of Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid, a poor porter named Hindbad, weary from carrying heavy loads in Bagdad, happened upon the grand house of the renowned Sindbad the Sailor. While resting, he lamented the disparity between his plight and the opulence of Sindbad. His woes caught Sindbad's attention, prompting an invitation into a sumptuous feast where Sindbad, recognizing the burdens of fate, prepared to recount his own remarkable voyages.

First Voyage:

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Sindbad began by describing how he squandered his inheritance until he sought the life of a merchant. Setting sail from Balsora, he and other traders mistakenly landed on the back of a sleeping whale. When they built a fire, the whale submerged, leaving him adrift—a fate he narrowly escaped. Saved by a passing ship, he ended up on an island governed by King Mihrage, where he gained wealth by securing a fortune in trade.

Second Voyage:

Bored of peace, Sindbad embarked again, but after becoming separated from his crew, he encountered a giant bird, the roc. After witnessing the death of a fellow trader, he escaped the valley of diamonds by cleverly seizing the creature's meat and hitching a ride back to civilization with thriving merchants.

Third Voyage:

Eager for more adventure, Sindbad set sail but faced pirates, leading to shipwreck and his eventual return to Bagdad, where his newfound wealth allowed him to help the impoverished while living lavishly himself.

Fourth Voyage:

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Against all warnings, Sindbad's wanderlust drew him back to sea. Brought to a savage island, he barely escaped the fate of being eaten by "the Old Man of the Sea," thanks to clever ingenuity involving a gourdful of wine. The king of Serendib received him warmly, showering him with riches that enabled his return to Bagdad.

Fifth Voyage:

Sindbad, yearning again for the ocean, prepared his own ship. A reckless act of violence against a roc sealed the destinies of many crew members. Yet Sindbad again emerged alive, gathering riches from wrecks before making it back home.

Sixth Voyage:

The siren call of the sea proved intolerable. After much peril, including capture by pirates, Sindbad's persistence rewarded him with experience in adventure while gaining wealth from hunting elephants, which saved his life and brought prosperity to those around him.

Seventh Voyage:

Once more summoned by the Caliph, Sindbad spared no detail recounting yet again his travels in the face of danger and endless opportunities. With

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riches amassed from every journey, he ultimately achieved serenity in his home.

In the end, with his friends gathered around him, Sindbad shared his fortunes, offering Hindbad gifts, transforming the porter's life through his newfound friendship and wealth, affirming that a life of adventure indeed yields its rewards, not just in riches, but in stories that reshape destinies.

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Chapter 15 Summary: The Seven Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor

Summary of "The Seven Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor" and "The Little Hunchback"

The Seven Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor

In ancient Baghdad during the reign of Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid, a poor porter named Hindbad, tired from carrying a heavy load, takes a break in front of the opulent house of the famed adventurer Sindbad the Sailor. As he reflects on his hardships compared to Sindbad's apparent fortune, he is summoned by Sindbad and invited to a lavish banquet. Here, Sindbad reveals that his wealth is the result of incredible adventures across the seas, which he recounts in seven voyages.

First Voyage:

Sindbad, originally a wealthy heir who squandered his fortune, decides to take up sea trading. He embarks on a voyage but becomes stranded on what he initially thinks is an island, only to learn it is an enormous whale. After a harrowing journey, he survives, reaches another island, and is taken in by the

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king. There, he eventually manages to return to Baghdad with riches.

Second Voyage:

Longing for adventure, Sindbad sets sail again, but is left behind when his ship departs from a deserted island. Upon exploring, he encounters a roc's egg, which ultimately leads to his rescue from the island by a merchant after a series of dangers involving snakes and diamonds.

Third Voyage:

Sindbad's third trip sees him shipwrecked on an island inhabited by tiny hairy savages. After being captured and witnessing the terrifying giant they serve, he devises an escape plan with the other shipwrecked sailors. They blind the giant and flee the island in rafts, ultimately being rescued.

Fourth Voyage:

Choosing to continue exploring rather than settling down, Sindbad's ship is caught in a storm and wrecked. He survives on an island filled with treasures, but faces potential death again. Using the river that runs through the cave filled with jewels, he constructs a raft that takes him to safety, returning with a bounty of riches to Baghdad.

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Fifth Voyage:

Sindbad, seeking more adventure, builds his own ship and sets out with merchants. They mistakenly destroy a young roc, provoking its parents. After a cataclysmic attack, Sindbad survives, finds another treasure-rich island, and returns once more to Baghdad.

Sixth Voyage:

Ignoring prior dangers, Sindbad embarks on a sixth voyage and gets lost in a treacherous sea, ultimately shipwrecking again. He encounters hostile locals but manages to escape, eventually finding refuge in another land, where he is treated with great respect. After a stay, he is sent back to Baghdad with gifts from the king.

Seventh Voyage:

Sindbad, just as he resolves never to sail again, is commanded by the caliph to deliver gifts to the king of Serendib. On his return journey, he is captured by pirates but manages to escape. His cleverness leads to a fortunate partnership with a merchant, where he excels in hunting elephants for their ivory, ultimately gaining his freedom and wealth.

In the end, Sindbad enjoys a life of ease and generously rewards Hindbad for

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his kindness and friendship.

The Little Hunchback

In the kingdom of Kashgar, a tailor and his wife enjoy life until a jovial hunchback arrives and entertains them. After sharing a meal, the hunchback accidentally chokes on a fish bone and dies. Fearing the consequences, the tailor and his wife plot to shift the blame to a nearby Jewish doctor. They carry the body to the doctor's home, where the doctor melodramatically mistakes the hunchback for a thief and kicks him, also mistaking him for a live intruder.

As a consequence of this misunderstanding, the hunchback's death triggers a series of comically tragic events. The doctor and the purveyor (a local merchant) both end up accused of the murder. Amid scandal, a chain of accusations ensues, drawing in the tailor, the doctor, and the merchant. The Sultan learns of the incidents and orders all the accused to present their versions of the tale.

In a twist of fate, after all of them think they are going to be punished, they reveal their stories to the Sultan. The comical complexity ultimately saves

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each of them from execution, showcasing the absurdity of their situation.

The tale serves as a light-hearted reminder of the unpredictability of fate and the consequences of reckless behavior, particularly in the face of a mysterious death. The incidents culminate in both humor and the embarrassment of the characters, leaving an impression of resilience through unexpected adversity.

Title	Summary
The Seven Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor	In Baghdad, Sindbad the Sailor recounts seven adventures to a porter named Hindbad, detailing his journeys from wealth to shipwrecks, encounters with magical creatures, and eventual riches, each voyage filled with danger and fortune.
First Voyage	Sindbad becomes stranded on a whale, survives, and returns home wealthy.
Second Voyage	Sindbad explores an island, encounters a roc's egg, and is rescued by a merchant.
Third Voyage	Captured by a giant on an island, Sindbad escapes by blinding the giant.
Fourth Voyage	After a storm wrecks his ship, Sindbad survives on a treasure island and returns rich.
Fifth Voyage	After provoking a roc, Sindbad finds another treasure-rich island and returns home.
Sixth Voyage	Lost at sea, Sindbad is treated with respect in another land and returns with gifts.
Seventh Voyage	After being captured by pirates, Sindbad escapes and becomes wealthy through a partnership.

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Title	Summary
The Little Hunchback	In Kashgar, a hunchback's accidental death leads to a humorous series of misunderstandings involving a tailor, a doctor, and a merchant, ultimately resulting in unexpected outcomes.

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Chapter 16: The Little Hunchback

Summary of "The Little Hunchback" and "The Story of the Barber's Fifth Brother"

The Little Hunchback

In the kingdom of Kashgar, a tailor and his wife, devoted to each other, encounter a little hunchback who entertains them with songs and tambourine play. Amused, the tailor decides to take him home as a surprise for his wife. However, during dinner, the hunchback chokes on a fish bone and unexpectedly dies. The couple panics, fearing punishment for accidental murder, and concocts a plan to shift blame onto a nearby Jewish doctor.

They carry the hunchback's body to the doctor's house and claim it is a patient in need. The doctor, eager for a client, rushes down the stairs but kicks the corpse in the dark, sending it tumbling down. Upon discovering the hunchback is dead, he fears he has committed murder. In desperate attempts to hide the evidence, the doctor and his wife decide to move the body to their neighbor's house, a Mussulman purveyor, letting it down the chimney.

When the purveyor finds the body in his room, he mistakenly believes it to be a thief and strikes it, believing he has killed a man. In panic, he moves the corpse outside. Moments later, a drunken Christian merchant stumbles upon

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the hunchback and, taking him for a thief, knocks him down again. The chief of police intervenes, and the merchant is arrested for murdering a Mussulman, a serious charge that could lead to his execution.

As rumors swirl, the purveyor, the doctor, and ultimately the tailor each confess to the accidental killing, each believing they alone hold the guilt of the hunchback's demise. Their tangled confessions lead to chaos, until the Sultan demands the actual story behind the events. After a series of confessions and misunderstandings, the Sultan orders the release of the innocent merchant and the doctor, ensuring their dramatic tale is recorded for posterity.

The Story of the Barber's Fifth Brother

The narrative shifts to Alnaschar, the idle fifth brother of the barber. Inherited with a modest sum of money after their father's death, Alnaschar decides to invest in glassware with dreams of wealth and social status. He imagines a life filled with riches, opulence, and marrying the grand vizier's daughter. His daydreams lead him to boast about future riches aloud, catching the attention of a neighbor tailor.

As reality sets in after a string of comical misfortunes culminate in the destruction of his glass basket, the once arrogant Alnaschar faces an unsettling truth. However, his fortune changes when a noble lady hears his

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plight and rewards him with five hundred gold pieces. Elated, Alnaschar then encounters an old woman who tricks him into believing she can connect him to a wealthy lady for marriage.

He follows her to a house, where he's captured by a group of ruthless

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Interpretation

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Chapter 17 Summary: The Story of the Barber's Fifth Brother

Summary of "The Story of the Barber's Fifth Brother"

Alnaschar, the fifth brother of the barber, was a lazy man who, after their father's death, inherited a modest sum of seven hundred silver drachmas. In his ignorance and aspiration for wealth, he invested it all in glassware, thinking it would yield him great fortune. He envisioned a future of wealth and grandeur, dreaming of marrying the grand-vizir's daughter and commanding a life filled with luxury and power.

However, in his daydreams, Alnaschar lost awareness of his surroundings and accidentally shattered his glassware, leading to the loss of all his investment. His misfortune attracted the attention of a nearby tailor, who scolded Alnaschar for his unrealistic dreams and disdainful behavior towards a hypothetical wife. Humiliated, Alnaschar lamented his vanity when a kind lady happened upon him and, moved by his plight, gifted him five hundred gold pieces.

Elated, Alnaschar returned home, but his new fortune attracted an old woman who, upon entering, manipulated him into giving her alms under the guise of needing water for prayer. She deceived him into following her to

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introduce him to a wealthy lady who supposedly wished to marry him. Unfortunately, when he followed, he was captured by a gang of criminals who had previously deceived the lady.

Initially mistreated and imprisoned, Alnaschar managed to escape after a few days, returning to the barber's house for nursing care. While recovering, he crafted a plan for revenge against the old woman, disguising himself to confront her.

Cornering her under disguise, Alnaschar found his revenge, killing the wicked black slave and the old woman, before confronting the lady. She revealed how she had long been held captive by the same villains. Alnaschar learned that she had once been a wealthy merchant's wife and led him to the treasure amassed by the criminals. However, he soon found himself bereft once more, losing all the wealth they found to the lady's cunning.

Falsely accused of theft and stripped of everything again, Alnaschar's life descended back into misery until he was helped by his brother, the barber. The story unfolds to showcase themes of greed, deception, revenge, and the fickle nature of fortune, ultimately reinforcing the lesson that one's pride and dreams can lead to downfall.

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Summary of "The Story of the Barber's Sixth Brother"

The sixth brother, Schacabac, was known for his misfortune and charm, although he initially inherited one hundred silver drachmas, he quickly lost it all and was forced to beg for survival. Schacabac adeptly made friends with servants to gain access to wealthy households. One day, he ventured into a lavish mansion belonging to the reputedly generous Barmecide family.

Upon meeting the elderly Barmecide, Schacabac, in his usual manner, claimed to be starving. The Barmecide, full of fictitious hospitality, pretended to dine with Schacabac, serving imaginary dishes and pouring invisible wine, which Schacabac humorously mimicked. Their charade turned into a sincere friendship as the Barmecide appreciated Schacabac's humor and invited him to stay at his home for twenty years.

However, following the Barmecide's death, Schacabac found himself destitute again, soon becoming a pilgrim bound for Mecca. Captured by Bedouin raiders, he was cruelly treated until he was finally rescued by the barber, bringing him back to Baghdad.

When the barber recounted Schacabac's tale to the Caliph, it elicited laughter. Yet, the Caliph sent the barber away for reasons undisclosed. Years later, upon returning to find all his brothers had passed, the barber revealed his numerous adventures, intertwined with Schacabac's, showcasing the

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themes of fortune, friendship, and the comedic twists of fate. Each brother's tale reflects on human desires and foibles, consistently showing the unpredictable nature of life.

These stories culminate in the barber's experience of being celebrated and rewarded for his skillful storytelling, earning him a pension and a respected place near the Caliph, thereby emphasizing the value of wit and wisdom in navigating life's trials.

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Chapter 18 Summary: The Story of the Barber's Sixth Brother

Summary of "The Story of the Barber's Sixth Brother"

In this tale, the barber recounts the story of his sixth brother, Schacabac, who initially inherits a fortune of a hundred silver drachmas. However, due to unfortunate circumstances, he loses all his wealth and is forced to beg for a living. With his charm and eloquence, he navigates his new life, often befriending household servants in hopes of gaining access to their masters.

One day, Schacabac visits a large house known to belong to a wealthy man named Barmecide, famed for his generosity. Following a warm reception, Schacabac asks for alms, to which the Barmecide expresses disbelief that anyone could starve in his presence. This is the beginning of a farcical dining experience where Schacabac and the Barmecide pretend to eat and drink imaginary meals, with neither bringing a real feast to the table. Instead of being offended, the Barmecide embraces Schacabac's playful spirit, rewarding him with actual food and a place in his household.

Over two decades, Schacabac and the Barmecide share a bond, living together happily until the Barmecide dies suddenly, leaving Schacabac impoverished once more. Desperate, Schacabac joins a caravan heading for

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Mecca, only to be captured by Bedouin raiders. After enduring harsh treatment as a slave, he is abandoned on a mountain.

Eventually, the barber, hearing about his brother's plight, rescues Schacabac. However, this amusing recount ends with the barber being ordered to leave Baghdad by the Caliph, which leads him to wander aimlessly until he learns of the Caliph's death years later. Upon returning to the city, he finds that all his brothers have died. This story, filled with humor and the absurdity of life's fortunes, illustrates themes of resilience, friendship, and the whimsical turns of fate.

Summary of "The Adventures of Prince Camaralzaman and the Princess Badoura"

Located twenty days' sailing from Persia is the isle of the children of Kaledan, ruled by King Schahzaman, who is troubled by his lack of an heir despite having four wives. After consulting his wise grand vizier, the king prays for a son, leading to the birth of Prince Camaralzaman, celebrated for his beauty and charm. The king dreams of abdicating in favor of his son but finds Camaralzaman unwilling to marry, leading to a prolonged struggle over the prince's reluctance.

Ultimately, the prince is imprisoned for disobeying his father's wishes regarding marriage. While in confinement, he draws the attention of the fairy

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Maimoune, who is enchanted by his beauty. Meanwhile, in another realm, the beautiful Princess Badoura is trapped by her father's insistence on marriage, leading her to dramatic acts of defiance.

As fate intertwines the stories of Camaralzaman and Badoura, Maimoune and a rival genie wager on both their beauties, leading to a series of encounters. Camaralzaman awakens his feelings for the princess, while Badoura, under disguise as a prince, navigates her own trials.

After several adventures, including the prince's pursuit of a stolen talisman that leads him to discover treasure and a means to reunite with Badoura, they eventually find each other. With the princess's cleverness and Camaralzaman's determination, they navigate the complexities of their situations, ultimately revealing identities and love, culminating in a grand wedding that unites the two kingdoms.

The tale concludes with each character flourishing, their love and respect for one another solidifying their happiness and prosperity in their shared reign. Themes of love, destiny, and the intertwining of various fates resonate throughout this enchanting narrative.

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Chapter 19 Summary: The Adventures of Prince Camaralzaman and the Princess Badoura

The Adventures of Prince Camaralzaman and the Princess Badoura

The tale begins on the isle of Khaledan, near Persia, ruled by King Schahzaman. The king, despite his prosperity and peace, is deeply troubled by the absence of an heir. Seeking advice from his wise grand-vizir, he prays fervently for a son, and his prayers are answered with the birth of a beautiful boy, whom they name Camaralzaman, or "Moon of the Century."

As Camaralzaman grows up, he becomes a handsome and accomplished young man, prompting his father to consider abdicating the throne in his favor. However, each time the king broaches the subject of marriage, Camaralzaman firmly refuses, expressing his disdain for marrying a woman he knows nothing about.

Eventually, the king, frustrated by his son's obstinacy, imprisons him in a tower. While imprisoned, the fairy Maimoune, drawn to the prince's beauty, visits him and kisses him tenderly as she contemplates his plight. Striking a bet with a rival genie, Danhasch, over their respective beauties, she fetches the sleeping Princess Badoura from China to compare with Camaralzaman. Upon awakening, both the prince and princess find themselves inexplicably

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drawn to each other, leading to Camaralzaman's impulsive decision to keep Badoura's ring as a token.

Meanwhile, Princess Badoura awakens to find her beloved missing, and when she learns of the magical circumstances that separated them, she too is filled with despondence. Unbeknownst to both, they are connected by fate, and they both long for one another across their respective kingdoms.

Camaralzaman, upon returning to his family, follows the guidance of his fairy encounter to seek the beautiful princess. After her father, King Schahzaman, learns of Camaralzaman's predicament, the two kingdoms unite through Camaralzaman's persisting love and Badoura's enchanting charm. The two finally reunite amidst tremendous joy, leading to their union and subsequent ruling as a beloved royal couple, fulfilling their destinies together.

Noureddin and the Fair Persian

The narrative begins in the kingdom of Balsora during the reign of Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid, where King Zinebi finds himself accompanied by two vizirs: Khacan, who is kind-hearted and beloved by the people, and Saouy, who is miserly and resentful. This dynamic sets the stage for intrigue and conflict.

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During a council meeting, King Zinebi declares his desire for an exceptionally beautiful female slave, prompting Khacan to undertake the task of finding one who meets the king's lofty expectations. It is Saouy who asserts that such a slave would fetch no less than 10,000 gold pieces, leading the king to approve the price.

Khacan ultimately purchases a stunning Persian slave who embodies the qualities desired by the king. Named the Fair Persian, she possesses beauty, intelligence, and a variety of skills. While residing under Khacan's care, she inadvertently attracts the attention of the vizir's son, Noureddin, who is immediately smitten, and the two become embroiled in forbidden love.

As Noureddin pursues the Fair Persian, tensions rise when Khacan's wife catches wind of their relationship, fearing for both her husband's reputation and her son's future. After dealing with the fallout of their ill-fated romance, Noureddin ultimately finds himself in dire straits, having squandered the family's wealth while indulging in lavish parties.

Caught between his desires and financial ruin, Noureddin reluctantly considers selling the Fair Persian, believing it to be the only way out of his predicament. Tricking the vizir into thinking he is compliant, he tries to navigate the affairs, but is soon betrayed by Saouy, who seeks revenge for his earlier humiliation.

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In a twist of fate, Noureddin, aided by the Caliph's compassion and quick wit, rises from the ashes of his misfortune. The Caliph ultimately rewards him for his fortitude and bravery, and he is reunited with the Fair Persian. Instead of living in disgrace, they forge a new path together, embracing their love and ensuring that the past's shadows of betrayal give way to a bright future filled with promise.

Both tales explore themes of love, ambition, and the test of character in the face of adversity, ultimately leading to triumphant resolutions that celebrate virtue and the strength of human connection.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The power of fate and love to guide one's destiny

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing at a crossroads in your life, uncertain of the path ahead. In the story of Camaralzaman and Badoura, we see how love transcends boundaries and even the most formidable obstacles. Their fateful connection, despite the trials and tribulations they face, is a poignant reminder that sometimes, the universe has a plan for us that unfolds in ways we least expect. Just like them, you too can draw courage from the belief that genuine desire and connection can lead to fulfillment and joy, reinforcing the idea that following your heart can illuminate your true path in life.

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Chapter 20: Noureddin and the Fair Persian

Summary of "Noureddin and the Fair Persian" & "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp"

Noureddin and the Fair Persian

In the kingdom of Balsora, ruled by King Zinebi during the reign of Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid, two viziers named Khacan and Saouy manage the affairs of the state. Khacan is beloved—generous and kind—while Saouy is resentful and miserly, always seeking to undermine Khacan. The king, desiring a beautiful and accomplished slave, consults his viziers on the matter. Saouy claims it will cost 10,000 gold pieces to find such a slave, prompting the king to task Khacan with securing one.

Khacan finds "The Fair Persian," a slave of unmatched beauty and wit, and purchases her with the king's gold. He warns her to avoid his headstrong son, Noureddin. However, the young man becomes enamored with the Persian and, despite her loyalty to Khacan's intentions, he seeks to win her heart.

As time passes, Khacan's wife arranges for the Fair Persian to enter the bath, where her beauty is greatly enhanced. Noureddin cannot resist intruding,

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leading to a confrontation with his father upon discovery. In a fit of rage, Khacan threatens Noureddin but ultimately makes a pact to marry him to the Persian.

Khacan later falls ill and, on his deathbed, urges Noureddin never to abandon the Fair Persian. Following his father's death, however, Noureddin squanders his wealth, leading to hardship. He eventually comes to the realization that he must sell the Persian to survive. He attempts to do so but is intercepted by Saouy, who aims to claim her for himself. In a twist of fate, Noureddin stands against Saouy, winning the admiration of the people. In the ensuing chaos, he is forced to flee with the Persian to avoid the king's wrath, as the vengeful Saouy plots against them.

Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp

Aladdin, a poor tailor's son, is idle and carefree until he encounters a magician posing as his long-lost uncle. The magician, seeking a powerful lamp hidden in a magical cave, uses Aladdin as his unwitting tool. He tricks Aladdin into retrieving the lamp but, upon realizing Aladdin's potential, abandons him in the cave.

After two days of despair, Aladdin rubs the magical ring given to him by the magician, summoning a powerful genie who frees him. Aladdin returns

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home with the lamp, which he accidentally rubs, releasing a second genie that grants his wishes. With newfound wealth, Aladdin impresses a Sultan, who gives his daughter's hand in marriage when presented with jewels.

However, the magician, realizing Aladdin has survived and thrived, returns

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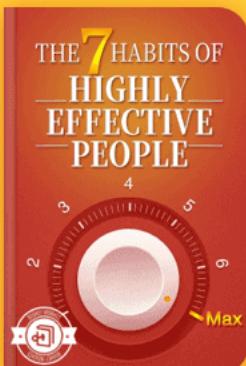
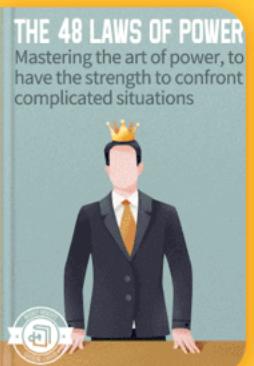
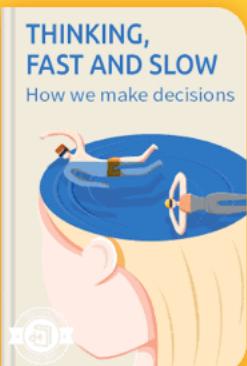
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Chapter 21 Summary: Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp

Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp

In a faraway place, a poor tailor named Mustapha had a son named Aladdin, who was carefree and idle, spending his days playing in the streets.

Tragically, Mustapha died, leaving Aladdin to continue his negligent ways despite his mother's pleas. One day, a stranger approached Aladdin, claiming to be his uncle from Africa. This stranger, a cunning magician, had traveled for years and wanted to help Aladdin, offering him wealth and a new life.

After convincing Aladdin and his mother of his familial ties, the magician took Aladdin on an adventurous outing outside the city, leading him to a hidden valley. There, under the guise of revealing a treasure, the magician forced Aladdin to retrieve a magical lamp from a cave, warning him not to touch anything else. When Aladdin found the lamp, the magician demanded it but was enraged when Aladdin refused to hand it over until leaving the cave. In a fit of anger, the magician sealed Aladdin inside, revealing his true intentions to obtain the lamp for himself.

Alone in darkness, Aladdin clutched the ring gifted to him by the magician, unknowingly summoning a powerful genie. The genie freed Aladdin and returned him home, where he discovered the lamp could grant wishes. He

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and his mother soon enjoyed a life of wealth and luxury thanks to the genie's magic.

One day, captivated by the beauty of the Sultan's daughter, Aladdin became determined to marry her. His mother took jewels from the enchanted garden and presented them to the Sultan, securing Aladdin a promise of marriage after convincing him he was worthy of the princess's hand. Despite a rival suitor, the grand-vizier's son, Aladdin's resourcefulness and the genie's help enabled him to marry the princess.

As years went by, Aladdin's brilliance as a ruler flourished. However, the magician from Africa discovered Aladdin's success and devised a cunning plan to retrieve the lamp. Disguising himself, the magician tricked the princess into giving away the magical lamp, seizing control of the genie and abducting both the palace and the princess to Africa.

Upon realizing the lamp was gone, Aladdin begged the genie of the ring for help. After a weary journey, he was reunited with the princess and cleverly secured the lamp from the magician, returning to China. After defeating the magician, Aladdin revealed the truth to the Sultan, ensuring justice prevailed. The story concludes with Aladdin succeeding the Sultan and reigning with peace and prosperity, fulfilling a legacy of honor.

The Adventures of Haroun-al-Raschid, Caliph of Bagdad

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In the opulent palace of Baghdad, Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid felt a deep sense of ennui. His faithful grand-vizir, Giafar, noted his melancholy and reminded him of their duty to observe the city's governance anonymously. Encouraged by Giafar, Haroun decided to disguise himself and venture out as a merchant.

Crossing the Euphrates, they observed a well-ordered city but were soon halted by a blind beggar, Baba-Abdalla, who implored Haroun for alms and a single strike as punishment for a past misdeed. This strange request intrigued the Caliph, who complied out of curiosity before continuing on his way.

Determined to understand this peculiar vow, Haroun sent Giafar back to instruct Baba-Abdalla to appear at the palace the next evening. They continued their inspection but soon encountered a cruel horseman mistreating his steed, eliciting further concern from Haroun.

The following day, after prayer, the blind beggar and the horseman were brought before the Caliph. He questioned Baba-Abdalla, wanting to know the reason behind his odd request for punishment. Baba-Abdalla revealed that his actions were a penance for a terrible sin he had committed, seeking redemption through suffering.

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With the promise of an explanation, the narrative unfolds into a deeper moral exploration of justice, compassion, and the intricate values woven into the fabric of leadership, as the Caliph seeks to understand his people's struggles and the significance of their personal trials.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of self-discovery and resilience

Critical Interpretation: In the tale of Aladdin, your journey reflects the deep importance of self-discovery and resilience, akin to how Aladdin navigated challenges and transformed from a carefree boy to a wise leader. You can find inspiration in his ability to rise from despair, harness opportunities, and confront adversities with resourcefulness. Just like Aladdin, when faced with life's obstacles, you have the power to tap into your inner strength, revealing the potential within you that can lead to success and fulfillment.

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Chapter 22 Summary: The Adventures of Haroun-al-Raschid, Caliph of Bagdad

In the opening chapters of **The Adventures of Haroun-al-Raschid, Caliph of Bagdad**, we meet the weary Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid, who is pondering life's distractions when his loyal grand vizier, Giafar, reminds him of a commitment. The Caliph had secretly pledged to observe the state of justice and order in his city to alleviate his melancholy, and upon hearing this, he agrees to partake in the mission. They both disguise themselves as merchants and set out to explore the city.

Their journey leads them to a bridge where they encounter a blind beggar named Baba-Abdalla. Surprisingly, Baba-Abdalla requests not just charity but a strike from the Caliph, claiming he has sworn an oath to receive punishment along with alms. Moved by the man's odd request, Haroun complies and strikes him lightly, after which the beggar bestows his blessings. Intrigued, the Caliph sends Giafar to summon him to the palace to share his story.

As they continue, they witness a cruel horseman mercilessly driving his horse around a square, prompting the Caliph to order him to appear at the palace alongside Baba-Abdalla. The next evening, after prayers, the Caliph gathers the two men in his hall.

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Baba-Abdalla reveals his tragic past, sharing that he was once a wealthy camel driver. Orphaned at a young age, he inherited a fortune and amassed an impressive line of camels. His downfall began when he encountered a dervish during a rest on his travels. The dervish, knowing of a nearby treasure, enticed Baba-Abdalla with promises of wealth. Greed clouded Baba-Abdalla's judgment, leading him to betray the dervish's trust.

As they located the treasure hidden between cliffs, Baba-Abdalla grew increasingly greedy, ultimately taking everything from the dervish instead of sharing the spoils as promised. In his desperation for more, he then coveted a magical ointment the dervish possessed, which could reveal earthly treasures when applied to one eye but would blind the other. Ignoring the dervish's warnings, he insisted on using the ointment on both eyes, leading to his present state of blindness.

Now, as Baba-Abdalla recounts this tale, he expresses his rigorous vow to endure punishment by requesting blows from strangers as penance for his greed. Upon hearing this, the Caliph, in a display of compassion, recognizes Baba-Abdalla's suffering as sufficient atonement. He declares that henceforth, Baba-Abdalla will receive support from the royal treasury so he can repent without further suffering, thus offering him a chance for redemption.

Through this interplay of characters, the narrative explores themes of greed,

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the consequences of one's actions, repentance, and the compassionate nature of true leadership.

Chapter Summary

In the opening chapters of "The Adventures of Haroun-al-Raschid, Caliph of Bagdad," Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid is counseled by his grand vizier, Giafar, to observe justice in the city, leading them to disguise as merchants. They encounter a blind beggar, Baba-Abdalla, who asks for both alms and a light punishment from the Caliph. Moved, Haroun complies, later summoning Baba-Abdalla to recount his story. Baba-Abdalla shares his past as a wealthy camel driver who fell into greed after encountering a dervish and betrayed him for treasure. His greed resulted in his blindness after using a magical ointment incorrectly. Upon hearing his tale, the Caliph decides to provide for Baba-Abdalla from the treasury, allowing him to repent without further suffering, exploring themes of greed, consequences, and compassion in leadership.

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Chapter 23 Summary: The Story of the Blind Baba-Abdalla

Summary of "The Story of the Blind Baba-Abdalla" and "The Story of Sidi-Nouman"

The Story of the Blind Baba-Abdalla

Set in Baghdad, the tale begins with Baba-Abdalla, a young orphan who inherits a modest fortune and, through hard work, builds a fortune that includes eighty camels. While returning from a journey to Balsora, he meets a dervish who shares the secret of a hidden treasure immense enough to fill his camels. Overcome by greed, Baba-Abdalla convinces the dervish to take only half of the treasure in exchange for guiding him to it.

The dervish leads him to a secluded valley where, after performing a magical ritual, reveals a palace filled with riches. Baba-Abdalla, blinded by greed, rushes to gather gold, while the dervish collects precious stones. After loading their camels, the dervish discreetly takes a small wooden box of ointment, claiming it has valuable properties.

Once they part ways, Baba-Abdalla's envy grows as he believes the dervish needs no treasure and can easily obtain more. He catches up with the dervish and persuades him to relinquish more camels under the guise of concern for

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the dervish's ability to manage them. In his escalating greed, Baba-Abdalla ultimately takes all eighty camels from the dervish.

Having obtained everything, he becomes obsessed with the ointment and persuades the dervish to demonstrate its powers. The dervish warns him not to anoint his right eye, or he would lose his sight, but Baba-Abdalla, driven by greed, insists. As a result, he becomes blind, recognizing too late that his avarice led to his downfall. The dervish departs, leaving him to suffer his punishment, and Baba-Abdalla is later rescued by passing merchants.

As a blind beggar, he learns to expiate his greed by accepting blows as penance for his past. Moved by this story, the Caliph promises to provide for Baba-Abdalla's needs, allowing him the opportunity for redemption.

The Story of Sidi-Nouman

Following Baba-Abdalla's tale, Haroun-al-Raschid, the Caliph, turns to Sidi-Nouman, a young man accused of mistreating his horse. Although Sidi-Nouman is ashamed, the Caliph encourages him to reveal the truth behind his actions.

Sidi-Nouman explains that he comes from a respectable family and married without ever having met his bride, Amina. Initially enchanted by her beauty, he soon grows concerned about her peculiar eating habits—Amina only

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consumes minimal food with a pin, refusing to share a proper meal with him. Despite his efforts to coax her into eating, her behavior remains unchanged, leading him to suspect something is amiss.

One night, driven by curiosity, he follows her as she stealthily leaves the house. To his horror, he discovers Amina in a cemetery with a ghoul, digging up and consuming corpses. Horrified, Sidi-Nouman realizes he has married a sorceress with a grotesque appetite for the dead.

Engulfed by rage and revealing his knowledge of her dark ways, Sidi-Nouman confronts Amina at dinner. She, realizing he has pried into her secret, turns him into a dog as punishment for his curiosity. Escaping her immediate wrath, he spends time as a dog, enduring prejudice and battling against the hardships of his altered form.

Eventually, he finds refuge in a baker's shop, where he earns his keep by identifying counterfeit coins. His fame grows, catching the attention of a woman who believes he is a man transformed by magic. She takes him to her daughter, a skilled magician who restores Sidi-Nouman to his human form while planning to take action against Amina.

As foretold, upon Amina's return, Sidi-Nouman uses a magical potion to transform her back into the horse she had inflicted punishment upon him with. The Caliph listens to the conclusion of this surreal narrative and, while

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understanding Sidi-Nouman's actions, emphasizes the need for compassion in addressing Amina's curse, suggesting to let this punishment suffice instead of seeking revenge.

Through both stories, themes of greed, transformation, and justice unfold, underscoring the moral implications of one's actions and their consequences.

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Chapter 24: The Story of Sidi-Nouman

The Story of Sidi-Nouman

In the court of Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid, a young man named Sidi-Nouman stood accused of cruelly mistreating his horse. The Caliph, incensed by the reports of Sidi-Nouman's actions, sought to understand the truth behind this behavior. Despite initial hesitation, Sidi-Nouman confessed that his actions stemmed from deep distress related to his wife, Amina, whose peculiar habits had deeply troubled him.

After his marriage, Sidi-Nouman discovered that Amina displayed bizarre eating habits, using a pin to delicately pick at her food while consuming very little. He became increasingly concerned when he discovered that Amina secretly ventured out at night to feast with ghouls in a cemetery, devouring the corpses of the dead. Struggling with the contradiction between his love for her and her unsettling actions, Sidi-Nouman resolved to uncover the truth.

When confronted about her habits, Amina was consumed with fury upon realizing Sidi-Nouman had been spying on her. In a fit of rage, she cast a spell that transformed him into a dog as punishment for his prying. Alone in a new dog-like body, Sidi-Nouman fled from her wrath, enduring the

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hardships that came with his transformation until he discovered kindness from a baker who nurtured him.

Sidi-Nouman's fortunes began to change when he showcased an uncanny talent—one that allowed him to identify counterfeit coins, impressing both the baker and the townsfolk. Eventually, a woman discerning his intelligence sought to free him from the curse. With her magical ability, she returned him to his human form, having learned of his plight and punishable wrongdoings of Amina.

Reunited with his humanity, Sidi-Nouman planned to confront Amina. Using a new spell from the magician's daughter, he transformed her into a horse, thereby giving her a fitting punishment for her cruelty. Yet, the Caliph urged Sidi-Nouman to have mercy, suggesting that the punishment of being an animal should suffice, rather than seeking further revenge—a lesson on compassion amidst justice.

The Story of Ali Cogia, Merchant of Bagdad

In Bagdad, there resided a cautious merchant named Ali Cogia, who, despite having no family, found satisfaction in his trade. However, his life took a turn when he began dreaming of a wise old man, urging him to embark on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Reluctantly, Ali Cogia decided to undertake his journey, needing to secure his wealth first.

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To safeguard a thousand gold coins, he devised a clever plan. He filled a vase with olives and hid the gold beneath them, entrusting it to a fellow merchant before leaving. After fulfilling his pilgrimage, Ali Cogia's travels took him far beyond Bagdad, leading him into various ventures that consumed seven long years.

Upon his return, Ali Cogia found that the merchant who had held his vase had become greedy. The man had opened the vase, stolen the gold, and replaced it with fresh olives. When Ali Cogia requested the vase, the merchant denied any knowledge of the gold's existence. Pressing the matter, a dispute ensued, forcing the two men to consult the Cadi, the judge.

Initially, the Cadi sided with the merchant, believing his claims of innocence. However, Ali Cogia, unwilling to accept injustice, sought the audience of Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid. Meanwhile, a group of children played at being a Cadi, and in their innocent game, they unwittingly mirrored the court drama as they accurately judged the situation.

The Caliph, hearing about the children's amusing trial, summoned one of the boys to do the same in his presence, finding the child's insight remarkably astute. When Ali Cogia appeared with the vase, the boy declared that if the olives were fresh, the merchant must be lying, leading the experts to confirm the olives' quality.

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Faced with undeniable evidence, the merchant's deceit unraveled, resulting in his execution for thievery. Ali Cogia, exonerated, not only regained his wealth but also showcased the wisdom of a child to those in power. The Caliph, impressed by the boy's judgement, rewarded him generously—a testament to the value of truth and justice in any form it may appear.

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Chapter 25 Summary: The Story of Ali Cogia, Merchant of Bagdad

Summary of "The Story of Ali Cogia, Merchant of Bagdad" and "The Enchanted Horse"

In the vibrant reign of Haroun-al-Raschid, Ali Cogia, a modest merchant of Bagdad, faced a moral dilemma. After several prophetic dreams urging him to fulfill his obligation as a good Mussulman by making a pilgrimage to Mecca, he decided to sell his wares and embark on the journey, while cleverly securing his belongings, including a sizable fortune of a thousand gold pieces hidden in a vase filled with olives.

During his pilgrimage, Ali Cogia's entrepreneurial spirit led him to Cairo after receiving advice from fellow merchants about better prospects for his goods. However, after a series of fortuitous events and friendships, he found himself traveling through various regions, spending seven years in distant lands before finally returning home.

Unbeknownst to him, his friend, the merchant whom he had entrusted his vase to, had since forgotten about Ali. Tempted by greed, the merchant opened the vase, finding not only olives but the hidden gold. He replaced the old olives with fresh ones but failed to inform Ali of the theft.

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When Ali sought his vase upon returning to Bagdad, he discovered the truth of the merchant's betrayal and accused him. The merchant, however, cleverly denied any wrongdoing. When Ali escalated the matter to the Cadi, the court's judgment favored the merchant due to a lack of evidence supporting Ali's claims. In despair, Ali petitioned the Caliph, who eventually learned of Ali's plight through the cunning of a group of children imitating legal proceedings.

With the wisdom of a child, the Caliph determined the merchant's guilt when presented with the miraculous olives that could not possibly have lasted seven years. The merchant was executed, and Ali's fortune was rightfully restored. The story culminates with Ali being hailed as a virtuous and clever man, rewarded by the Caliph for his unwavering morals.

In "The Enchanted Horse," the narrative shifts to the Feast of the New Year in Persia, where an Indian presents a magical horse to the King, claiming it can transport its rider anywhere with a simple wish. Intrigued, the King sends his son, Prince Firouz Schah, to test the horse's powers. Overcome with excitement, the prince accidentally loses control and soars into the sky without knowing how to return.

After a series of misadventures, Firouz Schah lands on the rooftop of a palace in Bengal, where he encounters the beautiful Princess of Bengal. The

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princess, intrigued yet cautious, offers him hospitality, and they grow closer. However, the Indian who owned the horse also makes a brazen request to marry the princess, which infuriates Firouz, leading to a series of dramatic events.

When the princess is eventually captured by the Indian, Firouz disguises himself as a dervish physician to rescue her. After cleverly devising a plan to expose the Indian's villainy and reaffirming his love for the princess, Firouz ultimately frees her.

In a thrilling climax, the two escape together on the enchanted horse, only to be pursued. The prince publicly declares that before marrying any princess, a man should first gain her consent, shaming the Sultan of Cashmere, who had hastily sought to marry the princess. Firouz and the princess return triumphantly to Persia, where they are married amid great celebration and joy, sealing their love and triumph over adversity.

Both tales intertwine themes of virtue, the consequences of greed and betrayal, and the importance of love and consent, showcasing the rich tapestry of adventure and morality within the narrative traditions of the Arabian Nights.

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Chapter 26 Summary: The Enchanted Horse

The Enchanted Horse

As the New Year Feast celebrated in the Kingdom of Persia came to a close, the King of Persia engaged in festivities in the city of Schiraz. Just as he was about to dismiss his court, an Indian man entered, presenting a magnificent horse. He claimed the horse was extraordinary—it could transport anyone to any destination merely by wishing for it. Skeptical, the king requested a demonstration, and the Indian successfully retrieved a palm leaf from a mountain several leagues away in mere moments.

Astounded by the horse's abilities, the king expressed his desire to purchase it. The Indian, however, revealed that he couldn't sell the creature without compromising his oath not to part with it unless he received something of equal value. The king eagerly offered a kingdom for the horse, but the Indian demanded the king's daughter instead.

While the courtiers laughed and Prince Firouz Schah, the king's son, fumed at the Indian's audacity, the king considered the offer. He wanted the horse for himself, fearing another monarch might acquire it. Prince Firouz pleaded with his father, urging him to reject the ridiculous bargain, but the king, intrigued, requested that the prince try riding the horse first.

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Before the Indian could instruct him, Firouz Schah mounted the horse and took off into the sky. As the king watched in horror, he soon realized that the prince might be lost. The Indian expressed fear at his own predicament and cautioned the king not to hold him responsible for the prince's fate, as the horse could navigate safely even over water.

Hours passed with still no sign of Firouz Schah, leading the king to punish the Indian with imprisonment for fear he might never see his son again. Meanwhile, Prince Firouz had become disoriented high above the clouds, realizing too late that he didn't know how to return. After an hour of rising, he discovered a second mechanism to descend but only managed to land at a mysterious palace, faint from hunger.

Exploring, he stumbled across a sleeping princess, the eldest daughter of the King of Bengal. While captivated by her beauty, he recognized the danger and approached cautiously. After awakening her and explaining his predicament, she graciously assured him of her protection and offered him hospitality, leading him to a chamber where he could rest and regain strength.

As the night passed, the Princess of Bengal found herself taken with the prince's charm, sparking curiosity about his origin. Firouz Schah recounted his story, including the enchanted horse's power, igniting a keen interest in

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her. Delighted by his adventures, she expressed her eagerness to learn more.

Their rapport deepened, fostering mutual admiration, although Firouz remained mindful of his royal obligations and stated his intent to return to his father. As Firouz planned his return journey to the King of Persia, the princess's presence became a greater source of joy, yet he was worried about the speed with which he must depart with no attendants.

Resigned to circumstances, the princess decided to accompany him back, embracing secrecy to avoid alerting the palace guards. Early the next day, they mounted the enchanted horse and swiftly navigated back towards Persia.

Upon arrival, Firouz opted to avoid the palace, instead choosing a rural haven to conceal the princess until he could formally present her to his father. However, their reconnection would soon attract unexpected attention, leading to new adventures but also to the shadow of danger, particularly from the Indian who first revealed the horse's magic.

The story spins through various twists, including Firouz's efforts to secure the princess's safety and ultimately effecting their powerful bond against adversity, leading to conflicts with rival kings and the challenges of proving the legitimacy of their love amidst a world steeped in jealousy and greed.

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Ultimately, the enchanted horse, set against the backdrop of royal intrigue, acts as a conduit between various allegiances in the unfolding drama of love, ambition, and the quest for power in the tales woven through ancient Persia.

The Story of Two Sisters Who Were Jealous of Their Younger Sister

Once upon a time in Persia, Sultan Kosrouschah was known for his love of disguises and adventures. Shortly after ascending the throne, he donned simple clothing and wandered through the streets, overhearing a discussion among three sisters regarding their desired husbands. The eldest longed for the Sultan's baker, the second for the chief cook, but the youngest, the fairest of them all, wished for nothing less than the Sultan himself.

Amused, the Sultan decided to grant their wishes, summoning them the next day to make the arrangements for their marriages. At the royal ceremony, the youngest sister became the Sultan's bride, while her older sisters were wed on less grand terms. This disparity fueled their jealousy towards their younger sibling.

Consumed with envy, the eldest sisters plotted revenge. When the youngest gave birth to a beautiful boy, they cruelly claimed to the Sultan that the child was a puppy rather than a prince. Moreover, they convinced him that his wife had betrayed him. In a rage, he ordered the Sultana's execution. But the grand-vizir, recognizing the Sultana's innocence, pleaded for her life,

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suggesting exile instead.

The Sultan agreed but stipulated punishment: the Sultana would be locked in a box outside the mosque, exposed to the disdain of passersby. Despite this humiliation, she remained dignified and earned sympathy from the crowd.

Meanwhile, her eldest children were raised by a kind official, the intendant of the gardens, who found abandoned princes and named them Bahman and Perviz and a daughter, Parizade—a child of magic. All were brought up in luxury and cultivated noble manners.

Years passed before the children of the Sultana learned of their true lineage. When Parizade encountered a holy woman who revealed treasures—the Talking Bird, Singing Tree, and Golden Water—they sparked a quest among her brothers to find these marvels.

Though the princes bravely ventured forth, they succumbed to the dangers of their journey. Each turned to stone, a fate linked to their ignorance of the trials imposed upon them. Parizade, undeterred, donned male disguise and embarked down the same path her brothers had taken, determined to retrieve the treasures and, hopefully, restore her siblings.

By showcasing bravery and cunning, Parizade successfully overcome the challenges. She captured the treasures and returned to humid justice. The

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Talking Bird revealed their brothers' plight, instructing her to sprinkle the Golden Water upon each stone. This act resurrected Bahman and Perviz, restoring the family bond.

The three siblings returned home, their love for each other strengthened. They embraced their identities and grew in unity, eventually revealing their heritage. This act of kindness and loyalty turned the Sultan's anger into delight. Through her courage, Parizade not only restored her brothers but united the family back to their rightful place, celebrating their inheritance, highlighting the values of love, trust, and resilience against envy and malice.

They welcomed their mother back from exile, marking the triumph of truth over deception in their realm. Thus, in this tale of jealousy and redemption, the bonds of family were honored, and the blessings of kindness prevailed over the bitterness of envy.

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Chapter 27 Summary: The Story of Two Sisters Who Were Jealous of Their Younger Sister

Summary of "The Story of Two Sisters Who Were Jealous of Their Younger Sister"

The tale begins in ancient Persia, under the reign of Sultan Kosrouschah, who enjoys disguising himself to experience life as an ordinary citizen.

Upon the death of his father and his own ascension to the throne, the Sultan sneaks out in disguise, leading to a chance encounter with three sisters who express their desires for marriage. The eldest yearns for the Sultan's baker, the middle sister desires the head cook, while the youngest sister, the most beautiful and intelligent, wishes for nothing less than the Sultan himself. Amused by their wishes, the Sultan decides to fulfill them by marrying the youngest sister to him and the other two to the baker and the cook.

As the marriage celebrations unfold, the youngest sister's grand wedding ignites jealousy in her older siblings, who conspire against her. Their resentment manifests as they plot to ruin her happiness, particularly when the birth of a boy gives them a golden opportunity for revenge. They deceive the Sultan into believing that the Sultana has given birth to a puppy instead of a son. His fury leads him to consider executing her, but her widespread popularity among the court moves the Grand Vizir to plead for her life. Ultimately, the Sultan spares her but imposes a cruel punishment: she must

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live in a box at the mosque, humiliated by passersby.

Meanwhile, the true fate of the Sultana's children unfolds. The intendant of the gardens finds the children, two sons named Bahman and Perviz, and a beautiful daughter, Parizade, who are raised as his own without knowledge of their royal heritage. As they grow, the siblings exhibit exceptional talents and beauty, with Parizade being particularly gifted in music and arts.

One day, a visit from an old devotee leads Parizade to learn about three wonders that would make their home perfect: the Talking Bird, the Singing Tree, and the Golden Water. Intrigued, Parizade persuades her brothers to embark on a quest to retrieve these treasures. Nevertheless, both Bahman and Perviz meet disastrous fates as they succumb to the temptation of turning back during the perilous quest, each transforming into a black stone.

Determined, Parizade disguises herself as a man and sets out to find the treasures. She cleverly uses cotton to block out the voices that had bewitched her brothers, reaches the mountain, and successfully retrieves the Talking Bird along with the Golden Water and a twig from the Singing Tree. With the help of the bird, she revives her brothers and learns of their shared lineage.

Upon returning to their home, their extraordinary discoveries capture the attention of the Sultan. After linking their identities to the Sultana, he

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punishes the jealous sisters for their treachery. Eventually, the family reunites and returns to the palace, with the Sultan acknowledging his children and promising a brighter future for the reunited family.

About the Author

Andrew Lang (1844–1912) was a renowned Scottish poet, novelist, and folklorist, recognized for his extensive collection and adaptation of folklore and fairy tales. His interest in myths and local legends led to his first major work, **The Blue Fairy Book**, part of a series that contributed significantly to children's literature. Lang's passion for storytelling and cultural heritage remains evident in his rich narrative style and captivating characters throughout his writings.

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