







# *Introduction*

## *The origins of **The Thousand and One Nights***

*The Thousand and One Nights* (in Arabic: *Alf Layla wa-Layla*), is a collection of stories from Persia, Arabia, India and Egypt. Nobody knows the exact age of these stories but a few of them are probably from the 9th century or before.

The name *The Thousand and One Nights* came from an Arabic translation of a Persian book of stories. The Persian book, now lost, was called *Hazar Afsana* (*A Thousand Legends*). It was translated from Persian into Arabic in about AD<sup>1</sup> 850 and the name *A Thousand Legends* changed to *A Thousand Nights* (in Arabic: *Alf Layla*). For Arabs, the number a thousand meant 'a lot', not literally 1,000. The Turks probably changed the number to 1,001 because this number meant 'a lot' for them.

1. **AD** : abbreviation for Anno Domini. A way of counting the years after Christ was born. **BC** : abbreviation for Before Christ. A way of counting the years before Christ was born. Note: non-Christians sometimes use **CE** (Common Era) instead of **AD**, and **BCE** (Before the Common Era) instead of **BC**. This system counts the years in the same way.



# Versions of *The Thousand and One Nights*

The original version of *The Thousand and One Nights* is now lost but we know it was written at the end of the 13th century. It had 11 stories, including the frame story 'Shahrayar and Shahrazad, his Vizier's Daughter' and 'The Young King of the Black Islands'. People then began writing other versions of the stories in Syria and Egypt, and we have manuscripts<sup>1</sup> from both of these places.

The oldest manuscript we have is a Syrian manuscript. It is from the 14th century and is very similar to the lost 13th century version. It has the original 11 stories and is divided into about 282 nights. It is now in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

The Egyptian manuscripts we have are more recent: the oldest is from the 17th century. They have many more stories – Indian, Persian and Turkish – including 'The Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor' and 'The Enchanted Horse'.



# *The Enchanted Horse*





## Before you read

### 1 Vocabulary

Look at these words.

enchanted horse   fire-eater   snake-charmer  
small button   large terrace

Which of the people or things in the list above...

- 1 is part of a house or a garden? .....
- 2 is under a magic spell? .....
- 3 uses music to control an animal? .....
- 4 do you press to make a machine work? .....
- 5 performs a dangerous act, perhaps in a circus? .....





## 2 Listening

Listen to Part One of the story. ONE of the sentence endings is NOT correct. Mark the incorrect ending, A, B or C.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 The Indian    | A <input type="checkbox"/> wanted to sell his horse.                 |
|                 | B <input type="checkbox"/> arrived during a celebration.             |
|                 | C <input type="checkbox"/> was married.                              |
| 2 The horse     | A <input type="checkbox"/> was made of wood.                         |
|                 | B <input type="checkbox"/> had black wings.                          |
|                 | C <input type="checkbox"/> wasn't a present for the king.            |
| 3 Prince Firouz | A <input type="checkbox"/> told the horse to return to Schiraz.      |
|                 | B <input type="checkbox"/> landed safely on the terrace of a palace. |
|                 | C <input type="checkbox"/> liked flying on the horse.                |
| 4 The princess  | A <input type="checkbox"/> was beautiful.                            |
|                 | B <input type="checkbox"/> wanted to help Prince Firouz.             |
|                 | C <input type="checkbox"/> lived with her family.                    |



# Part One



It was New Year in the city of Schiraz in Persia. The city square was full of people. The king and his family were there too. There was music and dancing. There were fire-eaters and snake-charmers. And of course there was a lot of delicious food and drink.

Suddenly, an Indian man appeared in front of the king. He had a beautiful horse with him. It was made of black wood. The Indian spoke to the king.

'Your Majesty! This is a very special horse.'

'Really?' said the king. 'Why is it special? What can it do?'

'It can fly, Your Majesty. When I press this little button on its neck, it flies up into the air and takes me where I want to go.'

'Your horse is certainly a very special horse,' said the king. 'I'd like to have it for myself.'

'I'll sell it to you, Your Majesty.'

'And what's the price?' asked the king.

'Your daughter. I want to marry your daughter,' replied the Indian.



# Part One

'That's a very high price for a horse.'

'It isn't a high price for a horse that can fly, Your Majesty. Try it and you'll see for yourself!'

'Let my son, Prince Firouz, try the horse,' said the king.

Prince Firouz immediately jumped on the horse's back and pressed the button on its neck. The horse flew up into the air, into the clouds and disappeared. The king was very angry. 'Where is my son?' he shouted. 'Bring him back!'

'I can't,' replied the Indian.

The king ordered his guards to put the Indian in prison. 'My guards will kill you if Prince Firouz isn't back in three months,' he said.





# Part One

Meanwhile, the horse and the prince flew higher and higher. The prince was happy. He enjoyed flying on the horse. Then it began to get dark. 'It's late,' he thought. 'I must land.'<sup>1</sup> He looked carefully at the horse's neck and saw another little button. He pressed it and the horse landed on the terrace of a beautiful white palace.

He got off and looked around him. There was a small door in the corner of the terrace. He opened it and saw some stairs. He went down them and into a long hall with many doors. There was a light under one of them so he opened it. Six guards were asleep on the floor. The light was coming from a lamp in another room behind a curtain. Prince Firouz moved the curtain and looked in. He saw a big sofa and some women asleep around it. On the sofa there was a very beautiful girl. Prince Firouz touched her arm gently and she opened her eyes.



# Part One

'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I'm the son of the king of Persia. I don't want to hurt you. I'm lost and in danger.'

'I'm the daughter of the Sultan <sup>1</sup> of Bengal,' said the princess. 'Don't worry! You're safe in my palace.'

Then she called one of her maids <sup>2</sup> and said to her, 'Give the prince some food and a bed. We'll talk in the morning.'

The princess thought about the handsome <sup>3</sup> young prince all night. The next morning she put on her most beautiful dress and finest jewels and went out into the garden. Prince Firouz was there.

He told her his story. 'Dear princess, I must return home to my father,' he said. 'He doesn't know that I'm here.' The princess was sad when she heard this. 'Can't you stay for just two more days?' she asked. 'I'm lonely here. My maids and the palace guards are my only companions.'

The prince looked at the sad face of the beautiful princess of Bengal and decided to stay.

1. **Sultan** : a person like a king in some Muslim countries.
2. **maids** : women who work in other people's houses.
3. **handsome** : attractive; good-looking.



# Activities



**Go back** to the text

**1** Answer these questions.

- 1 When did the Indian arrive in Schiraz?
- 2 Why was his horse special?
- 3 Did the king want to try the horse?
- 4 Did Prince Firouz tell the horse where to go?
- 5 Why did Prince Firouz want to land?
- 6 How many guards did Prince Firouz see in the palace?
- 7 What did the princess do when the prince touched her arm?
- 8 Why did Prince Firouz decide to stay in Bengal?



# Activities

## 2 Negative sentences

Correct the information in these sentences about the story. Look at the example.

Example: It was Christmas. *It wasn't Christmas. It was New Year.*

1 The city square in Schiraz was empty.

.....

2 An Indian man appeared in front of the queen.

.....

3 The Indian man wanted to buy a horse.

.....

4 The king was angry with Prince Firouz.

.....

5 The horse landed in the garden of a beautiful white palace.

.....

6 Prince Firouz touched the princess's face.

.....

7 The princess thought about the horse all night.

.....

8 Prince Firouz decided to go back to Persia.





### 3 Parts of a house

Match the parts of the house to the numbers in the picture. Use your dictionary to help.

- |                                   |                                      |                                  |   |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> roof     | <input type="checkbox"/> chimney     | <input type="checkbox"/> garage  | <input type="checkbox"/> satellite dish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> window   | <input type="checkbox"/> front door  | <input type="checkbox"/> stairs  | <input type="checkbox"/> hall           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wall     | <input type="checkbox"/> living room | <input type="checkbox"/> kitchen | <input type="checkbox"/> bedroom        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bathroom | <input type="checkbox"/> toilet      | <input type="checkbox"/> attic   | <input type="checkbox"/> cellar         |





## Part Two



he days became weeks and the weeks became months. The prince and the princess fell in love. They wanted to get married. One day Prince Firouz said, 'I must go back to Persia. My father's waiting for me. Come with me! We can get married and live there!'

The princess agreed. So that night after dark they both got on the horse's back and flew across the skies to Persia. They landed in the garden of a small house outside the city. 'Stay here tonight,' he told her. 'I'll come for you tomorrow.' Then Prince Firouz went to his father's palace.

The king was very happy to see his son again. He told the guards to bring the Indian to him.

'Take your horse and never enter my kingdom again!' he said to him.

The Indian was angry with the king because he put him in prison. And he was angry with Prince Firouz because he took his horse. He wanted his revenge. <sup>1</sup>

The palace guards told the Indian that his horse was in a house outside the city, so he went there the next day. A servant





## Part Two

answered the door. The Indian said, 'The prince is waiting for the princess. She must come with me to the palace.'

A few moments later the princess was on the horse behind the Indian. They flew up into the air and in the direction of the palace. The prince and the king looked up and saw them. But the horse didn't land there. It flew over the palace and disappeared.

The prince was afraid. 'The princess is in danger. I must go and look for her immediately,' he said to his father.

The horse took the Indian and the princess to India. It landed in a forest near the Sultan of Cashmere's palace. The princess started shouting for help. The Sultan was hunting in the forest that day and he heard her. 'Perhaps that girl is in danger,' he thought. 'I must go and save her.'

When he saw the Indian, he pulled out his sword and killed him. Then he put the princess on his horse and they rode back to his palace.



## Part Two

Early the next morning the princess heard a lot of noise outside her room.

‘What’s that noise?’ she asked a maid.

‘The servants<sup>1</sup> are preparing for your wedding. Tomorrow you will marry the Sultan,’ she said.

The princess was horrified. ‘I must do something,’ she thought. ‘I can’t marry the Sultan. I don’t love him.’

She started shouting and crying and pulling her hair.

The maid was afraid. She went to the Sultan and said, ‘The princess is ill. She can’t marry you tomorrow.’

‘Look after her,’ he said. ‘And we’ll get married when she’s better.’





## Part Two

But weeks and months passed. Many doctors came to see the princess but she didn't get better. Then one day a young doctor from Persia arrived at the palace gate. It was Prince Firouz. The princess was very happy to see him. 'We must escape,' the prince told her. 'And I have a plan. But first, you must stop crying and smile at the Sultan.' So the princess stopped crying and smiled at the Sultan. He was very happy. 'You are a very good doctor!' he said to Prince Firouz. 'The princess is well now. You can go home.'

'She isn't completely well,' the prince said. 'The enchanted horse put a magic spell on her. Bring the horse and the princess to the square this afternoon and I'll take away the spell. Tell all the people in the town to come and watch.'



## Part Two

At four o'clock that afternoon the city square was full of people. The Sultan and the princess were there too. When the guards brought the horse, Prince Firouz made four fires around it. He said some strange <sup>1</sup> words and threw some powder <sup>2</sup> into the fires. Suddenly, there was a lot of smoke. It was impossible to see anything. At that moment Prince Firouz and the princess jumped on the horse's back and the horse flew up into the air.

Soon they arrived at the king's palace in Schiraz. The king and his people were very happy to see them.

The next day the prince and the princess got married and they lived happily for the rest of their lives.





# Activities

## Go back to the text

### 1 Word order in questions

Put the words in the questions in the correct order. Then answer them.

- 1 return/the/How/and/Prince Firouz/Persia/princess/to/did?
- 2 angry/Indian/was/with/the/Why/Prince Firouz?
- 3 Indian/did/Why/Sultan/the/kill/the?
- 4 arrived/Who/at/day/the/palace/one/Sultan's?
- 5 Where/fires/make/Prince Firouz/the/four/did?
- 6 did/throw/Prince Firouz/on/fires/What/the?

# Activities

## 2 Joining ideas together

Complete the sentences with *and*, *but* or *because*.

- 1 The prince and the princess were in love ..... they wanted to get married.
- 2 The king told the Indian to go away ..... he didn't give him his horse.
- 3 The Indian was angry ..... the king put him in prison.
- 4 The Sultan of Cashmere killed the Indian ..... took the princess to his palace.
- 5 The princess pretended to be ill ..... she didn't want to marry the Sultan.
- 6 Many doctors came ..... the princess didn't get better.
- 7 The prince threw some powder in the fires ..... he wanted to make some smoke.
- 8 The prince and the princess flew back to Schiraz ..... lived happily for the rest of their lives.







# Activities

- 3** Complete the conversation. What does the princess say to the doctor?  
Mark the correct letter A-H.

Doctor: Good morning, Your Highness. How are you today?

Princess: <sup>1</sup> .....<sup>F</sup>.....

Doctor: Oh dear! How long have you had it?

Princess: <sup>2</sup> .....

Doctor: I have some medicine for headaches in my bag. Here you are.

Princess: <sup>3</sup> .....

Doctor: Two big spoonfuls.

Princess: <sup>4</sup> .....

Doctor: Yes, but you should eat something first.

Princess: <sup>5</sup> .....

Doctor: Good. I'll go and ask the maid for a spoon.

Princess: <sup>6</sup> .....



# Activities

- A It's alright. There's one here.
- B Fine. Can I have a bottle, please?
- C I don't think so.
- D I've just had breakfast.
- E Since breakfast.
- F Terrible! I've got a bad headache.
- G Thank you. How much must I take?
- H Can I take it now?



## INTERNET PROJECT



### **A flying horse in Greek mythology**

Follow the instructions on page 6 to find the website you need, then answer these questions.

- ▶ What was the name of the flying horse in Greek mythology?
- ▶ Who wanted to ride it?
- ▶ What happened to him?
- ▶ What happened to the horse?