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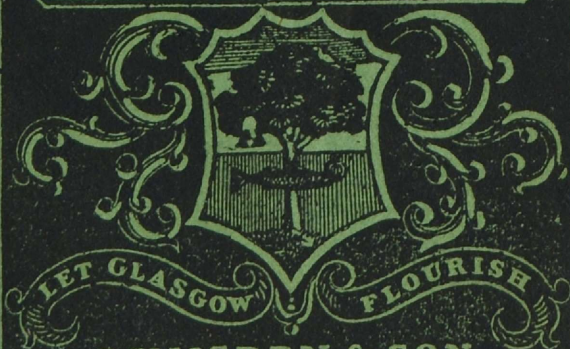
TWOPENNY BOOKS

**EMBELLISHED WITH
NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS**

JACK

AND THE

BEAN-STALK.



LUMSDEN & SON,
20 QUEEN STREET.



THE HISTORY
OF
JACK
AND
THE BEAN-STALK.

Embellished with
BEAUTIFUL COLOURED PLATES.

GLASGOW:
PUBLISHED BY J. LUMSDEN & SON.

JACK

AND

THE BEAN-STALK.

IN the days of King Alfred there lived a poor woman, whose cottage was situated in a remote country village, a great many miles from London.

She was a widow and had an only child named Jack, whom she indulged to a fault. The consequence of her blind partiality was, that Jack was indolent, careless, and extravagant. His follies were not owing to a bad disposition, but that his mother had never checked him.

The poor woman one day met Jack with tears in her eyes; her distress was great, and, she could not help reproaching him, saying, "Cruel, cruel boy! I have not money enough to purchase even a bit of bread for another day—nothing now remains but to sell my poor cow! I am sorry to part with her; but we must not starve."

For a few minutes Jack felt a degree of remorse, but it was soon over, and he began to tease his mother so much to let him sell the cow at the next village, that she at last consented.

As he was going along, he met a butcher,

who had some curious beans in his hat : they were of various colours, and attracted Jack's notice. This did not pass unobserved by the butcher, who, knowing Jack's easy temper, thought now was the time to take advantage of it, and, asked what was the price of the cow, offering at the same time all the beans in his hat for her. The silly boy could not conceal the pleasure he felt at what he supposed so great an offer ; and the cow was exchanged for a few paltry beans. Jack made the best of his way home, thinking to surprise his mother.

When she saw the beans, and heard Jack's account, her patience quite forsook her ; she kicked the beans away in a passion—they flew in all directions—some were scattered in the garden. Not having any thing to eat, they both went supperless to bed.

Jack awoke very early in the morning, and ran down stairs into the garden, where he soon discovered that some of the beans had taken root, and sprung up surprisingly ; the stalks were of an immense thickness, and had so entwined, that they formed a ladder nearly like a chain in appearance.

Looking upwards, he could not discern the top—He quickly formed the resolution of endeavouring to climb up to the top, in order to seek his fortune, and ran to com-

municate his intention to his mother. She declared he should not go; said it would break her heart if he did, but all in vain.

Jack set out, and after climbing for some hours, reached the top of the bean-stalk, fatigued and quite exhausted. Looking round, he found himself in a strange country; quite barren, not a tree, shrub, house, or living creature to be seen.

However, he walked on, hoping to see a house, where he might beg something to eat and drink; presently a handsome young woman appeared at a distance; she was dressed in the most elegant manner, and had a small white wand in her hand, on the top of which was a peacock of pure gold.

While Jack was looking at this charming female, she came up to him, and, with a smile of the most bewitching sweetness, inquired how he came there. Jack related the circumstance of the bean-stalk. She asked him if he recollected his father: he replied, he did not; and added, there must be some mystery relating to him, because if he asked his mother who his father was, she always burst into tears, avoided answering him, and even seemed afraid of speaking.

The young woman replied, "I will reveal the whole story: your mother must not. But I require a solemn promise on your part to

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do what I command ; I am a fairy, and if you do not perform exactly what I desire, you will be destroyed." Jack was frightened at her menaces, but promised to fulfil her injunctions exactly, and the fairy thus addressed him :—

"Your father was a rich man, his disposition remarkably benevolent: he made it a rule never to let a day pass without doing good to some person. On one particular day in the week he kept open house, and invited those who were reduced and had lived well. Your father, though a private gentleman, was as rich as a prince, and he deserved all he possessed, for he only lived to do good. Such a man was soon known and talked of. A giant lived a great many miles off; this man was altogether as wicked as your father was good: he was in his heart envious, covetous, and cruel; but he had the art of concealing those vices. He was poor, and wished to enrich himself at any rate.

Hoping to ingratiate himself into your father's favour. He removed into your neighbourhood, caused it to be reported that he had lost all he possessed by an earthquake and found it difficult to escape with his life. Your father pitied him; gave him handsome apartments in his own house, and caused him and his wife to be treated like visitors of con-

sequence, little imagining that the gaint was meditating a horrid return for all his favours.

The giant was one day using the telescope; the wind was very high; he saw a fleet of ships in distress off the rocks; he hastened to your father, mentioned the circumstance, and eagerly requested he would send all the servants he could spare to relieve the sufferers.

Every one was instantly despatched, except the porter and your nurse; the giant then joined your father in the study, and appeared to be delighted—he really was so. Your father recommended a favourite book, and was handing it down: the giant took the opportunity, and stabbed him; he instantly fell down dead. The giant left the body, found the porter and the nurse and presently despatched them, being determined to leave no living witnesses of his crimes.

You were then only three months old; your mother had you in her arms in a remote part of the house. The giant found her and hastened to serve her and you as he had done her husband, but she fell at his feet, and in a pathetic manner besought him to spare your life and hers.

“Remorse for a moment seemed to touch the barbarian’s heart: he granted your lives; but first he made her take a most solemn oath never to inform you who your father

was, or to answer any questions concerning him. Your mother took you in her arms, and fled as quickly as possible. The giant loaded himself and his wife with your father's treasure, set the house on fire in several places, and when the servants returned, the house was burned quite down to the ground.

"Your poor mother wandered with you a great many miles from the scene of desolation; she settled in the cottage where you were brought up, and it was entirely owing to her fear of the giant that she never mentioned your father to you.

"I became your father's guardian at his birth; but fairies have laws to which they are subject as well as mortals. A short time before the giant went to your father's I transgressed; my punishment was a suspension of power for a limited time—an unfortunate circumstance, as it totally prevented my succouring your father.

"The day on which you met the butcher, as you went to sell your mother's cow, my power was restored. It was I who secretly prompted you to take the beans in exchange for the cow.

"By my power the bean-stalk grew to so great a height, and formed a ladder. I need not add, that I inspired you with a strong desire to ascend the ladder.

"The gaint lives in this country: you are the person appointed to punish him for all his wickedness.

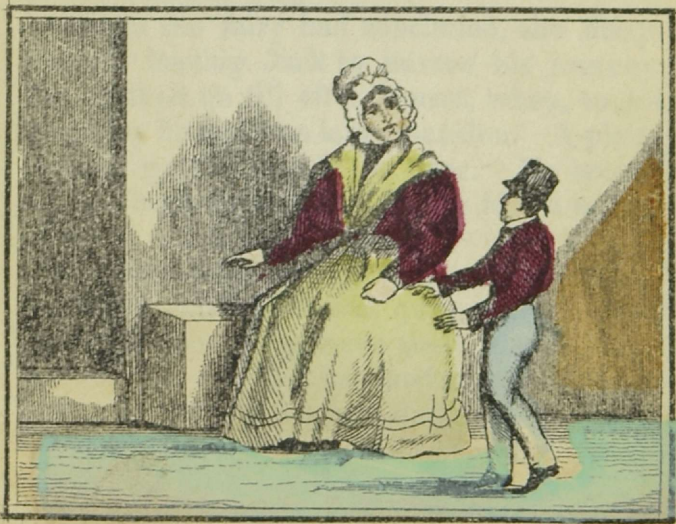
"As to the giant's possessions, you may seize on all you can: for every thing he has is yours, though now you are unjustly deprived of it. One thing I desire—do not let your mother know you are acquainted with your father's history till you see me again.

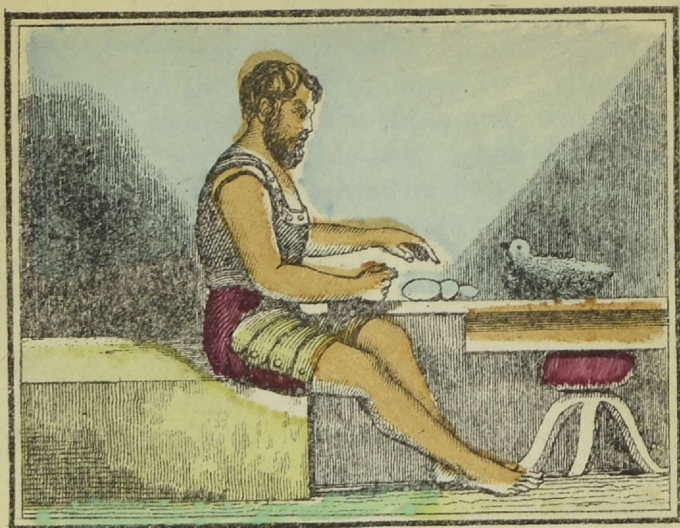
"Go along the direct road; you will soon see the house where your cruel enemy lives. While you do as I order you, I will protect and guard you; but remember, if you dare disobey my commands, a most dreadful punishment awaits you."

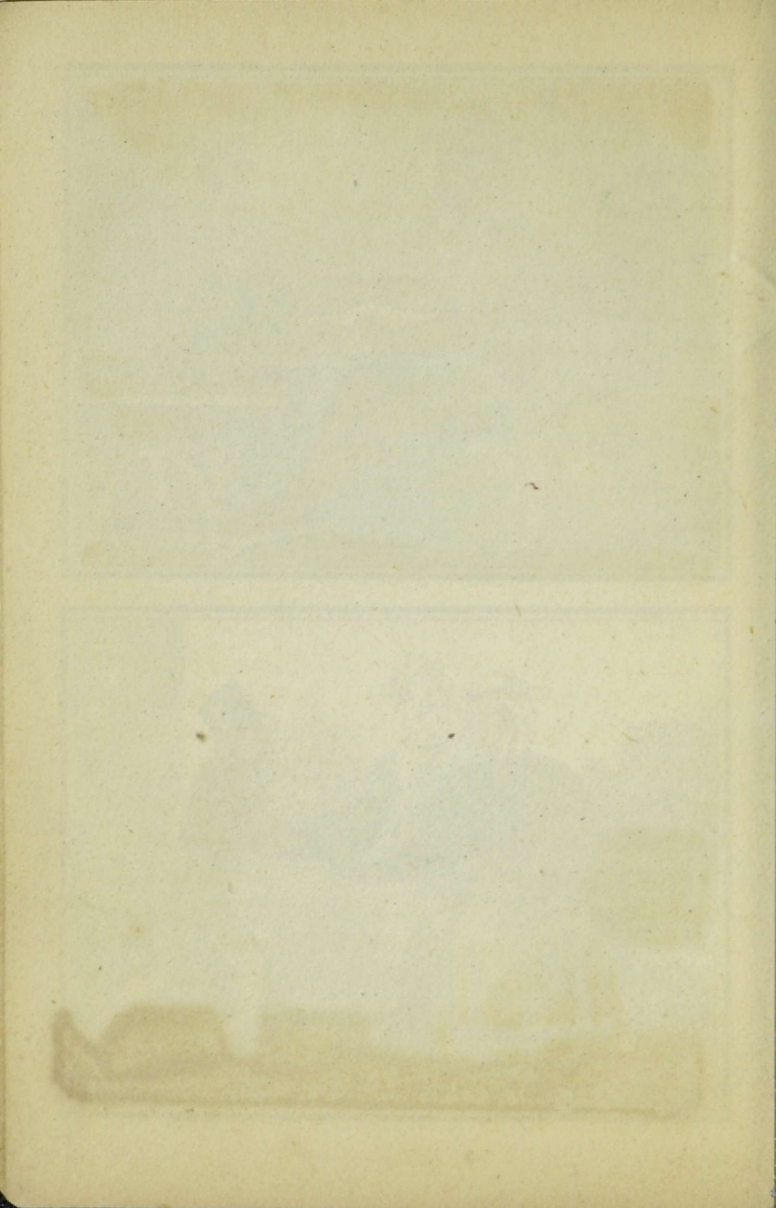
When the fairy had concluded, she disappeared, leaving Jack to pursue his journey. He walked on till after sunset, when, to his great joy he espied a large mansion. A plain-looking woman was at the door. He accosted her, begging she would give him a morsel of bread and a night's lodging.

She expressed the greatest surprise at seeing him; and said it was quite uncommon to see a human being near their house; for it was well known that her husband was a large and very powerful giant, and that he would never eat any thing but human flesh, if he could possibly get it.

The good woman bade Jack sit down, and







gave him plenty to eat and drink. Jack, not seeing any thing here to make him uncomfortable, soon forgot his fear, and was just beginning to enjoy himself, when he was aroused by a loud knocking at the street-door, which made the whole house shake; the giant's wife ran to secure him in the oven, and then went to let her husband in.

Jack heard him accost her in a voice like thunder, saying, "Wife, I smell fresh meat!" "Oh! my dear," replied she, "it is nothing but the people in the dungeon." The giant appeared to believe her, and walked into the very kitchen where poor Jack was concealed, who shook, trembled, and was more terrified than he had yet been.

At last the monster seated himself quietly by the fireside, whilst his wife prepared supper. By degrees Jack recovered himself sufficiently to look at the giant through a small crevice: he was quite astonished to see what an amazing quantity he devoured. When supper was ended, the giant desired his wife to bring him his hen. A very beautiful hen was brought, and placed on the table before him. Jack's curiosity was very great to see what would happen—he observed that every time the giant said, "Lay!" the hen laid an egg of solid gold.

The giant amused himself a long time with

his hen, meanwhile his wife went to bed. At length the giant fell asleep by the fireside, and snored like the roaring of a cannon. At day-break, Jack, finding the giant still asleep, crept softly out of his hiding-place, seized the hen, and ran off with her.

He met with some difficulty in finding his way out of the house, but at last found the way to the bean-stalk, and descended it better and quicker than he expected. His mother was overjoyed to see him: he found her crying bitterly, and lamenting his hard fate, for she concluded he had come to some shocking end through his rashness.

Jack was impatient to show his hen, and inform his mother how valuable it was. "And now mother, I hope to make you some amends for the affliction I have caused you through my idleness, extravagance, and folly."

The hen produced as many golden eggs as they desired; they sold them, and in a little time became possessed of as much riches as they wanted.

For some months, Jack and his mother lived very happily together; but he, being very desirous of travelling, longed to climb the bean-stalk, and pay the giant another visit, in order to carry away some more of his treasures. Jack thought of his journey again and again, but still he could not summon re-

solution enough to break it to his mother, being well assured that she would endeavour to prevent his going. However one day he told her boldly that he must take a journey up the bean-stalk. She begged and prayed him not to think of it, and tried all in her power not to dissuade him.

Jack, finding that all his arguments were useless, pretended to give up the point, though resolved to go at all events. He had a dress prepared which would disguise him, and something to colour his skin; he thought it impossible for any one to recollect him in this dress.

In a few mornings after this he rose very early, changed his complexion, and unperceived by any one, climbed the bean-stalk a second time and pursued his journey to the giant's mansion. He reached it late in the evening; the woman was at the door as before. Jack addressed her, at the same time telling her a very pitiful tale, and requesting that she would give him some victuals and drink, and also a night's lodging.

She told him (what he knew before very well) about her husband's being a powerful and cruel giant; and also that she one night admitted a poor boy, who was half-dead with travelling; and that the little ungrateful fellow had stolen one of the giant's treasures; and

ever since that her husband had used her very cruelly, and continually upbraided her with being the cause of his loss.

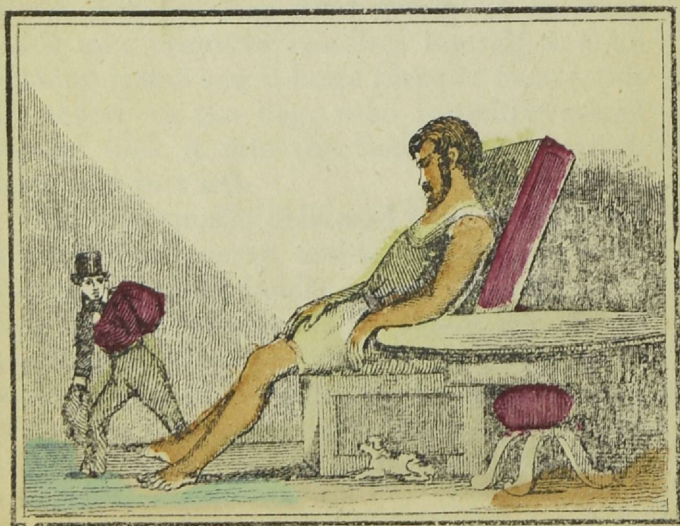
Jack did his best to persuade the good woman to admit him which he found a very hard task.

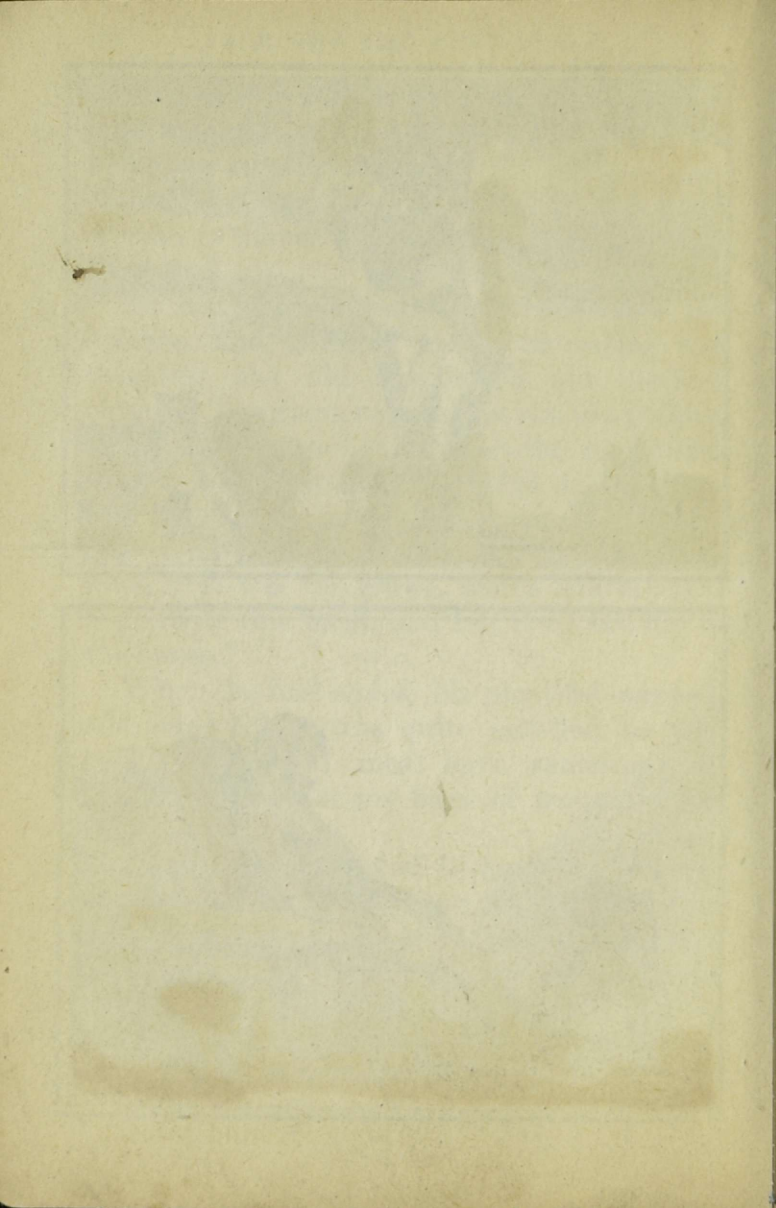
At last she consented, took him into the kitchen, and, after he had done eating and drinking, she hid him in an old lumber-closet. The giant returned at the usual time, and walked in so heavily that the house was shaken to the foundation. He seated himself by the fire, and soon after exclaimed, "Wife, I smell fresh meat!" The wife replied, "It was the crows, which had brought a piece of raw meat, and left it on the top of the house."

When he had ended his plentiful supper, and eaten till he was quite satisfied, he said to his wife—"I must have something to amuse me—either my bags of money or my harp."

After a great deal of ill-humour, he commanded her to bring down his bags of gold and silver. Jack, as before, peeped out of his hiding-place, and presently his wife brought two bags into the room: they were of a very large size; one was filled with new guineas, and the other with new shillings.

When the giant had counted over the gold





and silver, till he was tired, he tied up the bags very securely, and falling back on his chair by the fireside, fell asleep. He snored so loud, that Jack compared the noise to the roaring of the sea in a high wind when the tide is coming in. At last Jack stole out of his hiding-place, and approached the giant, in order to carry off the two bags of money; but just as he laid his hands upon one of the bags, a little dog, which he had not perceived before, started from under the giant's chair, and barked at Jack most furiously, who now gave himself up for lost. Contrary, however, to his expectation, the giant continued in a sound sleep, and the dog grew weary of barking. Jack now began to recollect himself, and on looking round saw a large piece of meat; this he threw to the dog, who instantly seized it, and took it into the lumber-closet which Jack had just left.

Finding himself delivered from a noisy and troublesome enemy, and seeing the giant did not awake, Jack boldly seized the bags, and throwing them over his shoulders, ran out of the house. In his way to the top of the bean-stalk he found himself greatly incommoded with the weight of the money-bags; and really they were so heavy, that he could scarcely carry them.

Jack was overjoyed when he found himself

near the beanstalk : he soon reached the bottom, and immediately ran to seek his mother. To his great surprise, the cottage was deserted ; he ran from one room to another, without being able to find any one ; he then hastened into the village, hoping to see some of the neighbours, who could inform him where he should find his mother. He was greatly shocked on finding her apparently dying, and could scarcely bear his own reflections, on knowing himself to be the cause. On being informed of our hero's safe return, his mother by degrees revived, and gradually recovered. Jack presented her his two valuable bags ; they lived happily and comfortably ; the cottage was rebuilt and well furnished.

Notwithstanding the comforts Jack enjoyed at home, his mind dwelt continually upon the bean-stalk ; he could think of nothing else. It was in vain he endeavoured to amuse himself ; he became thoughtful, and would arise at the dawn of day, and view the bean-stalk for hours together.

His mother discovered that something preyed heavily upon his mind, and endeavoured to discover the cause ; but Jack knew too well what the consequence would be should he discover the cause of his melancholy to her. He did his utmost, therefore, to conquer the great desire he had for another journey up the bean-stalk.

Finding, however, that his inclination grew too powerful for him, he began to make secret preparations for his journey, and on the longest day, arose as soon as it was light, ascended the bean-stalk, and reached the top with some little trouble. He arrived at the giant's mansion in the evening, and found his wife standing as usual, at the door. Jack had disguised himself so completely, that she did not appear to have the least recollection of him; however, when he pleaded hunger and poverty in order to gain admittance, he found it very difficult indeed to persuade her. At last he prevailed, and was concealed in the copper.

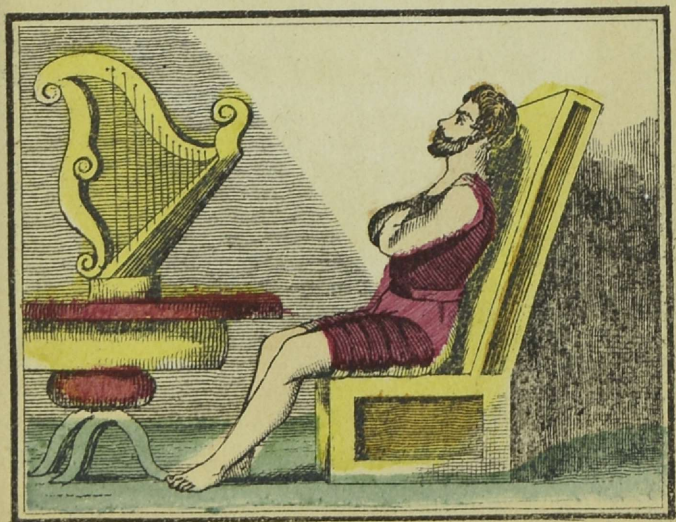
When the giant returned, he ate a hearty supper. When he had finished he commanded his wife to fetch down his harp. Jack peeped from under the copper-lid, and soon saw the most beautiful harp that could be imagined: it was placed by the giant on the table, who said, "Play!" and it instantly played of its own accord, without being touched.

The giant's soul was not attuned to harmony, and the music soon lulled him into a sound sleep. This therefore was the time to carry off the harp. As the giant appeared to be in a more profound sleep than usual, Jack got out of the copper and seized the harp. The harp was enchanted by a fairy: it called out loudly, "Master! Master!"

The giant awoke, stood up, and tried to pursue Jack ; but he had drank so much that he could hardly stand. Poor Jack ran as fast as he could ; had the giant been sober he must have overtaken Jack instantly ; but, as he then was, Jack contrived to be first at the top of the bean-stalk.

The moment Jack got down the bean-stalk he called out for a hatchet : one was brought him directly ; just at that instant the giant was beginning to descend, but Jack with his hatchet cut the bean-stalk close off at the root, which made the giant fall headlong into the garden. The fall killed him, and thereby the world was released from a barbarous enemy.

Jack's mother was delighted when she saw the bean-stalk destroyed. At this instant the fairy appeared. She first addressed Jack's mother, and explained every circumstance relating to the journeys up the bean-stalk. The fairy then charged Jack to be dutiful to his mother, and to follow his father's good example, which was the only way to be happy, and then disappeared ; Jack heartily begged his mother's pardon for all the sorrow and affliction he had caused her, promising most faithfully to be very dutiful and obedient to her for the future.



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