



Sheherezade and the King

There was once a king called Shahriah.

He was a happy man ... until one day he came home and heard that his wife was in love with one of his servants. 'Put them both in prison!' said the king, angrily.

But he soon became lonely. Then he had an idea. 'Find me a new wife every day,' he told his vizir (his chief servant), 'then, the morning after our wedding, put her in prison before she can stop loving me.'

Every day, for three terrible years, the poor vizir obeyed the king's orders. 'What can I do? I can't disobey him. I don't want to go to prison,' said the vizir to Sheherezade, his daughter.

‘Father, give me to the king tomorrow,’
said Sheherezade. ‘Don’t worry about me.
I’ve got a plan.’

The next day Sheherezade became the king’s wife.
That night, Sheherezade asked the king, ‘Husband,
do you like stories?’

‘Of course,’ answered the king.

‘Then I’ll tell you one,’ said Sheherezade.

Sheherezade was clever. She didn’t finish the story
that night. She stopped when the morning sun
began to shine through the window.

‘You must finish the story tonight, Sheherezade,’
said the king. ‘I want to hear the end.’

After that, Sheherezade began a new story every
night. And each morning the king said,
‘You must finish it tonight, Sheherezade.
I want to hear the end.’

And here are three of those stories...



Look at
the picture.
Can you see
Sheherezade
and the king?



Aladdin and the Lamp

Long ago, a man called Mustafa lived in China. He worked very hard, while his son, Aladdin, played in the streets all day. Then Mustafa died.

One day, a stranger spoke to Aladdin. 'I'm your uncle,' said the man. 'Mustafa was my brother.' But this wasn't true. The stranger wasn't Aladdin's uncle. He was a bad magician. Aladdin took the stranger home. 'Mustafa never spoke about a brother,' Aladdin's mother said to the stranger.

'I travelled around for forty years,' said the magician. He told them about his adventures in other countries.

'And tomorrow I'm going to show you something wonderful, Aladdin,' he said.

The next day, he took Aladdin a long way from the city. 'Make a fire,' said the magician. His voice was cold and hard, and Aladdin was afraid.

The magician dropped something on the fire. A big flat stone appeared by magic.

'Move the stone!' the magician ordered. 'There are steps under it. Go down the steps. At the bottom of the steps, you will find a wall with a hole in it. There's an old lamp in the hole. Bring it to me!'

It was a magic lamp, but the magician was afraid to look for it himself.



What's under
the stone?