



The Story of the Third Beggar.

From the Arabian Nights

By Wm. Donahay

SYNOPSIS OF WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE.
A poor porter carried home many good things for a lovely lady who employed him to carry her bundles. After he unloads his crate, she and her two sisters invite him to feast with them. Later three beggars, all blind in the left eye and curiously shaven, ask for food and are admitted. Later yet the caliph, with his vizier and a slave, all disguised as merchants, are added to the party. Each man is asked to promise that, no matter what he sees or hears, he will ask no questions. Soon the second sister brings in two black dogs, which the elder beats and then weeps over. The caliph cannot restrain his curiosity and asks the reason for this strange scene. Immediately the women have their guests seized and are to have them severely punished, when they relent, saying that if the three beggars will tell their adventures and how each lost his eye all the men will be pardoned their curiosity. The story of the third beggar follows.

(Continued from last Sunday.)
"STRANGE as it may seem," said the third beggar, "I, too, am the son of a king; and, moreover, I am at present a king in my own right, could I but return to my kingdom. As soon as I succeeded to the throne I fulfilled a long cherished desire of taking a trip by sea. I fitted out a ship with every comfort, convenience, and luxury, hired the most capable of captains and sailors, and set out in search of adventure. Sad was the day when I left my palace behind me!
"We had not progressed far before a great storm arose. Our vessel was stanch, but the wind drove us far from our route, and when the skies cleared I cried out in surprise at the great number of fish which were floating, dead, on the top of the sea. The captain came to look and turned pale at the sight. Just then a sailor called out that a huge black mountain seemed looming ahead of us.
"I feared it—we are indeed undone!" cried the captain. He cast his turban upon the deck, wept, prayed, and commanded us all to prepare to die.
"When I demanded an explanation he told me that in the sea was a huge mountain which was enchanted, so that when a ship, or anything containing iron, approached it all the iron was immediately attracted to the mountain. Every nail, he said, would soon fly from

its place, and we be cast adrift. He set the men to work lashing planks together with ropes, but before there were rafts enough for all of us the current had swept us close to the mountain, and suddenly the ship trembled and fell apart beneath our feet, the nails and locks and bolts in it flying in a cloud through the air and fastening themselves upon the sides of the mountain, already thick with the iron from other lost ships.
"I found myself in the sea with a raft beneath me and, seeing no other men close by, tried to paddle myself toward the fatal mountain, succeeding so well that soon I was on land again. Before me were steps which seemed cut in the mountain, and offering up a prayer for my safety, I climbed them. The captain had told me that upon the top of the mountain was a cupola of brass, supported by ten brazen columns, covering a horse of brass, upon which sat a man made entirely of brass, holding a spear in his hand and with a mystic tablet of lead upon his breast, and that it was really this horseman who made the mountain dangerous, for if he was even overthrown it would be as other mountains again.
"If I may only be permitted to overthrow this horseman," I thought, "what a great thing I shall have done for mankind!" but I had at the same time rather doubted his existence. Now, however, I saw the cupola and horseman before me. Overcome with fatigue, I threw myself down for a rest and slept. In my sleep a voice cried out to me: 'O son of Cassib, when thou wakest, dig beneath thy feet and thou shalt find a bow of brass and three leaden arrows. If thou wishest to relieve mankind of this awful curse, shoot the horseman and he will fall into the sea, and then thou must bury the bow. When it is hidden the sea will rise mountains high, but fear not. Look among the giant waves for a boat of brass, rowed by a man of brass. Go with him, but utter not the name of God, or thou wilt suffer.'
"Waking, I did as I was told. The horseman fell into the sea with a crashing noise. In the monstrous waves appeared a boat, which carried me safely away. But I forgot! I thanked God. As I mentioned his name the

boat vanished. I was cast upon a desert isle, with only fruit to eat. Presently I saw a ship approaching, and hiding till I saw what manner of folk it brought, saw men come on shore bearing many luxuries, which they carried down into a cave in the heart of the island. Then they brought a slender, handsome boy, put him in the cave, hid its opening from view, and sailed away again, leaving the boy behind them.
"Astounded and curious, I climbed down and entered the cave. The boy was already lonely and glad to see me. I told him I had been shipwrecked and asked his story.
"I am," he said, "the only son of a wealthy man. At my birth it was foretold that when I was 15 I should be slain by King Ajib, son of Cassib, after he has overthrown the brazen horseman on the Mountain of Lodestone and lifted a curse from mankind. Recently we heard that this horseman had been overthrown. So my father prepared for me this safe place, and has brought me here to stay till I am past 15. After that, there will be no danger. And King Ajib surely cannot slay me here, can he?"
"Indeed he cannot," said I, angry at the use that had been made of my name, and I proceeded to do all I could to make the life of the boy happy, for I had loved him from the first, so handsome, gentle, and kindly was he. We lived happily together many days, and he passed his fifteenth birthday, at which he was greatly pleased.
"Now," he said, "I am safe and my father will be very happy and will come for me soon. The curse is lifted."
"Yes," said I, and set about preparing our meal, when suddenly a knife flew from my hand accidentally and buried itself in the breast of the poor boy! Overcome with sorrow, I hid myself from the bereaved father when he came, and finally escaped to another island, where I found in a gorgeous palace



"Presently I saw a ship approaching."

ten young men, all blind of the left eye, who received me kindly, and with whom I lived happily till my curiosity overcame me and I asked how all came to have such an affliction.
"Your doom is sealed; you will soon know," they answered. "You, too, have been too curious. You shall find out for yourself—and, remember, there is still hope for you if you will only do as you are told."
"I was transported to another palace, where were many beautiful maidens, music, feasting, and flowers, and I did not understand where there was any woe for me till one day the maidens all went away for a month, telling me I could wander where I liked, except in one closet, and giving me keys to everything, even to the forbidden door.
"For days I enjoyed myself in the many beautiful rooms I was allowed to visit, but at last I had seen them all. I wished ardently to look into the forbidden place. At last I could control myself no longer. I put the key in the lock and opened the door. A wonderful odor swept over me, music surrounded me, and I beheld a beautiful great black-winged horse standing before a crystal manger. 'What can hurt me here?' I cried, and, going to the beautiful horse, mounted him. He did not move, but I beat and kicked him till suddenly he spread his great wings. We flew

to such an enormous height that I fainted. Then he swept down again, lighted on the roof of a palace, made me dismount, and flew away again. But as he flew he struck me in the face with his tail, and struck out my left eye. When the pain abated I went down from the roof and found myself among the ten one-eyed young men, who mocked at me for my curiosity, saying, 'You are answered.' But in spite of the fact that they had endured what I had, they would not let me stay with them. For a penance I shaved off my beard, put on the clothes of a beggar, and started away on foot to try to find my kingdom again. That, ladies, is my story."
"Now tell us yours," cried the elder of the women to the caliph and his companions. "This last tale is, I think, the strangest of all. What have you to offer?"
"Nothing interesting," said the caliph humbly. "We are merely three poor stranger merchants who have lost our way."
"Well," said the lady, "I will let you all go." But as the caliph left the house he marked it carefully. "I in turn must hear the story of the ladies and why they so beat those dogs," he said to his vizier. And next morning he sent for the three sisters.
(To be continued next Sunday.)

THE TEENIE WEEENIES HAVE A THANKSGIVING DINNER

By Wm. Donahay

It was a cold night. The wind blew so strong that it bent the rose bush until its dry leaves scraped the top of the Shoe House, where the Teenie Weenies lived. The Teenie Weenies sat about the tiny fireplace inside, watching the flames as they leaped up the chimney from the big pile of logs, sawed from old lead pencils. "When's Thanksgiving?" asked the Dunce.
"Day after tomorrow," answered the Lady of Fashion, as she took a needle from her little work basket.
"O, say, but I'd like to have some turkey," cried the Dunce.
"Me likee turkee, too—likee much," cried the Chinaman, who had come in from the laundry to spend the evening with his friends.
"I'll tell you what we can do," suggested the Cook. "We can all go over to the house next door. I heard them say they were going to have a turkey on Thanksgiving. We can go over and watch, and when they are through dinner we can climb up on the table and help ourselves."
"That's a good idea, Cook," laughed the General. "I see where you get out of cooking a big Thanksgiving dinner."
"Well, a fellow's got to rest some time," mumbled the Cook, with a twinkle in his eye.
The Teenie Weenies anxiously waited for Thanksgiving day to come, for every one wished to have all the real turkey that he could eat. On Thanksgiving day they all hurried over early to the house the Cook had spoken of, and, crawling under the crack of the door, they made their way straight to the dining room. The family was at dinner there, but presently they finished, and as soon as they went out of the room the eager Teenie Weenies scrambled up the tablecloth and landed on top of the table. Every one of the little people ate and ate.
"U-u-um, isn't this good?" cried the Dunce, biting into a piece of white meat almost as big as himself.
The Dutchman and the Indian found a big dish of raisins. They ate all they could and then carried a big bunch home on a toothpick for future use.
The Cook found the turkey's wishbone, and he and the Turk pulled at it with all their might to see which would get the lucky part.
"General, General," shouted one of the Teenie Weenie boys, "the Dunce has fallen into the gravy."
"Goodness, gracious me," cried the General, "is that foolish fellow in trouble again?" "No, sir; he's in the gravy," answered the small boy.
"Come on, fellows," ordered the General, "and help the Dunce out. Take him over there and give him a good scrubbing in that finger bowl." When the Dunce had been thoroughly ducked in the water and the gravy all scraped off him the Teenie Weenies made their way home again. That night the lights burned quite late in the Shoe House. Several Teenie Weenies had eaten too much, and the Doctor was busy filling hot water bags and giving peppermint in hot water.
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