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The Thousand and One Nights (Lane, Volume I)

Anonymous (the Arabian Nights) · *Lane's translation, 1838–41 (revised 1859)* · *Edward William Lane (revised from his annotated copy by Edward Stanley Poole, 1859)*

Praise be to God, the Beneficent King, the Creator of the universe, who hath raised the heavens without pillars, and spread out the earth as a bed. So Lane's English begins, after the name of God. Project Gutenberg #34206 is Volume I only: the Introduction and Chapters I–VIII, in the 1859 Poole revision of Lane (1838–41). Volumes II and III are not on Gutenberg. For grades 9–12. Teach with respect. Tact; no prurience. Trim Lane's note-marks from a quotation. One volume cannot be called the complete Nights.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as what it is—Lane's English, Volume I only, opening with praise to God, and then Shahrazád's first related tale—rather than as the complete Thousand and One Nights, or as a later film?

"Praise be to God, the Beneficent King, the Creator of the universe, who hath raised the heavens without pillars, and spread out the earth as a bed;[i_2] and"

Opening praise

Edward William Lane's English, first published 1838–41, in the edition revised from his annotated copy by Edward Stanley Poole (John Murray, 1859). Project Gutenberg #34206 is Volume I only: the Introduction and Chapters I–VIII. Volumes II and III are not on Gutenberg. Do not call this the complete Nights. It opens with praise: Praise be to God, the Beneficent King, the Creator of the universe, who hath raised the heavens without pillars, and spread out the earth as a bed. Later, a tale is framed: It has been related to me, O happy King, said Shahrazád, that there was a certain merchant who had great wealth, and traded extensively with surrounding countries; and one day he mounted his horse. Teach that opening, for grades 9–12, with respect and with tact. Keep Lane's spelling of names as this file prints them. Trim his note-marks ([i_1] and the like) from a quotation. Quote this English, not a later film. One map cannot teach even this first volume entire.

KEY CHARACTERS

Shahrazád
Who, in this English, relates to a happy King that there was a certain merchant of great wealth

The merchant of the first related tale
Who mounted his horse and journeyed to a neighbouring country to collect what was due to him

Edward William Lane, and Edward Stanley Poole
The translator, and the 1859 reviser, of this Volume I

HOW TO BEGIN THIS VOLUME I

"Praise be to God, the Beneficent King, the Creator of the universe, who hath raised the heavens without pillars, and spread out the earth as a bed;[i_2] and"

Opening praise

"It has been related to me, O happy King, said Shahrazád, that there was a certain merchant who had great wealth, and traded extensively with surrounding countries; and one day he"

A first tale

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Praise Be to God

OPENING PRAISE

Praise be to God, the Beneficent King, the Creator of the universe, who hath raised the heavens without pillars, and spread out the earth as a bed. The volume opens with praise, before the tales.

- Keep "without pillars" and "spread out the earth as a bed." Stop before a note-mark.
- 9–12. Teach with respect. Tact.
- Lane, Volume I only.
- Not a later film.

"Praise be to God, the Beneficent King, the Creator of the universe, who hath raised the heavens without pillars, and spread out the earth as a bed;[i_2] and"

Opening praise

02

Blessing and Peace

OPENING PRAISE

Blessing and peace be on the lord of apostles, our lord and our master. The opening praise already includes a blessing. Teach it with respect. Keep this file's wording, and do not invent a spelling the file does not print.

- Keep Lane's wording. Stop before a broken name or a note-mark if needed.
- 9–12. Respect.
- Volume I only.
- Quote this English.

"blessing and peace be on the lord of apostles, our lord and our master Moḥammad"

Opening praise

03

It Has Been Related to Me, O Happy King

A FIRST TALE, AS SHAHRAZÁD TELLS IT

It has been related to me, O happy King, said Shahrazád, that there was a certain merchant who had great wealth, and traded extensively with surrounding countries. A tale is framed as a telling, to a king.

- Keep "O happy King" and "said Shahrazád," as this file prints the name.
- 9–12. Tact; no prurience.
- A first related tale, not the whole volume.
- Quote Lane.

"It has been related to me, O happy King, said Shahrazád, that there was a certain merchant who had great wealth, and traded extensively with surrounding countries; and one day he"

A first tale, as Shahrazád tells it

04

He Mounted His Horse

THE SAME FIRST TALE

And one day he mounted his horse, and journeyed to a neighbouring country to collect what was due to him. The merchant's journey begins after the frame.

- Keep "mounted his horse" and "neighbouring country."
- 9–12. Tact.
- One tale in Volume I, not the complete Nights.
- Quote this wording.

"and one day he mounted his horse, and journeyed to a neighbouring country to collect what was due to him, and"

A first tale, as Shahrazád tells it

05

Lane, Volume I Only

THE EDITION

Project Gutenberg #34206 is Lane's Volume I (Introduction and Chapters I–VIII), 1859 Poole revision of the 1838–41 English. Volumes II and III are not on Gutenberg. Name Lane and Poole. For grades 9–12. Teach with respect. Tact; no prurience. Trim note-marks from quotations. Quote this English, not a later film. One map cannot teach even this volume entire.

- Name Volume I only; do not call it complete.
- Name Lane, and Poole's 1859 revision.
- 9–12. Respect and tact.
- A praise first, then a framed tale.

"Praise be to God, the Beneficent King, the Creator of the universe, who hath raised the heavens without pillars, and spread out the earth as a bed;[i_2] and"

Opening praise

Praise before the tales

Volume I only, honestly limited

A tale framed for a king

A merchant, and a journey

Respect, and tact

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. This is Lane's Volume I only (Introduction and Chapters I–VIII), PG #34206, the 1859 Poole revision. Volumes II and III are not on Gutenberg. Do not call it the complete Nights.
2. It opens with praise to God, the Beneficent King, who hath raised the heavens without pillars and spread out the earth as a bed. Teach with respect. Trim note-marks from quotations.
3. A first tale is framed: "It has been related to me, O happy King, said Shahrazád," a merchant of great wealth, who mounted his horse.
4. For grades 9–12. Tact; no prurience. Quote this English, not a later film. Keep this file's spellings. One map cannot teach even this volume entire.

Quotations are verbatim from the Edward William Lane (revised from his annotated copy by Edward Stanley Poole, 1859), Project Gutenberg #34206, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/lane-thousand-and-one-nights/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.