

With that foolish boy, Aladdin, as our guide!  
With Aladdin on our magic carpet ride!

AT RISE: We hear the VOICE OF JAMMAL from OFFSTAGE,  
EXTREME DOWN RIGHT.

JAMMAL'S VOICE: A thousand curses on a thousand books that never reveal the secret hiding place of the lamp! Bah!  
(JAMMAL ENTERS. He's an evil-looking man with a thin moustache that sprouts from his upper lip and dangles below on both sides of his chin. His clothing is dark, and he wears a black turban on his head. Jeweled dagger at his side. His voice is strong and his eyes wild. He carries an old book and is flipping the pages.)

JAMMAL: (In a fury, he slams the book shut.) Enough of books! (He turns and tosses the volume OFFSTAGE.) Begone, miserable journal of mumbo-jumbo! (He makes fists and lifts them upwards -- as if addressing the sky.) Am I never to possess the lamp? (JAMMAL'S sister, HALIMA, ENTERS FORESTAGE from EXTREME DOWN LEFT. She's the female counterpart of her brother. Beautiful but wicked. She holds a crystal ball.)

HALIMA: Brother, cool your temper.

JAMMAL: Ah, Halima, sister, for years and years I have dreamed of possessing the wonderful magical lamp of ancient China. Lost for centuries.

HALIMA: You are the most powerful magician in all the world, Jammal.

JAMMAL: With that lamp the world would be mine. (Paces nervously.) The lamp! The lamp! Always the lamp!

HALIMA: Gentle your nerves, Jammal. I have good news.

(Smiles.) I have found the wonderful magical lamp.

JAMMAL: What?!

HALIMA: See for yourself. Look into the crystal.

JAMMAL: Eh? (She holds out the crystal ball. JAMMAL takes it, holds it in his cupped hands and peers into the crystal.)

JAMMAL: I see nothing. All is cloudy...

HALIMA: Patience. (HALIMA steps closer and makes a few passes with her hands over the crystal ball.) Mighty crystal, I seek the magic lamp and all its treasure.

JAMMAL: (Fascinated.) The clouds within drift away.

HALIMA: The lamp is near.

JAMMAL: Look! (HALIMA looks.) I see the lamp.

HALIMA: Put the crystal to your ear. (JAMMAL puts crystal to his ear.) Do you hear the voice within the crystal? (A cruel smile crosses JAMMAL'S lips.)

JAMMAL: (Listens.) Yes -- yes. The crystal whispers "Shammar." The City of Shammar. The lamp resides in the Valley of the Moon. In a deep, dark cave. The entrance of the cave is marked by a vulture circling overhead. (Delirious with joy.) Wonderful! Wonderful! (Listens some more.) What's this? (Lowers crystal, faces HALIMA.) The crystal says only a boy named Aladdin can fetch the lamp. Anyone else who attempts to do so will...

HALIMA: Die.

JAMMAL: We must go to Shammar and seek out this -- "Aladdin."

HALIMA: Shammar is in another country. It will be a long journey.

JAMMAL: Have you forgotten my magical powers? (He passes the crystal ball to his sister and holds up his hand. He wears many rings. One ring is larger than the others.) I have but to rub and the Genie of the Ring will appear and do my bidding. (He rubs the large ring.) Genie of the Ring, unless you've flown, hear me well and make your presence known! I, Jammal, command it! (He lifts his arms to call down thunder. SOUND OF THUNDER, followed by a quick BLACKOUT. RED SPOTLIGHT picks out the GENIE OF THE RING as she ENTERS on the FORESTAGE from EXTREME DOWN LEFT. She's a young girl dressed in Arabian fashion. She salaams to the audience.)

GENIE OF THE RING: Behold! You see before you the Genie of the Ring. Ask and, if it's within my power, you shall have your wish.

JAMMAL: Hear me well, Genie of the Ring.

GENIE OF THE RING: Yes, Master?

JAMMAL: We wish to be transported at once to the City of Shammar.

GENIE OF THE RING: I hear and I obey. (GENIE OF THE RING extends her hands toward JAMMAL and HALIMA. SOUND: HOWLING WIND.) Camels are slow and jackals are swift. Step on a carpet and then I'll lift. Over the land and over the sea, soon in Shammar City, you will be! (SOUND OF HOWLING WIND. As if being pulled by a powerful current of air, JAMMAL and HALIMA back OUT quickly. EXTREME DOWN RIGHT. RED SPOTLIGHT OFF. WIND continues to HOWL for several seconds. It subsides as the CURTAINS OPEN. [NOTE: If you are not using a curtain, consult

CHOP-CHOP: Here, Queen Sultana!  
QUEEN SULTANA: Let the procession continue.

CHOP-CHOP: It shall be so. (CHOP-CHOP does a RIGHT-FACE and marches OFF RIGHT.) Inside! Inside! Shut the doors and bar the windows. It is forbidden to look upon the face of the Princess Jasmine! (ZARA and SHEBA walk behind CHOP-CHOP. SULTAN steps to PRINCESS JASMINE. QUEEN SULTANA takes her husband's place under the umbrella. She and ALI BUBBA EXIT RIGHT in haughty fashion. OPTIONAL EXTRAS FOLLOW)

SULTAN: Come along, daughter.  
PRINCESS JASMINE: Father, I don't want to marry Ali Bubba. All he wants to do is sit on cushions and eat figs.

SULTAN: Trust in fate, my daughter. Leave everything to kismet.  
QUEEN SULTANA'S VOICE: (Roaring IN from OFFSTAGE

RIGHT.) Husband! Join the procession!  
SULTAN: (Winces.) Coming, my turtle dove. (PRINCESS

JASMINE covers her face with the half-veil. SULTAN and PRINCESS JASMINE EXIT RIGHT. ALADDIN pops up and cautiously steps after them. Looks OFF as the procession journeys on to the palace. ALAKAZAM ENTERS DOWN

LEFT. Monkey holds the scarf like a half-veil to its face, hoots.)  
ALADDIN: What do you make of that, Alakazam? Yolanda is really Princess Jasmine. (More monkey chattering. ALADDIN turns, sees the scarf.) You are the nimble one. Give it here.

(ALAKAZAM takes the scarf from his face, crosses to ALADDIN. Hands him the scarf. Lovingly, ALADDIN caresses the cloth.) I shall never part with this. Shall I tell you a secret Alakazam? (ALAKAZAM shrugs.) One day I shall marry Princess Jasmine. (This is too much for the monkey. It cannot contain its laughter. It laughs and laughs [monkey fashion] and grunts and hoots, rolls on the ground.) Go on. Laugh. That's what monkeys do best. (HALIMA ENTERS from DOWN RIGHT. She holds a shawl to her face and looks mysterious.)

HALIMA: You there. Boy. (ALADDIN turns to the sound of her voice.) I come from a great distance in search of a boy with the name of Aladdin. Do you know of such a boy?

(ALAKAZAM jumps to his feet and points to ALADDIN. Hoots.)  
ALADDIN: I am the only one named Aladdin in the City of Shammar. (He bows.) At your service ma'am. (HALIMA drops the shawl from her face.)

HALIMA: Then the crystal didn't lie.

ALADDIN: Crystal? (HALIMA gestures OFFSTAGE and, in a

moment, JAMMAL ENTERS DOWN RIGHT. HALIMA gestures to ALADDIN.)

HALIMA: This is the boy you seek.

JAMMAL: (Fake warmth.) Aladdin, blood of my blood! (He steps to ALADDIN and hugs him.) Child of my dear brother.

ALADDIN: My father died long ago. I didn't know he had a brother.

JAMMAL: I live far away, but I have returned to Shammar to claim something dear to me.

ALADDIN: What is that?

JAMMAL: All in good time. Aladdin, nephew, how would you like to be rich?

ALADDIN: We are very poor.

JAMMAL: The choice is yours. To stay poor or become rich.

ALADDIN: What do you think, Alakazam? Shall we chance it?

(The monkey is thrilled. Jumps about hooting and grunting.

Does an optional somersault.) Alakazam is for it.

JAMMAL: (To HALIMA.) You will remain in the city. Acquaint yourself with the local gossip. (To ALADDIN, upbeat.) Come, nephew. This is your lucky day. (JAMMAL strides OFF LEFT.)

ALADDIN: I'll say. I meet my future bride. I meet an uncle I never knew I had. And I'm going to be rich. (ALADDIN follows after

JAMMAL. ALAKAZAM, chattering, follows after ALADDIN.

HALIMA EXITS RIGHT. CURTAIN CLOSES.)

End of Scene Two

Scene Three

SETTING: A mountain path [FORESTAGE.]

AT RISE: JAMMAL appears on the FORESTAGE from EXTREME DOWN LEFT. He's impatient.

JAMMAL: Must you take such small steps? (ALADDIN ENTERS.

He holds ALAKAZAM by the hand.)

ALADDIN: I'm tired, uncle. You didn't say anything about journeying into the mountains. (ALAKAZAM chatters in

complaint.)

JAMMAL: The object I seek is located in the Valley of the Moon.  
ALADDIN: The Valley of the Moon is miles from here! I'm thirsty.

(ALAKAZAM chatters.) So is Alakazam.

JAMMAL: Once I have the lamp, you may drink until you burst.

ALADDIN: What's so special about "the lamp"?

JAMMAL: Shhh! It's a wonderful, magical lamp. (JAMMAL shades his eyes with his hand and stares at the sky. As he does so,

he moves **DOWN RIGHT**. ALADDIN talks in a hushed tone to Alakazam.)

ALADDIN: I'm all for turning back. (JAMMAL has overheard the last.)

JAMMAL: Turning back?

ALADDIN: Why can't you get the lamp by yourself?

JAMMAL: Entering a cave is... against my philosophy.

ALADDIN: Cave? How do I know you won't take the lamp and leave me to die of thirst?

JAMMAL: (Thinks.) Here. To show my good faith, I'll give you a ring. (He holds up his hand and pulls at a ring.) Each ring I wear is worth a sultan's ransom. (He starts to take off a ring, but ALAKAZAM chatters and points to indicate the large Genie-of-the-Ring band.)

ALADDIN: No. Alakazam says -- that one. (Points to the magic ring. JAMMAL draws back.)

JAMMAL: Never.

ALADDIN: If you won't give me that ring, I won't fetch the lamp from the cave.

JAMMAL: (Reluctantly, hands ring to ALADDIN. Both ALADDIN and ALAKAZAM study it.) Satisfied? (To audience.) I'll get the ring back later. (Hand on jewelled dagger. He laughs. ALADDIN puts on the ring. JAMMAL, again shades his eyes and scans the sky. Suddenly he becomes excited.)

JAMMAL: Look! (ALADDIN and ALAKAZAM look upward.)

JAMMAL points.) There! It circles round and round. That black shadow in the sun.

ALADDIN: It's only a vulture.

JAMMAL: It marks the entrance to the Cave of the Lamp.

Wonderful! (JAMMAL quickly moves **EXTREME DOWN**

**RIGHT**.) Hurry, hurry. (JAMMAL hurries **OFF**.)

ALADDIN: Well, whatever else happens, Alakazam, we haven't wasted our time. (Admires ring.) I can sell this in the bazaar, and Mother and Neela and you and I can live well for a month. (JAMMAL'S excited **VOICE** echoes back.)

JAMMAL'S **VOICE**: The lamp! The lamp!

ALADDIN: (Indifferent.) Yeah, yeah. The lamp. Best to humor him.

(Admiring the ring, ALADDIN **EXITS EXTREME DOWN**  
**RIGHT**. Chattering, ALAKAZAM follows.)

End of Scene Three

Scene Four

**SETTING**: The Cave of the Lamp, a shadowy place. Gloomy,

mysterious. The basic props: the wonderful, magical lamp is UPSTAGE on a table or rock formation, barely visible. There are two large jars or baskets [supposedly] filled with sparkling jewels **RIGHT** and **LEFT**. [Consult **PRODUCTION NOTES**.] **Stool LEFT CENTER**. **STAGE RIGHT** we see a stepladder. Ideally, the ladder has steps on both sides so the actor can climb up one side and down the other. If not, use two stepladders and place them side by side. This way one set of steps will lead up and the other set will lead down. Prior to curtain we hear Mood Music. It is weird, fantastic, Oriental.

**MUSIC CUE 3: IN THE CAVE OF THE LAMP** - Instrumental

**AT RISE**: The **MOOD MUSIC** CONTINUES for a few moments, and then the **LIGHTS** COME UP ever so slightly. From **STAGE LEFT**, **DRAGON** ENTERS. **MOOD MUSIC** OUT. **DRAGON** is a strange creature who resembles a large lizard. Long tail. It walks upright rather awkwardly and makes strange noises that sound like gasps. Each time **DRAGON** gasps, it juts its head forward as if it were attempting to spew forth fire and flame. **VOICES** from **OFFSTAGE RIGHT**.

**JAMMAL'S VOICE**: You understand what you are to do?

**ALADDIN'S VOICE**: I understand. (**DRAGON** reacts to **SOUND OF VOICES**, alarmed.)

**JAMMAL'S VOICE**: The cave is beyond. Get to the ledge and climb down.

**ALADDIN'S VOICE**: Yes, yes. (We see **ALADDIN** cautiously climbing up one side of the ladder. Frightened, **DRAGON** waddles **OFF**, **LEFT**. **ALADDIN** climbs down into the cave.

**JAMMAL** climbs up on the stepladder -- far enough so that we can see his face.)

**JAMMAL**: There are many riches in the cave. Rare jewels. Rubies, sapphires, diamonds, pearls. Take what you will of them -- but first the lamp.

**ALADDIN**: (Looks about.) It's so dark in here, Uncle. I can barely see.

**JAMMAL**: Patience, patience. Your eyes will adjust to the dimness. Call when you have the lamp. Remember -- first the lamp.

(**JAMMAL** WITHDRAWALS from sight.)

**ALADDIN**: (Peering into the dimness.) Why didn't I think to ask for a candle? (He looks about uneasily.) I wonder how long it's been since anyone's seen the inside of this place? (**NOISE**