

Aladdin

The lad with the lamp!



The story of Aladdin and his wonderful lamp is one of the most popular tales of all time. Here we find out where the story came from and how it has grown into the famous pantomime show.

Where does Aladdin come from?

Although most modern pantomime versions of *Aladdin* are set in a Chinese background, the story originated in another part of the world, the Middle East. The basic tale is many hundreds of years old, although much of the modern version has been added in more recent times.

Like the adventures of Sinbad the Sailor and Ali Baba, the story of Aladdin can be found in the famous collection of old Arabian and Eastern tales, the *One Thousand and One Nights*, also known as the *Arabian Nights*.

Chinese Nights!

It might seem unusual that a story written in Arabic over a thousand years ago should be set in China, but in fact many of the tales in the *Arabian Nights* come from or are set in other countries, including India, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt and Greece, as well as China and Arabia. This is because the stories were collected together during the height of the Islamic Empire which stretched from Spain and Portugal in the west, right across Africa and much of Asia. Traders from the Empire visited most of the known world (and may even have reached the Americas, according to some historians), bringing back tales and legends as well as goods and treasures.

About the Arabian Nights

Most people are familiar with the structure of the *Arabian Nights*. It features a powerful, but terrible king called Shahriyar who discovers that his wife has been unfaithful to him and, in his rage, vows to marry a new wife every day and kill her at dawn the next day.

However, things change when he marries a clever young girl called Sheherazade. On their wedding night, knowing that she only has hours left to live, Sheherazade begins to tell her husband a story. When dawn comes she still has not finished and, so keen is the King to hear more, that he decides not to kill her until next day. But the following night the same thing happens and, night after night, the inventive young girl keeps the King entertained with exciting tales. Finally, after a thousand and one nights have passed, the King realises that he loves Sheherazade too much to ever consider killing her and they live happily ever after.

No one knows exactly when the *Arabian Nights* was written or who the authors were. It is most likely that the linking story of Sheherazade and the King was created by one author and then hundreds of stories and folk tales from many different countries were added over the years. The complete book is said to date back to as early as 850AD. The first European translations were not made until 1704.

Were there really a thousand and one stories?

It is doubtful that the *Arabian Nights* ever contained a thousand and one stories – the best estimate is around two hundred and sixty. In fact the phrase ‘a thousand and one’ was probably just a fancy way of saying ‘lots and lots’ in the same way that we say ‘hundreds and thousands’.

The Pantomime

The first stage version of *Aladdin* was seen in London’s Covent Garden Theatre in 1788. This was followed by a comedy musical version of the tale in 1813 starring the famous English clown Joseph Grimaldi (who was like a film star back then). At the time, people in Britain were fascinated by China and the Orient; willow pattern plates were introduced and ships such as the clipper *Cutty Sark* were doing a brisk trade importing tea and other merchandise. As a result, the story of *Aladdin* developed into a far more Chinese tale than the original, and has remained that way ever since.

Changing Names

As the pantomime of *Aladdin* changed over the years, so many of the characters we know today were added or had their names changed. *Aladdin*’s mother, for example, was known for years as Widow Ching Mustapha (a name that was part Chinese, part Arabic). In 1861, however, this was changed to Widow Twankey, named after a popular brand of Chinese tea. Similarly, the evil magician Abanazar was simply known as the ‘African Magician’ until 1813. And, as for *Aladdin*’s brothers Wishee and Washee, they didn’t even exist in the original story! Along with the laundry, they were added relatively recently.





Aladdin's A to Z



A is for our hero, **A**laddin is his name,

A Likely lad, but rather lazy—isn't that a shame!

B is for his **B**usiness-minded Mum, she's on her own;
and **C** the **C**lean and Lovely **C**lothes—her laundry is well known!

D is the **D**ilemma when a stranger calls one day:

Is he **A**laddin's uncle from a country far away?

E is for his **E**agerness to claim the family tie,
Widow Twankey isn't sure at first and wonders why!

F is for the **F**east they make for Abanazar's visit,
He has a plan to get rich quick, Aladdin says "What is it?"

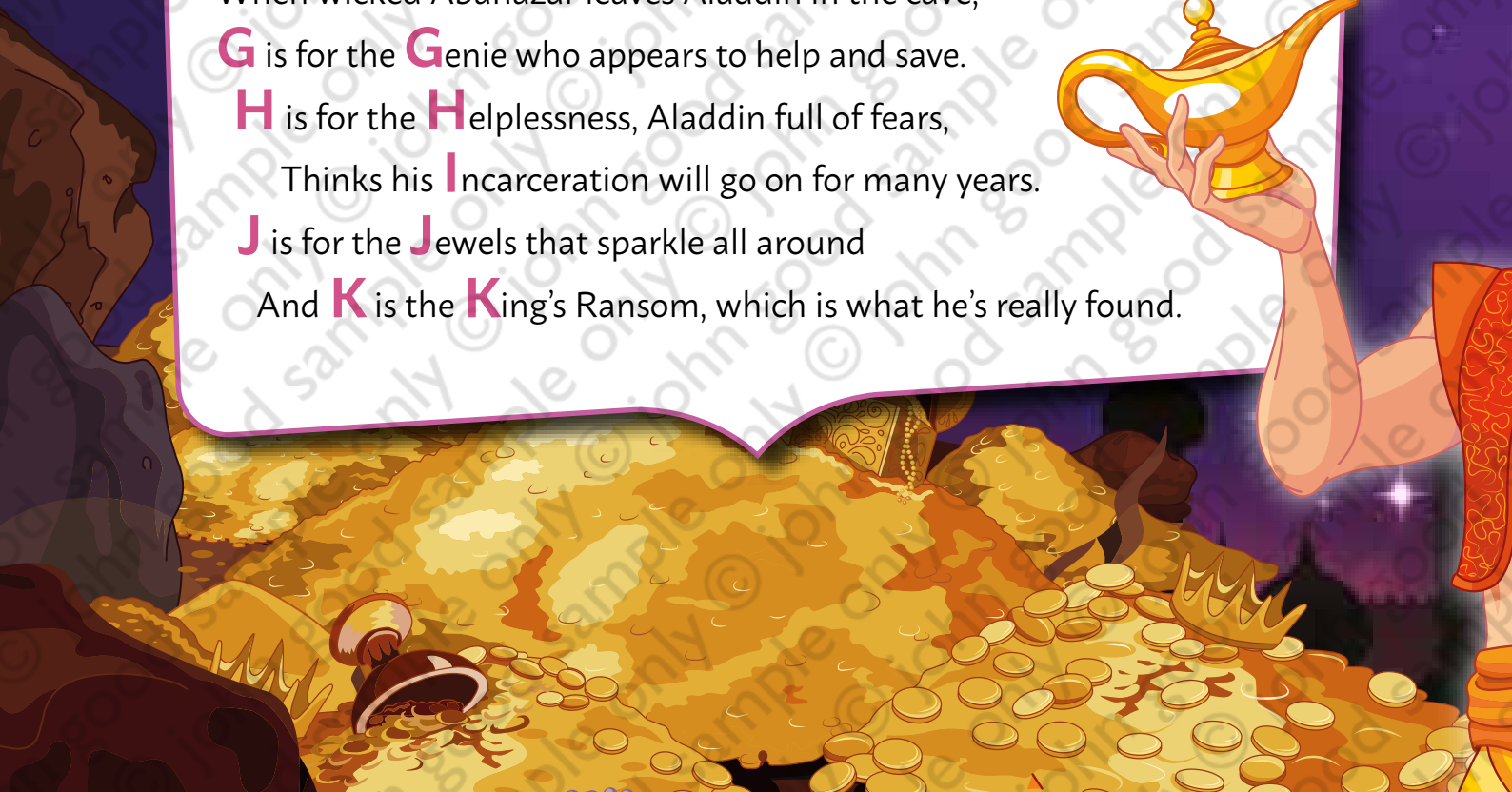
When wicked Abanazar leaves Aladdin in the cave,

G is for the **G**enie who appears to help and save.

H is for the **H**elplessness, Aladdin full of fears,
Thinks his **I**ncarceration will go on for many years.

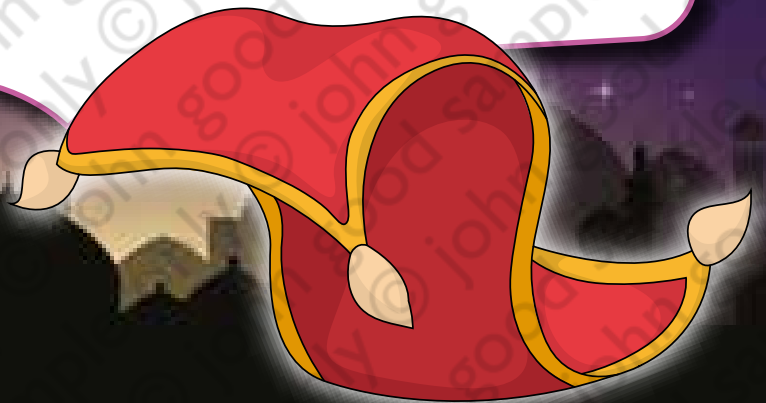
J is for the **J**ewels that sparkle all around

And **K** is the **K**ing's Ransom, which is what he's really found.

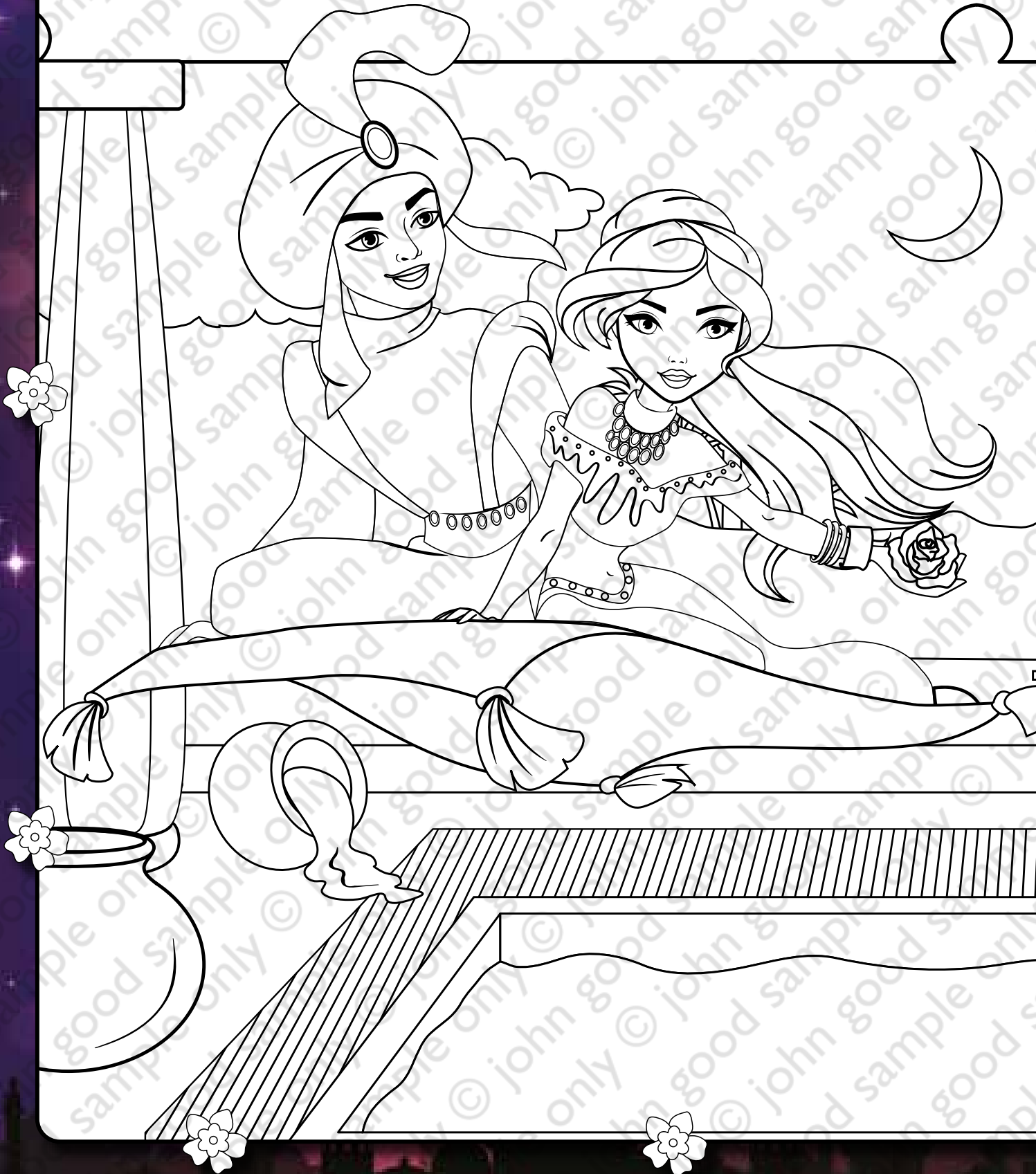




L is for the **L**amp where the Genie waits to serve,
M is for the **M**aster from whose will he cannot swerve.
N is for the **N**ew-found wealth Aladdin has acquired,
O the **O**pportunities his heart has long desired.
P is for the **P**rincess who he wins to be his bride,
Q her **Q**ueenly beauty as she takes her place with pride.
R is for the **R**iches they're enjoying day by day,
But **S** is for their **S**orrows when the lamp gets thrown away.
T is for the **T**roubles that fall on Aladdin's head,
And he must **U**ndergo a fearful trial full of dread.
V is for the **V**ictory, against evil he wins out,
W the **W**iles that he outwits without a doubt.
X the e**X**-magician Abanazar soon becomes,
Y the **Y**ears of good life for Aladdin and his chums!
And now at last we come to **Z** and, after all this strife,
Aladdin's finally 'in the **Z**one' and stays there all his life!



Colour Me In



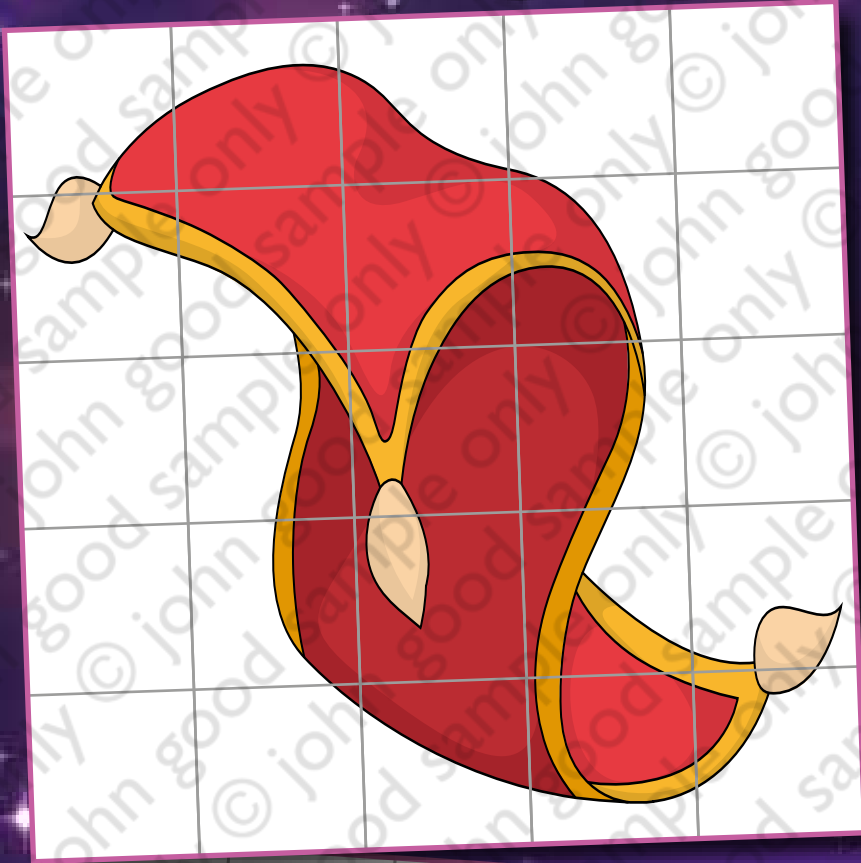


Colour Me In

and I'll grant you three wishes!



Draw Your Own Flying Carpet

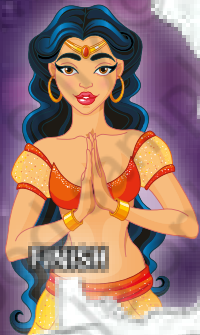


Copy the picture of the Flying Carpet by using the grid below



Snake Maze

Help me rescue the princess from the evil of Abanazar's Snake Maze.



Double Trouble

Sultan has a twin brother and they dress exactly alike. Can you tell which two they are?



Genie's Hidden Message

Cross out all the words from the list below when you find them in the grid. The letters you are left with will spell out the genie's message to you.



ABANAZAR
CARPET
DIAMONDS
HIDE
LAUNDRY
OLD PEKING
POLICEMEN
RUB THE LAMP
SPELL

ALADDIN
CAVE
EMPEROR
JEWELS
LOVE
OPEN SESAME
PRINCESS
SAPPHIRES
THIEF

ARABIA
CHINA
GEMS
KIND
MAGIC
PALACE
RING
SLAVE
WIDOW TWANKEY

BAZAAR
COMMAND
GENIE
LAMP
NIGHTS
PLEASURE
RUBIES
SMOKE
WISH

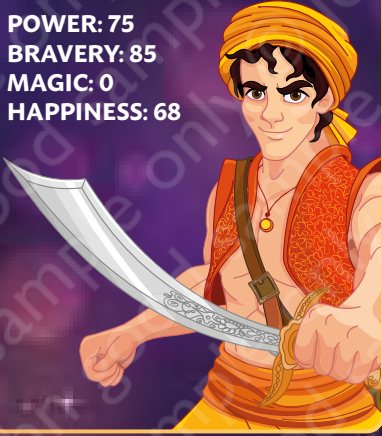
HIDDEN MESSAGE:

Trading Cards

USE THE PANTO STATS ON THE CARDS TO WIN CARDS FROM YOUR FRIENDS THE ONE WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER KEEPS THE CARD!

Aladdin

POWER: 75
BRAVERY: 85
MAGIC: 0
HAPPINESS: 68



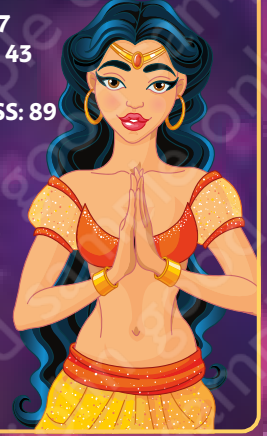
Genie

POWER: 68
BRAVERY: 75
MAGIC: 73
HAPPINESS: 41



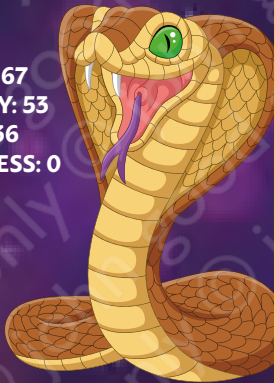
Princess

POWER: 57
BRAVERY: 43
MAGIC: 0
HAPPINESS: 89



King Cobra

POWER: 67
BRAVERY: 53
MAGIC: 36
HAPPINESS: 0



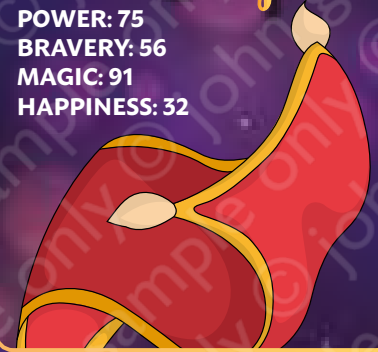
Sultan

POWER: 53
BRAVERY: 34
MAGIC: 0
HAPPINESS: 91



Magic Carpet

POWER: 75
BRAVERY: 56
MAGIC: 91
HAPPINESS: 32



Athanasar

POWER: 89
BRAVERY: 54
MAGIC: 64
HAPPINESS: 0



Palace

POWER: 94
BRAVERY: 7
MAGIC: 12
HAPPINESS: 79



Guardzman

POWER: 65
BRAVERY: 59
MAGIC: 0
HAPPINESS: 26



Missing Lamp

LAMPS FOR SALE



I PLACED MY LAMP ON THIS STALL TO KEEP IT FROM THE EVIL ABANAZARI.. BUT NOW I CANNOT FIND IT!

CAN YOU USE THIS PHOTOGRAPH TO HELP ME TO FIND MY MISSING LAMP?

Answers

Double Trouble



Missing Lamp

THE LAMP IS HIDDEN AT THE BACK NEXT TO ALADDIN



Snake Maze



Genie's Hidden Message

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | A | R | A | B | I | A | G | E | M | S | M | O | K | E |
| G | U | S | A | P | P | H | I | R | E | S | N | S | Y | I |
| N | O | B | A | Z | A | A | R | U | R | I | Y | L | O | N |
| I | W | I | T | L | A | M | P | S | D | H | E | A | L | E |
| R | A | N | I | H | C | N | H | D | N | I | K | V | D | G |
| P | A | L | A | C | E | M | A | S | E | S | N | E | P | O |
| S | E | E | D | I | H | L | E | B | I | S | A | N | E | P |
| E | M | Y | C | A | O | A | M | A | W | W | I | K | R | |
| I | M | S | P | E | L | L | A | M | N | D | T | G | I | I |
| B | N | E | M | E | C | I | L | O | P | O | W | H | N | N |
| U | M | T | E | P | R | A | C | A | V | E | O | T | G | C |
| R | E | V | O | L | C | O | M | M | A | N | D | S | A | E |
| Y | R | D | N | U | A | L | R | S | T | H | I | E | F | S |
| T | E | R | U | S | A | E | L | P | J | E | W | E | L | S |
| C | I | G | A | M | E | D | I | A | M | O | N | D | S | R |

HIDDEN MESSAGE:
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND O MASTER