Act 1, Sc. 5-The Ambitions of Aladdin

(Daybreak, A. is dressed, ready to go, Mom enters, shocked)

MOM: By the prophet’s beard, you are up early ready to meet the merchants of the city. Your father would be very proud of you.

Al: I could hardly sleep I was so excited. (knock at door.) That must be uncle (open door).

S: Look at you, attired like a successful merchant. We are off to the Bazaar to introduce you to the royal merchants. Let’s not waste any more time, your destiny awaits you. Good bye my sister. The next time you see Aladdin, he will be a changed man.

MOM: Take full advantage of the wisdom and knowledge of your kind uncle.

Al: I shall, mother. Maybe this day my dreams will start to come true.

S: Farewell. We will be home in time for dinner. (Exit and head to Bazaar.)

ABDEL, clothing merchant: Oh, look at you, Aladdin. My splendid clothes have transformed you into an admirable gentleman. Where are you headed so early in the day?

Al: We are going to meet the most important merchants in the city….(Sorcerer interrupts).

S: That is enough, Aladdin. (Rushes out of Bazaar, looks over shoulder) Thank you and good bye. (Head off stage through audience for journey.) We have met our merchant and now let’s move quickly.

Al: Uncle, I thought we were visiting other merchants in the city.

S: You are better than that. I want you to dream big and set you on your path to your destiny. We will see grand palaces, mosques, gardens, and treasure that will exceed you wildest imagination.

Al: I have longed for this day, Uncle.

S: There is but one thing I ask.

Al: That sounds simple enough. What must I do?

S: You must bravely and gladly obey my commands.

Al: To hear is to obey!

S: You are a good boy, Aladdin. You will go far. (Continue walking, Aladdin gradually tires.)

Al: The day grows hot, Uncle. Can we rest in the shade?

S: We are very close to that which we seek. Just a little further.

Al: But Uncle, I see no grand palaces.

S: Patience and perseverance, my son. (Walk on further)

A: I cannot go a step further. Can we not stop for a drink and something to eat?

S: (Very angry, grabs A. and shakes him as he speaks.) You have one job and that is to obey my commands. Stop your whining, pick up some sticks, and we are going up that mountain, NOW!

Al: You are scaring me.

S: Good, now let’s go (they go up the mountain.) We go no further. I will show you extraordinary things which when you see them, you will thank me. Set your sticks here. (Fire starts.) Ajaye, ajji, jantar, jadu, MANTAR! (Loud noises, lights dim, flashing lights on mountain top).

Al: Uncle, I’m frightened, what is happening? I want to leave this place. (More noise and flashing lights.)

S: You swore to bravely follow my commands. Make your father proud and heed my words. You will enjoy treasure beyond your wildest dreams. Only you have the power to raise the slab and collect the treasure.

Al: Surely it is too heavy for me.

S: Put your hand on the brass ring, while repeating your name and the names of your parents and you will be able to raise it with ease.

Al: Aladdin, Mustafa, Fatima, (S: Louder) Aladdin, Mustafa, Fatima, (S: Faster), Aladdin, Mustafa, Fatima. Uncle, the slab is moving. I can lift it, as if by magic. (Slab is raised.)

S: Observe, my son, what I direct. Take care not to touch anything except what I command. Your life depends on it. Go down to the bottom of the ladder. Go to your left. Do not be tempted by the many treasures to be found in the chest or on the shelves. Bring me a well used, dull, oil lamp. Do not be drawn to the costly, more beautiful lamps. If you should wish some fruits from the trees, gather as much as you wish, but nothing else. Then come right back up this ladder. Do you understand completely?

Al: Yes, Uncle.

S: (Taking ring off his finger.) Take this ring, my son. It shall protect you from all your fear and hurt, but only if you follow my instructions. (Loud thunder breaks!)

Al: I am afraid and confused.

S: Coward. Obey me as you would your father. Here is your destiny. Descend and find the lamp! Find the lamp! Find the lamp!