

**ORIENTAL TALES: BEING MORAL  
SELECTIONS FROM THE ARABIAN  
NIGHTS' ENTERTAINMENTS;  
CALCULATED BOTH TO AMUSE AND  
IMPROVE THE MINDS OF YOUTH, VOL. I**

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Oriental tales: being moral selections from The Arabian nights' entertainments; calculated both to amuse and improve the minds of youth, Vol. I by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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# ORIENTAL TALES:

BEING

## Moral Selections

FROM

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS' ENTERTAINMENTS;

CALCULATED

*Both to Amuse and Improve*

THE MINDS OF YOUTH.

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VOL. I.

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LONDON:

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1825.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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IT has long been a subject of regret, that no prudent persons, interested in the education of children, can venture to place in the hands of their pupils the "Arabian Nights' Entertainments."

These beautiful fictions of the East, though highly moral in some instances, are nevertheless so much blended with the grossness and impurity of the age in which they were compiled, that a careful selection from them has been a work much wanted in education for nearly a century.

The volumes at present offered to the public contain those tales of the Arabian Nights from which the best moral can be extracted, abridged,

and divested of the endless tautologies and interruptions that disfigure the original. As every brilliant passage and amusing incident are carefully preserved in such Tales as are abridged, the author trusts that the present selection will give pleasure to readers of all ages.

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## ORIENTAL TALES,

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### THE MERCHANT AND THE GENIE.

THERE was formerly a rich merchant, who carried on a great trade with several distant cities. One day he set out to travel from his place of residence to Balsora, and, as he was forced to pass a great desert, where it was impossible to procure any food, he carried with him some provisions, to refresh himself on his journey. For three days he travelled pleasantly, but on the fourth he was so much incommoded by the heat of the sun and the reflection of that heat from the earth, that he quitted the direct road, to rest himself under the shade of some tall trees that he saw at a distance. There he found, at the foot of a great walnut-tree, a beautiful fountain of very clear running water. He alighted, tied his horse to the branch of a tree, and, taking some biscuits and dates out of his portmanteau, sat down by the side of the fountain, and,

without thinking any harm, threw the shells of his dates on each side of him, as he ate the kernels. He had scarcely finished his meal when he saw a frightful genie appear. He was white with age and of a monstrous size, and held in his hand an enormous cimeter. Advancing towards the merchant, he spoke to him in a terrible voice, saying, "Rise up, that I may kill thee, as thou hast killed my son." He accompanied these threatening words, with a horrible cry, which alarmed the merchant still more than his hideous appearance. At last he answered the genie, trembling, "Alas! my good lord, what have I done that you should wish to take away my life."

"Did I not tell you that you had killed my son," replied the genie.

"How is it possible," cried the merchant, "for me to have killed your son, when I don't know him. I never even saw him in all my life."

"That may be true," replied the genie; "nevertheless you have killed him. Have you not been eating dates? and, as you ate them, did you not carelessly throw about the shells?"

"I do not deny that I did so," said the merchant, "and where is the harm of throwing away the shell, when one has eaten the kernel?"