

## Sinbad's Second Voyage (The 1001 Nights)

A well-known part of the *1001 Nights* recounts the tales and voyages of Sinbad, an adventurer and sailor from Baghdad. On his second voyage, he set out as a trader aboard a merchant ship, arriving at an island of great beauty and abundance. So enraptured was Sinbad with his surroundings, that he missed the departing ship, and was stranded. Wandering through the lush jungle, he saw what he thought was a cloud blocking the sun's rays. As it came closer, he realized it was not a cloud, but a simurgh – a huge and beautiful bird-like creature. Keen to escape the island and knowing the vast distances travelled by such birds, as the simurgh landed in its nearby nest, Sinbad rushed to tie himself to its leg. The simurgh soon took off and flew to distant lands, taking Sinbad along for the ride. On landing, Sinbad found himself in a desert. At first he was frightened, but he was soon distracted by the soil, which was made of diamonds and other precious stones. Sewing what gemstones he could into his clothes, Sinbad avoided the serpents and beasts of the desert with wit and bravery, and arrived in a merchant town. Using the diamonds he had stored, he bartered his safe passage back to Baghdad. In celebration of his return home, Sinbad gave gifts of gemstones and money to his friends and relations, and entertained them with the amazing stories of his adventures.