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## PRINCE CODADAD AND HIS BROTHERS

By Maxfield Parrish

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"MOTHER dear, please tell me a story." A wistful little face snuggles close, eyes wide and ears alert, for the mystic Once-Upon-a-Time. The stories of the "Arabian Nights" with their vast storehouse of information and their marvellous imaginativeness produce an insensible brightness of mind and an increase of fancy power to the youthful mind.

The above beautiful picture is an illustration from one of the stories, of which the following is a short synopsis:

There was once a magnificent and powerful sultan. He was loved by his people and, to complete his happiness, he prayed to heaven to give him a son to succeed him on the throne and continue his good work. His prayer was answered and he was blessed with many sons, who were brought up in the palace and grew into fine young men. All except one called Codadad, who was taken away as a child and brought up by his uncle, Sultan Samer, at another court. When he was eighteen years of age Prince Codadad was so handsome and clever

that he was looked upon as a prodigy. Brave and adventurous, he persuaded his uncle to fit him out as an officer and he then journeyed to his own country. Without revealing his identity he found means to present himself to the Sultan, his father, who was so charmed by his beauty that he gave him a command in his army and later made him his favorite, giving him the guardianship over his brothers. The Princes were jealous and, not knowing he was their brother, conspired to kill him, but, changing their minds, they determined to try

strategy. They went hunting and did not return, knowing their father would punish Codadad if anything happened to them. As they did not return the Sultan called Codadad and cried "Where are my sons? You have not taken proper care. Go bring them back or your life shall be forfeited." Codadad then set out and had wonderful adventures. He came to a great palace, built of black marble, guarded by a big black monster. He rescued from here a beautiful princess who tells him her story. She said the day of her marriage a neighboring

prince came at night and cut to pieces her husband's subjects. With a few companions she escaped in a fishing boat and on the third day out they saw a vessel approaching. At first they rejoiced, thinking it was a merchant ship come to rescue them, but to their consternation they saw ten or twelve pirates appear on the deck.

If you look at the pirates in the picture you will easily understand the terror of the poor princess and her companions, and— Lack of space prevents telling you the end of the story.