

How the Camel Got His Hump

Rudyard Kipling. Editorially revised.

This tale tells how the Camel got his big hump. In the beginning of years, when the world was so new and all, and the Animals were just beginning to work for Man, there was a Camel, and he lived in the middle of a Howling Desert because he did not want to work; and besides, he was a Howler himself. So he ate shrubs, thorns, and thistle, and he was incredibly lazy.

When anybody spoke to him he said: 'Humph!' Just 'Humph!' and no more.

Presently, the came to him on Monday morning and said, 'Camel, O Camel, come out and trot like the rest of us.'

'Humph!' said the Camel. The went away and told the Man.

Presently, the Dog came to him and said, 'Camel, O Camel, come and fetch and carry like the rest of us.'

'Humph!' said the Camel. The swent away and told the Man.

Presently, the came to him and said, 'Camel, O Camel, come and plough like the rest of us.' 'Humph!' said the Camel. So the went away and told the Man.

At the end of the day, the Man called the solution and the solution and the solution to the day, the Man called the solution and the solution and the solution the day of the desert can't work, or he would have been here by now. So leave him alone, and you must work double-time to make up for it.' That made the Three very angry. They gathered at the edge of the desert, loudly discussing the

whole thing. The Camel came chewing on and laughed at them. Then he said 'Humph!' and went away again.

Presently there came along the in charge of All Deserts, rolling in a cloud of dust, and he stopped to palaver and pow-pow with the Three.

• of All Deserts,' said the Horse, 'is it right for anyone to be idle, with the world so new and all?' 'Certainly not,' said the .

'Well,' said the A , 'there's a thing in the middle of your Howling Desert with a long neck and long legs, and he hasn't done a stroke of work since Monday morning. He won't trot.'

'Whew!' said the 💃, whistling. 'That's my Camel, for all the gold in Arabia! What does he say about it?'

'He says "Humph!"' said the $\langle \rangle$; 'and he won't fetch and carry.'

'Does he say anything else?'

'Only "Humph!" 'And he won't plough,' said the

'Very good,' said the). 'I'll humph him if you will kindly wait a minute.'

The Djinn rolled himself up in his dust-cloak, took a bearing across the desert, and found the idle Camel looking at his own reflection in a pool of .

'My long and bubbling friend,' said the , 'what's this I hear of your doing no work, with the world so new and all?'

'Humph!' said the Camel.

The sat down, with his chin in his hand, and began to think a Great Magic, while the Camel looked at his own reflection in the pool of *subsection*.

'You've given the Three extra work ever since Monday morning, all on account of your idleness,' said the 🔵 ; and he went on thinking Magics, with his chin in his hand. 'Humph!' said the Camel.

'I shouldn't say that again if I were you,' said the 🔪. 'You might say it once too often. I want you to work.'

And the Camel said 'Humph!' again. But no sooner had he said it than he saw his back, that he was so proud of, puffing up and puffing up into a great big lolloping humph.

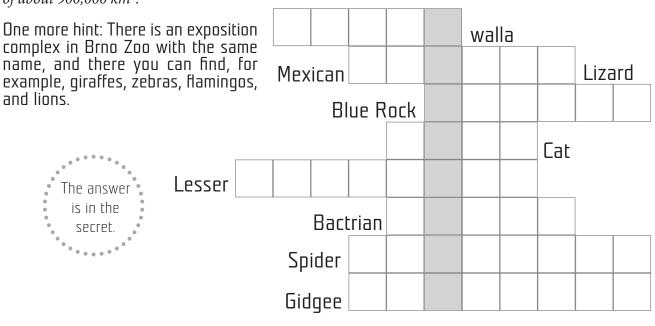
'Do you see that?' said the . 'That's your very own humph that you've brought upon your very own self by not working. Today is Thursday, and you've done no work since Monday, when the work began. Now you are going to work.'

'How can I,' said the Camel, 'with this humph on my back?'

'That's made a-purpose,' said the 'all because you missed those three days. You will be able to work now for three days without eating, because you can live on your humph; and don't you ever say I never did anything for you. Come out of the Desert and go to the Three, and behave yourself!'

And the Camel humphed himself, humph and all, and went away to join the Three. And from that day to this, the Camel always wears a humph; but he has never yet caught up with the three days that he missed at the beginning of the world. And he has never yet learned how to behave.

You certainly know this desert. It is in Africa, and is one of the two deserts on that continent. It has an area of about $900,000 \text{ km}^2$.





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