The main frame story concerns a Persian king and his new bride. He is shocked to discover his wife is unfaithful; he has her executed. But in his bitterness and grief, he decides that all women are the same. The king, Shahryar, begins to marry a succession of virgins only to execute each one the next morning, before she has a chance to dishonor him.

On the night of their marriage, Scheherazade begins to tell the king a tale, but does not end it. The king, curious about how the story ends, is thus forced to postpone her execution in order to hear the conclusion. The next night, as soon as she finishes the tale, she begins (and only begins) a new one.

Eventually the vizier, whose duty it is to provide them, cannot find any more virgins. Scheherazade, the vizier’s daughter, offers herself as the next bride and her father reluctantly agrees.

The king, eager to hear the conclusion, postpones her execution once again. So it goes on for 1,001 nights.

FRAME NARRATIVE - Overall unifying story within which one or more tales are related. In the single story, the opening and closing constitute a frame. In the cyclical frame story—that is, a story in which several tales are related—some frames are externally imposed and only loosely bind the diversified stories.