

The Book of the Thousand Nights and a Night, Vol. 6 of 12 (Classic Reprint)

Arabian Nights



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The Book of the Thousand Nights and a Night, Vol. 6 of 12 (Classic Reprint) Arabian Nights Excerpt from The Book of the Thousand Nights and a Night, Vol. 6 of 12

There was once in the city of Shfrdz a mighty King called Sayf al-A'azam Shah, who had grown old without being blessed with a son. So he summoned the physicists and physicians and said to them, "I am now in years and ye know my case and the state of the kingdom and its ordinance; and I fear for my subjects after me; for that up to this present I have not been vouchsafed a son." Thereupon they replied, "We will compound thee a somewhat of drugs wherein shall be efficacy, if it please Almighty Allah!" So they mixed him drugs, which he used, and knew his wife, and she conceived by leave of the Most High Lord, who saith to a thing, "Be," and it becometh. When her months were accomplished, she gave birth to a male child like the moon, whom his father named Ardashir, and he grew up and throve and applied himself to the study of learning and letters till he attained the age of fifteen. Now there was in Al-Irak a King called Abd al-Kadir, who had a daughter, by name Hayat al-Nufus, and she was like the rising full moon; but she had an hatred for men, and the folk very hardly dared name mankind in her presence. The Kings of the Chosrös had sought her in marriage of her sire; but when he spoke with her thereof, she said, "Never will I do this; and if thou force me thereto I will slay myself." Now Prince Ardashir heard of her fame and fell in love with her and told his father, who, seeing his case, took pity on him, and promised him day by day that he should marry her. So he despatched his Wazir to demand her in wedlock, but King Abd al-Kadir refused, and when the Minister returned to King Sayf al-A'azam and acquainted him with what had befallen his mission and the failure thereof, he was wroth with exceeding wrath, and cried, "Shall the like of me send to one of the Kings on a requisition and he accomplish it not?"

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