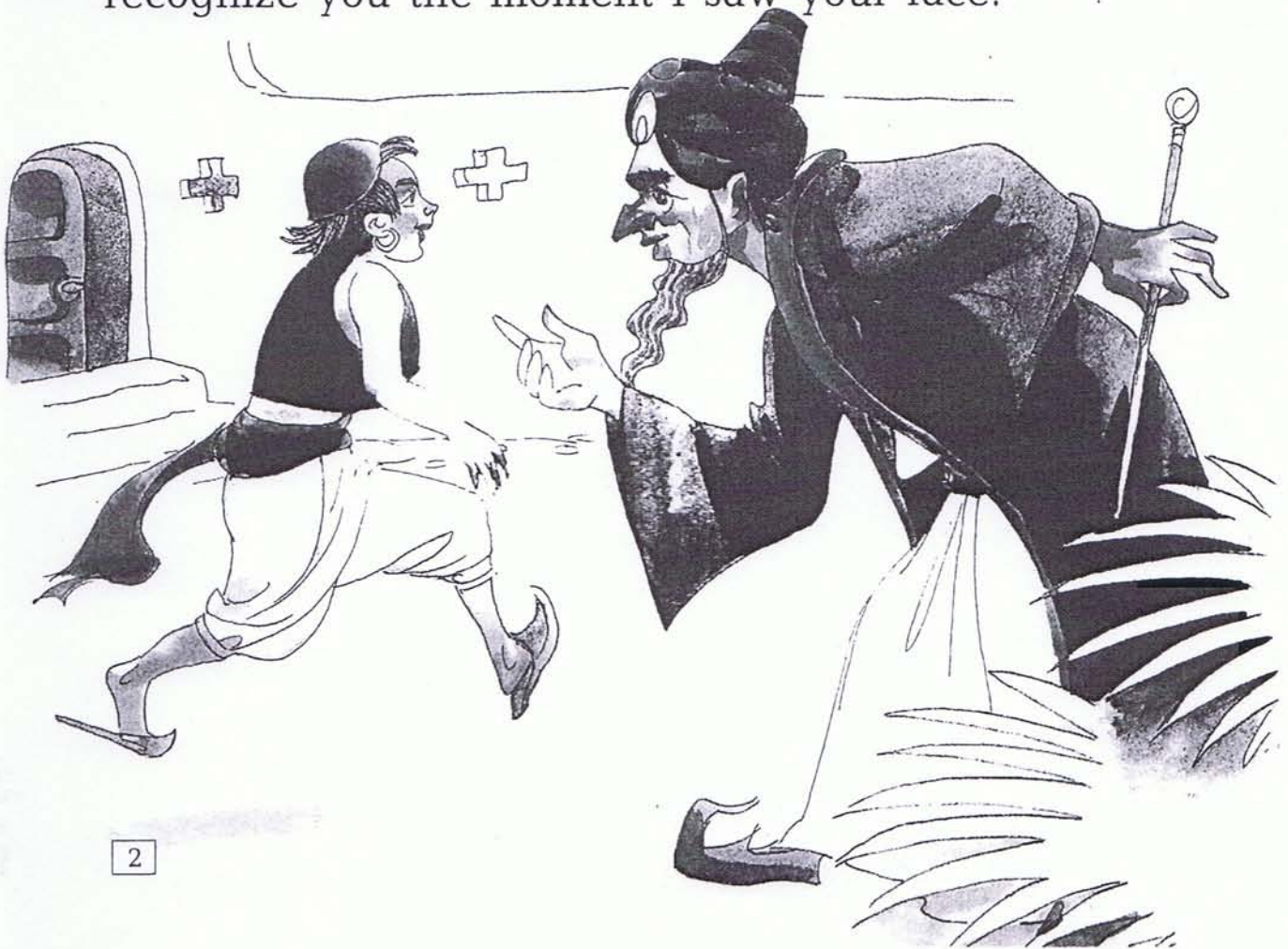


There lived a poor tailor in a town in China. He had a son named Alladin. Alladin was careless and lazy. His father was always worried about his good-for-nothing son. Due to his constant anxiety, the poor tailor died one day. After his father's death, his mother did some odd jobs to earn their bread.

One day, Alladin was playing with his friends in the streets. A stranger came there and called Alladin to him. He said, "Son, I am your uncle. I have been away for a long time. But, when I heard the sad news of my brother's death, I came here to share your grief and be of some help to you. Oh son! You look just like my late brother. That is the reason why I could recognize you the moment I saw your face."







Though Alladin did not know his uncle, he took him to his house. He narrated the whole story to his mother. Alladin's mother said, "Your late father's brother died many years ago."

- The stranger said, "I am your husband's brother. And I am not dead! When I heard the news of my dear brother's death, I could not help coming here to look after you."



Alladin's mother was convinced that the stranger's story was true. She then prepared lunch and they had their meal together. After lunch, the stranger took Alladin to the market. He bought him costly clothes and many toys. Alladin started enjoying the company of the stranger. Soon, he began to call him 'uncle'.

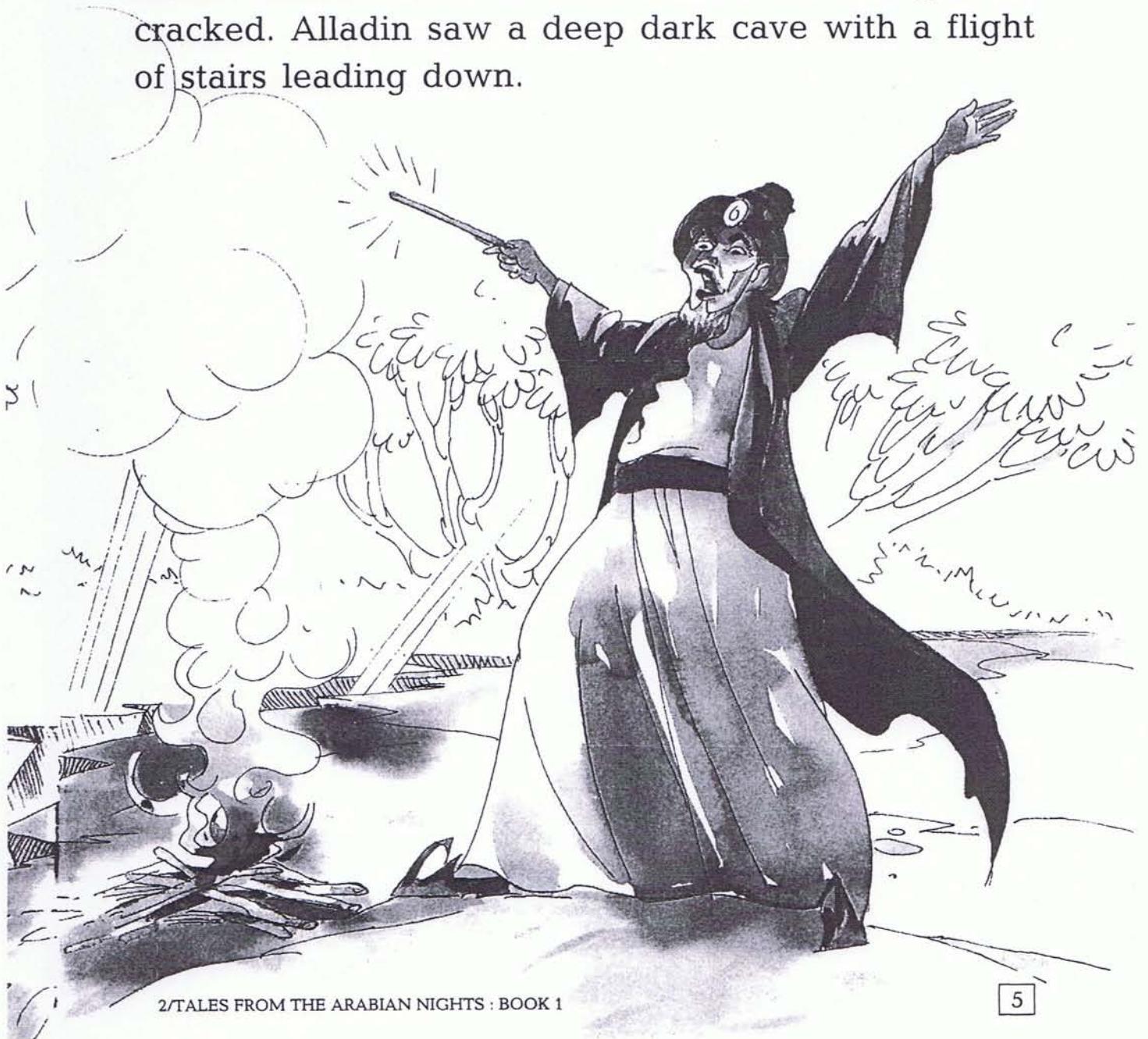
One day, Alladin and the stranger went for a walk. As they were walking, they reached a forest. The stranger said, "Son, I will show you some magic. Go and get me some firewood."





Alladin collected some firewood for his uncle. The stranger piled it up on the ground and lit a fire. He then said to Alladin, "Son, I know magic. You must do as I tell you. Do not be afraid. I am doing all this Only to make you and your mother happy."

Saying this, the stranger muttered some magical words and sprinkled a little powder in the fire. All of a sudden, there was a huge puff of smoke; the earth trembled under their feet and the ground cracked. Alladin saw a deep dark cave with a flight of stairs leading down.





The stranger said, "Son, go down the stairs and you will reach the bottom of the cave. You will see three rooms there. The first room is full of silver ornaments, the second one is filled with gold ornaments and the last room has ornaments made of diamonds and pearls. You may collect as much treasure as you like. In a corner of the third room, you will see a lighted brass lamp. Put out the flame, pour out the oil from it and bring the lamp to me."

Alladin was hesitant to enter the cave. The stranger saw it. He gave him a ring and said, "This ring will protect you. When you are in danger or if you are scared, just rub this ring against your cheek."

