

## Aladdin

ONCE UPON A TIME, there was an evil sorcerer. This evil sorcerer had one thing in the world that he wanted, and that was a magical lamp. Everyone had heard of this lamp, but few knew if it really existed—it was the stuff of legend in the town. Supposedly, the lamp contained a genie that could grant the owner three wishes.

According to the legend, the lamp was in a magic cave on the outskirts of town. However, this cave was said to be full of traps designed to stop anyone from stealing the lamp. The sorcerer had an idea: he needed to find someone younger, more daring, and most of all, less rich than he to steal it for him.

He found a young beggar named Aladdin, wandering through the market. "Perfect," thought the sorcerer. "If he becomes trapped in the cave, no one is likely to come looking for him."

The sorcerer walked through the market and bought some new clothes for a disguise. Then, he walked over to Aladdin. "Excuse me, young man," he said in a funny voice. "I am your uncle. Your father and I haven't spoken in years, and I'd like to get to know you better."

"But I don't think I have an uncle—"

"Just come with me," said the sorcerer, and he took him to the cave.

"Here, take this magic ring for protection," said the sorcerer, slipping a jeweled ring onto Aladdin's finger. "Now go inside and find me the lamp," commanded the sorcerer as he stepped into the cave with Aladdin.

"The magic lamp of myth? Everyone knows that's a dangerous mission! I won't do it!" said Aladdin. The sorcerer pleaded with him, but he refused.

"Fine. Stay here forever!" said the sorcerer, and with a whoosh of his arm, he snapped the entrance shut.

Aladdin was terrified. What could he do now? There was only one way to get out: find the magic lamp and ask the genie to take him home.

After searching the cave for hours and stepping carefully over traps, he found it, hidden away in a little room. He hurried to it and rubbed it, for he knew that was the way to release the genie. Sure enough, a genie appeared in a puff of smoke. For his first wish, Aladdin asked the genie to take him back home, and the genie obliged.

However, the genie was bound to Aladdin until the boy used his three wishes. One day, while he was cleaning house, he knocked over the lamp and the genie once again appeared. "Well, since you're here," said Aladdin, "I've always wondered what it would be like to be a man of some means." The genie transformed Aladdin into a wealthy merchant. He strode into town in his finery, and attracted the attention of the beautiful Princess Badroulbadoor. The two were married in a short time.

Soon, the sorcerer returned to town. He tracked down the new couple—the princess didn't know that Aladdin was a poor boy, nor did she know what the lamp was capable of—and, dressed in his disguise, knocked on the door of their home. Princess Badroulbadoor answered.

"Excuse me," said the sorcerer. "I'm Aladdin's long-lost uncle. Surely you have heard of me. I've come to reclaim my prized lamp," he said as he peered into the house. "Ah, there. That one, over the mantel."

"The lamp? But why would you want that old lamp?" the princess asked as the sorcerer made his way into the house. The sorcerer snatched it off the hearth and awakened the genie. Princess Badroulbador backed up in awe.

"Genie, I command you to return this prince back to his true self—a lowly beggar!"

The princess gasped. Could it be true? She turned around to find her husband transformed back to what he was before they had met—a poor boy.

"Excellent. Now, take all their riches and transport them to my palace!" In a flash, their huge castle was reduced to a little shack.

For days, Aladdin was sick with worry. What to do? Then, while rifling through the house, he found the magic ring the sorcerer had given him. "Hm," he thought to himself. "If that lamp holds great powers, I wonder what makes this so magical?"

The next day, he traveled to the sorcerer's palace and knocked on the door. "Pleased to see you, uncle," he said. "You know who else is pleased to see you?" He rubbed the ring, and another genie appeared.

"Genie," Aladdin said powerfully. "Strip this trickster of his wealth and return it all to me!" The genie did so, and the sorcerer was brought to ruin. The town was so happy to be free of the sorcerer's wickedness, they made Aladdin emperor of the land.

## THINK ABOUT IT

Imagine you found a magic lamp. What would you ask the genie for?

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**THINK ABOUT IT**

Using the magic ring was just one way Aladdin could have defeated the evil sorcerer. How would you have done it? Write three steps you would take to put the evil sorcerer back in his place!



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