

The First Voyage

Sindbad the Sailor lived in Baghdad in the time of the great Khalif, Harun al-Rashid. Sindbad was a very rich man. He had a beautiful house in the best street in the city. The sun was very hot in the afternoons. Then he and his friends sat under the trees in the garden.

"I am rich now," he told his friends. "But after my father died, I made mistakes. So I went to sea. Listen! I will tell you about my first voyage. When I came back, I was a rich man. But on this voyage I was really afraid."

I was a young man then, and I was not careful with money. So my father's money went quickly.

I sold everything and, with the money, I bought the best goods. The next day, I took them to Basra. There, on the river, was an Arab ship, and I spoke to its captain. He answered me kindly.

"We are going to sail next week. There will be six merchants with their goods on the ship, and we will

sail to the countries and islands of the east. There the merchants will sell their goods and buy other rich goods. They will sell them in their countries when they come back."

"Can you take another merchant?" I asked. "I want to sell some boxes of goods. I will give you a lot of money when I sell them."

"Yes," said the captain, "I can take you."

And so, the next week, we sailed down the great river, the Shatt al-Arab, and through the Gulf, and then to the east. We sailed for many days and nights, and we stopped at cities and islands. There we sold and bought goods.

One day we came to a very beautiful island. It was very green, full of trees and flowers and birds of many colours.

"I do not know this island," the captain said. "But it looks very beautiful. Perhaps we will find water there. I will take the ship near it."

He brought the ship near the island. We went for a walk and looked for water.

first	ראשון	river	נהר
voyage	מסע, הפלגה	Arab	ערבי
sailor	מלח	captain	קברניט
great	גדול	kindly	בחביבות
khalif	חליף, שליט מוסלמי	merchants	סוחרים
rich	עשיר		
goods	סחורה למכירה		

sail	להפליג	perhaps	אולי, ייתכן
countries	ארצות	near	קרוב
islands	איים		
east	מזרח		
next	הבא אחריו		
gulf	מפרץ		
cities	ערים		