

HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP

RUDYARD KIPLING

Rudyard Kipling was born on December 30, 1865 in Mumbai, India. He was educated in England but returned to India in 1882. In 1892, Kipling married Caroline Bales and settled in Brattleboro, Vermont where he wrote The Jungle Book (1894) and "Gunga Din". Eventually becoming the highest paid writer in the world, Kipling was also the recipient of the Nobel prize for Literature in 1907. He died in 1936.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Summary of the Chapter

In the beginning, the world was new. Animals were just beginning to work for man. However, the Camel did not want to work. He lived in the middle of the Howling Desert . He ate sticks and thorns. He said "Humph" whenever anyone spoke to him. The Horse went to him on Monday morning. He asked the Camel to come out and trot as he did. But the Camel said "Humph". The Horse told the Man about it.

The Dog came to him. He asked him to work. But the Camel said "Humph". The Ox came to him. The Camel said to him too "Humph". The Man called the Horse, the Dog and the Ox. He asked them to work double time in order to make up the Camel' s work. The three animals got very angry. They held a panchayat in the Desert for solving the problem. There came a Djinn, the master of all deserts.

- The Horse complained to the Djinn about the Camel. He told the Djinn that the Camel did not work. He said only "Humph". The Djinn assured them that he would set the Camel right. The Djinn found the Camel near the pool of water in the Desert. The Camel was looking at his own reflection in it. The Djinn asked him to work. But the Camel said "Humph" only. But as soon as he said this, he saw something which was strange. He saw that his beautiful back was puffing up. He was very proud of his back. Now it turned very ugly.

- The Djinn told the Camel that it was his own hump which he himself had brought upon him by not working. The Djinn ordered him to work but he refused to work saying that his hump was a big hurdle.
- The Djinn told the Camel about the purpose of the hump. The Camel had not done work for three days without eating he could live on his hump. The Djinn asked the Camel to behave properly. Then the Camel went away to join the three animals. From that day onwards, the Camel always had a hump as a punishment.

So, what is the moral of the story?

Do your work on time
because laziness never pays.