

Story 1334 (1988 Tape 7)

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The American, the English, and the Turkish Wishes

All An American, an Englishman, and a Turk were once traveling together on a ship. A bad storm sank the ship, but the three companions managed to swim to a large island, and in that way they saved their lives. After they had been stranded on that island for ten years, they one day were visited by a giant-sized jinn.¹ The jinn said to them, "Each of you may wish for whatever you want, and that wish will be fulfilled."

The American said, "I am a married man, and I miss my family greatly. I wish to be returned to my family." As soon as he had said that, his wish was granted.

The Englishman said, "Without my company my old mother must be living alone. I wish to return to my mother." His wish was also granted.

Then the Turk said to the jinn, "Since you took away my

¹The word jinn suggests two very different kinds of supernatural creatures. The first is the huge supernatural being who comes forth from a bottle or appears in response to some signal, such as the rubbing of a magic lamp or ring. This creature then proceeds to give the caller supernatural or magic aid to achieve what he wishes. The other kind of jinn is never seen. It is a spiritual force referred to in some Sufi belief and in other mystical systems.

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companions, I am left here all alone. I have no place to either. I wish to have my two companions back with me again." The jinn granted this wish too and then he disappeared.