



How the Camel Got His Hump

Based on the story by Rudyard Kipling
Adapted by Cara Bafle

NARRATOR 1:

In the beginning, when the world was new, all the animals were just starting to work for man. All the animals, that is, except the camel. He lived in the middle of a desert because he did not want to work. And when anyone spoke to him, all he said was "Humph." He said that and nothing more.

NARRATOR 2:

One day, a horse with a saddle on his back came to see the camel.

HORSE:

Camel, come and trot with us. There is much work to do.

CAMEL:

Humph!

NARRATOR 1:

-- said the camel. So the horse went to tell the man what he had found.

NARRATOR 2:

Next, a dog with a stick in his mouth arrived.

DOG:

Camel, come and fetch and carry like the rest of us. We need your help.

CAMEL:

Humph!

NARRATOR 1:

-- said the camel. And the dog left to tell the man what the camel said.

NARRATOR 2:

Then an ox with a yoke around his neck stopped by to see the camel.

OX:

Camel, you must come and plow with the other animals. There is work to be done.

CAMEL:

Humph!

NARRATOR 1:

-- said the camel. And the ox stomped away to inform the man.

MAN:

I'm sorry for the three of you, but the camel in the desert will not work even though there is much work to do. So you all must work harder to make up for his laziness.

NARRATOR 2:

The three animals were very angry with the camel, so they met at the edge of the desert to try to figure out what to do. The camel came and saw the meeting, but he didn't care.

CAMEL:

Humph!

NARRATOR 1:

-- he laughed, and went back home.

NARRATOR 2:

After he left, the Wizard of All Deserts rolled in on a cloud of dust and joined the animals' meeting.

WIZARD:

What brings you good animals to this place today?

HORSE:

Wizard, the world is new and there is much to do. Is it right to be lazy and not work?

WIZARD:

Certainly not!

OX:

But the camel in the desert refuses to help us.

DOG:

And se must do more to make up for his laziness.

WIZARD:

He will do nothing?

HORSE:

He won't trot.

DOG:

Or fetch and carry.

OX:

He never pulls a plow.

HORSE:

When we ask, he will say only "Humph!"

WIZARD:

I see. I will speak to the camel.

NARRATOR 1:

The wizard blew away in his cloud of dust and discovered the camel staring at his reflection in a pool of water.

WIZARD:

Camel, why are you here when others are working?

CAMEL:

Humph!

NARRATOR 2:

The wizard sat down and began to conjure a magnificent spell.

WIZARD:

You have made the horse, dog, and ox do all the work.

CAMEL:

Humph!

WIZARD:

I would not say that once more if I were you.

CAMEL:

Humph!

NARRATOR 1:

At that very moment, the camel noticed that his beautiful back, which he had been admiring in the reflection from the water, was now puffed up. Once straight and smooth, his back now formed a huge hump.

WIZARD:

Do you see your back? That is a "humph" that you have brought upon yourself with your laziness. Now you will work!

CAMEL:

But how can I work with this gigantic hump on my back?

WIZARD:

That hump has a purpose. You let your friends carry your load. Because of your hump, you can now work for days without food. So you can carry a much bigger load. Go back to the animals and make up for your sloth.

NARRATOR 2:

So the camel joined the others and worked for the man. But even today, he wears a hump to remind him how to behave.

