

The Camel's Nose

骆驼的鼻子

According to a Bedouin fable, an Arab and his camel were crossing the desert. Night came and the temperature dropped. The Arab put up his tent, tied his camel to it, and went to sleep.

根据阿拉伯游牧部落贝都因人的传说，有位阿拉伯人和他的骆驼正在跨越沙漠。在夜晚降临之后，气温变得很低。阿拉伯人便挂起了帐篷，绑好了他的骆驼，然后便去睡了。



The temperature dropped further, and the camel asked the Arab for refuge from the cold. The Arab was adamant. "There is only room in the tent for one!"

The camel was quiet for a few minutes, but soon asked again. "Please, Master! Just my nose. If I could just put my nose in your tent, it would keep me from freezing out here."

The Arab reluctantly agreed.

不久，气温降得相当低，骆驼便向阿拉伯人求助取暖。阿拉伯人态度坚定地说：“这个帐篷里只容得下一个人！”

骆驼在安静了几分钟后，很快又问道：“主人啊，求求你！只有我的鼻子，要是我能把鼻子放进帐篷内的话，我就不会感到那么冷了。”

阿拉伯人很不情愿地答应了。



The camel's nose became warm, but after a while the temperature went down even more. The camel woke the Arab and asked, "Please, can I just put my forelegs in the tent? They are very cold!"

Again the Arab reluctantly agreed. "Only your forelegs, nothing more!" So the camel nudged his forelegs into the tent and they became warm.

骆驼的鼻子开始感到温暖起来，但过了一段时间后，天气变得更冷了。骆驼便又吵醒了阿拉伯人、并问他说：“请让我把前腿也伸进帐篷里吧，我的腿好冷啊！”

阿拉伯人再次很不情愿地答应了。“好吧，只伸进你的前腿，就此而已！”所以，骆驼便把它的前腿伸进了帐篷；这时，它的前腿也就开始感到温暖起来了。



After some time, the camel woke the Arab again. “Master, I must put my hind legs in the tent. Otherwise I fear that they will freeze and I won’t be able to finish our journey tomorrow. What good is a camel with frozen hind legs?”

又过了一段时间，骆驼再次吵醒了阿拉伯人说：“主人啊，我一定得把我的后腿也伸进帐篷。不然的话，恐怕我会被冻死的；那样，明天我们就无法完成旅程了。后腿被冻坏了的骆驼又有什么用呢？”



So the Arab agreed once more, and the camel moved his hind legs in. But since there was only room in the tent for one, the Arab was forced to move out into the cold, where he barely survived the night.

阿拉伯人便再次同意了，骆驼把它的后腿也伸了进去。但因帐篷里只能容纳一个人，所以，那个阿拉伯人最终被迫离开帐篷，差点被冻死！



Moral compromise is like that camel. It just needs a small opening to get started—usually a thought that seems to have some basis in truth or reason—but if you entertain that thought, pretty soon it and a whole lot more like it move in and take over. Don't let the camel get its nose inside your tent.

道德上的妥协 那只骆驼一样。刚开始时，它似乎有点理由——通常只是一些小真理、或有事实根据的想法而已。但若你接受了那些想法的话，类似的想法就会很快侵入、并且越来越多，直到接管你的整个思绪。因此，千万别让那骆驼把鼻子伸进你内心的帐篷里！



Arab – 阿拉伯人

Camel – 骆驼

Desert – 沙漠

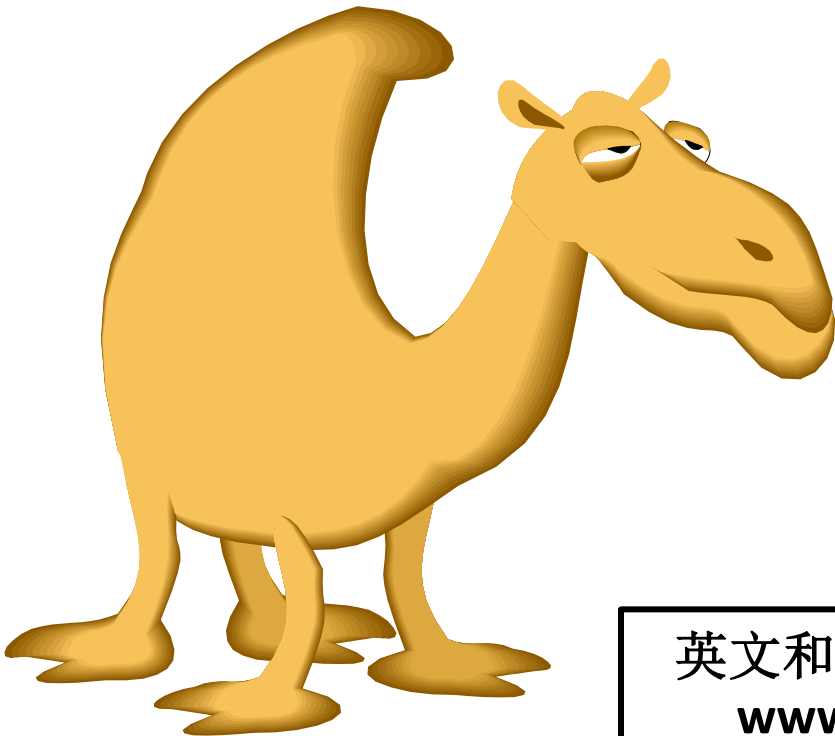
Tent – 帐篷

Nose – 鼻子

Forelegs – 前腿

Hind legs – 后腿

Moral compromise – 道德上的妥协



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