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吉卜林

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《正是如此的故事》

拉迪亚德·吉卜林(1865-1936) 生于印度的孟买。童年在印度度过,后回英国读书、上大学。1882年,开始从事记者工作。婚后先在美国住了一些时候,最终返回英格兰。

他生前恰是大英帝国鼎盛之时,虽然取得了巨大成功,甚至于1907年荣获诺贝尔文学奖,但死后声誉下降。他的爱国之情与众不同,因而在晚年失去了文学艺术界的同情。

他最著名的作品,包括《取自印度的平凡故事》(1888),《许多发明》(1893),《丛林故事》(1894和1895),《吉姆》(1901),《正是如此的故事》(1902)及《普克山的帕克》(1906)。《吉姆》是他世所公认的长篇小说杰作,而儿童读物《正是如此的故事》则是他在南非逗留期间开始创作的,曾风行数十年。

Rudyard Kipling

Just So Stories

Rudyard Kipling (1865 – 1936) was born in Bombay, India. He spent his early childhood in India and later went to school and college in England. In 1882 he returned to India and started work as a journalist. After his marriage he lived for some time in America before finally returning to England. Although Kipling achieved great success during his life, which coincided with the high noon of the British Empire (even being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907), his reputation went into eclipse after his death. His particular kind of patriotism had lost him the sympathy of the literary and artistic world some years before he died.

Some of his best known publications are: *Plain Tales from India* (1888), *Many Inventions* (1893), *The Jungle Books* (1894 and 1895), *Kim* (1901), which is regarded as his masterpiece in fiction. *Just So Stories* (1902), begun during his stay in South Africa and which was a popular success for decades, and *Puck of Pook's Hill* (1906).

How the Camel got his 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 sticks and thorns and tamarisks and milkweed and prickles, most 'scruciating idle; and when anybody spoke to him he said 'Humph!' Just 'Humph!' and no more.

Presently the Horse came to him on Monday morning, with a saddle on his back and a bit in his mouth, and said, 'Camel, O Camel, come out and trot like the rest of us.'

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

Presently the Dog came to him, with a stick in his mouth, and said, 'Camel, O Camel, come and fetch and carry like the rest of us.'

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

Presently the Ox came to him, with the yoke on his neck, and said, 'Camel, O Camel, come and plough like the rest of us.'

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

At the end of the day the Man called the Horse and the Dog and the Ox together, and said, 'Three, O Three, I'm very sorry for you (with the world so new-and-all): but that Humph-thing in the Desert can't work, or he would have been here by now, so I am going to leave him alone, and you must work double-time to make up for it.'

That made the Three very angry (with the world so new-and-all), and they held a palaver, and an *indaba*, and a *punchayet*, and a pow-wow on the edge of the Desert; and the Camel came chewing milkweed *most* 'scruciating idle, and laughed at them. Then he said 'Humph!' and went away again.

Hump: large round mass on a camel's back.

new-and-all: completely new.

Howling: (*of the wind in the desert*) making prolonged high-pitched sounds.

Howler: one who makes a big mistake. **sticks:** long, thin pieces of wood. **tamarisks:** small evergreen plants. **milkweed:** any of several wild plants with a juice like milk. **prickles:** plants with pointed sharp growths. **'scruciating:** excruciating; *here*, extremely. **idle:** lazy, not active. **Humph:** *exclamation showing doubt, irritation or dissatisfaction*. **Just:** only. **Presently:** soon. **saddle:** leather seat for a rider. **bit:** metal bar forming part of a horse's bridle. **trot:** run at a pace faster than a walk and slower than a gallop.

stick: piece of wood.

fetch: go for and bring back.

fetch and carry: *here*, work.

Ox: large male of a domestic species of cattle. **yoke:** piece of wood placed across the necks of oxen. **plough:** break up earth so that seeds can be planted.

Three, O three: you three.

new-and-all: completely new.

double-time: twice the hours **make up for:** compensate.

held: had **palaver:** conference. **indaba:** council.

punchayet: council **pow-wow:** talk. **edge:** limit

chewing: working food about between the teeth. **most:** sovery

idle: *here*, idly, lazily

Presently there came along the Djinn in charge of All Deserts, rolling in a cloud of dust (Djinns always travel that way because it is Magic), and he stopped to palaver and pow-wow with the Three.

'Djinn of All Deserts,' said the Horse, 'is it right for any one to be idle, with the world so new-and-all?'

'Certainly not,' said the Djinn.

'Well,' said the Horse, 'there's a thing in the middle of your Howling Desert (and he's a Howler himself) 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 Djinn, whistling, 'that's my Camel, for all the gold in Arabia! What does he say about it?'

'He says "Humph!"' said the Dog, 'and he won't fetch and carry.'

'Does he say anything else?'

'Only "Humph!"; and he won't plough,' said the Ox.

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

The Djinn rolled himself up in his dustcloak, and took a bearing across the desert, and found the Camel most 'scruciatingly idle, looking at his own reflection in a pool of water.

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

'Humph!' said the Camel.

The Djinn 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 water.

'You've given the Three extra work ever since Monday morning, all on account of your 'scruciating idleness,' said the Djinn, 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 Djinn; 'you might say it once too often. Bubbles, 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.

Djinn: jinni; spirit in Muslim mythology able to assume human or animal form and influence man by supernatural powers. **in charge of:** responsible for. **dust:** fine powder. **palaver, pow-wow:** talk, discuss.

idle: lazy, not active.

middle: centre.

he hasn't done a stroke of work: he has done absolutely no work. **Whew:** *exclamation of consternation*. **whistling:** making a clear note through the rounded lips.

I'll humph him: *here, I'll give him a lesson*.

kindly: please.

rolled himself up: enveloped himself. **dustcloak:** *here, loose garment made of dust*. **bearing:** direction. **took a bearing:** went in a certain direction. **pool:** small area of water.

bubbling: making the sound of gas or air balls in the water.

chin: part of the face below the mouth.

extra: more.

on account of: because of. **idleness:** laziness, inactivity.

went on: continued.

Bubbles: *here, form of address to a person who is not serious or reliable*. **no sooner:** immediately.

had he said: *inversion because of negative adverb at beginning of sentence*. **puffing up:** becoming larger as if filled with air. **lolloping:** *here, soft, not hard looking*.

‘Do you see that,’ said the Djinn. ‘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 Djinn, ‘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. Humph 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 (we call it ‘hump’ now, not to hurt his feelings); 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.

How the Rhinoceros got his Skin

Once upon a time, on an uninhabited island on the shores of the Red Sea, there lived a Parsee from whose hat the rays of the sun were reflected in more-than-oriental splendour. And the Parsee lived by the Red Sea with nothing but his hat and his knife and a cooking-stove of the kind that you must particularly never touch. And one day he took flour and water and currants and plums and sugar and things, and made himself one cake which was two feet across and three feet thick. It was indeed a Superior Comestible (*that’s* Magic), and he put it on the stove because *he* was allowed to cook on that stove, and he baked it and he baked it till it was all done brown and smelt most sentimental. But just as he was going to eat it there came down to the beach from the Altogether Uninhabited Interior one Rhinoceros with a horn on his nose, two piggy eyes, and few manners. In those days the Rhinoceros’s skin fitted him quite tight. There were no wrinkles in it anywhere. He looked exactly

brought upon: caused.

a-purpose: on purpose, for a reason.

you missed: *here*, you didn't work.

live on: survive by feeding on.

behave: act well. **Humph yourself:** (hump yourself) move.

join: be with.

hurt his feelings: offend him. **caught up with:** recovered, regained.

Skin: elastic covering of human or animal body.

Once upon a time, *traditional beginning of a fairy tale.* **uninhabited:** deserted, with no people. **shores:** land bordering on the sea. **Parsee:** person belonging to an ancient religious group in India. **hat:** covering for the head. **rays:** lines of radiant light. **by:** near. **but:** except. **cooking-stove:** apparatus burning wood, coal, etc. and used for cooking. **flour:** fine powder made from grain. **currants:** small sweet dried grapes. **plums:** soft round fruit. **feet:** units of measure (*one foot is approx. 30 cms*). **across:** from side to side. **thick:** from the top to the bottom. **indeed:** really. **Comestible:** something to eat. **he was allowed:** he had permission. **baked:** cooked in an oven. **done:** cooked. **smelt:** had an aroma which was. **sentimental:** *here*, sweet.

Altogether: completely. **Interior:** inland region.

horn: hard, pointed outgrowth on the heads of certain animals.

piggy: very small, like a pig's. **few manners,** *here*, few good manners.

fitted him quite tight: was smooth and of the right size. **wrinkles:** lines in the skin, creases.

like a Noah's Ark Rhinoceros, but of course much bigger. All the same, he had no manners then, and he has no manners now, and he never will have any manners. He said, 'How!' and the Parsee left that cake and climbed to the top of a palm-tree with nothing on but his hat, from which the rays of the sun were always reflected in more-than-oriental splendour. And the Rhinoceros upset the oil-stove with his nose, and the cake rolled on the sand, and he spiked that cake on the horn of his nose, and he ate it, and he went away, waving his tail, to the desolate and Exclusive Uninhabited Interior which abuts on the islands of Mazanderan, Socotra, and the Promontories of the Larger Equinox. Then the Parsee came down from his palm-tree and put the stove on its legs and recited the following *Sloka*, which, as you have not heard, I will now proceed to relate:

'Them that takes cakes
Which the Parsee-man bakes
Makes dreadful mistakes.'

And there was a great deal more in that than you would think. *Because*, five weeks later, there was a heatwave in the Red Sea, and everybody took off all the clothes they had. The Parsee took off his hat; but the Rhinoceros took off his skin and carried it over his shoulder as he came down to the beach to bathe. In those days it buttoned underneath with three buttons and looked like a waterproof. He said nothing whatever about the Parsee's cake, because he had eaten it all; and he never had any manners, then, since, or henceforward. He waddled straight into the water and blew bubbles through his nose, leaving his skin on the beach.

Presently the Parsee came by and found the skin, and he smiled one smile that ran all round his face two times. Then he danced three times round the skin and rubbed his hands. Then he went to his camp and filled his hat with cake-crumbs, for the Parsee never ate anything but cake, and never swept out his camp. He took that skin, and he shook that skin, and he scrubbed that skin, and he rubbed that skin

Ark: covered ship in which Noah and his family were saved from the flood.

How: *exclamation.* **Parsee:** person belonging to an ancient religious group in India. **climbed:** went up. **with nothing on:** nude. **but:** except.

upset: overturned, made to fall over.

rolled: turned over and over.

spiked: fixed, secured.

waving: moving. **tail:** movable long growth at the end of an animal's body. **abuts:** confines, borders.

Mazanderan: province of Iran. **Socotra:** island in the Indian Ocean. **Promontories of the Larger Equinox:** *pieces of imaginary geography.* **put ... on its legs:** placed ... in an upright position. **proceed:** continue. **relate:** tell, recite.

Them that: those who.

dreadful: terrible.

great deal: much.

heatwave: period of unusually hot weather.

took off: removed.

bathe: swim. **buttoned:** fastened with buttons.

underneath: under his body. **waterproof:** raincoat.

whatever: of any sort.

henceforward: from this time forward. **waddled:** walked with slow steps as if having a heavy body and short legs. **straight:** directly. **bubbles:** hollow balls of liquid containing air.

Presently: soon. **came by:** passed.

ran: went.

rubbed his hands: moved his hands one against the other.

crumbs: bits, small pieces. **but:** except.

swept out: cleaned with a brush. **shook:** moved backwards and forwards violently. **scrubbed:** rubbed with pressure.

just as full of old, dry, stale, tickly cake-crumbs and some burned currants as ever it could *possibly* hold. Then he climbed to the top of his palm-tree and waited for the Rhinoceros to come out of the water and put it on.

And the Rhinoceros did. He buttoned it up with the three buttons, and it tickled like cake-crumbs in bed. Then he wanted to scratch, but that made it worse; and then he lay down on the sands and rolled and rolled and rolled, and every time he rolled the cake-crumbs tickled him worse and worse and worse. Then he ran to the palm-tree and rubbed and rubbed and rubbed himself against it. He rubbed so much and so hard that he rubbed his skin into a great fold over his shoulders, and another fold underneath, where the buttons used to be (but he rubbed the buttons off), and he rubbed some more folds over his legs. And it spoiled his temper, but it didn't make the least difference to the cake-crumbs. They were inside his skin and they tickled. So he went home, very angry indeed and horribly scratchy; and from that day to this every rhinoceros has great folds in his skin and a very bad temper, all on account of the cake-crumbs inside.

But the Parsee came down from his palm-tree, wearing his hat, from which the rays of the sun were reflected in more than-oriental-splendour, packed up his cooking-stove, and went away in the direction of Orotavo, Amygdala, the Upland Meadows of Anantarivo, and the Marshes of Sonaput.

How the Leopard got his Spots

In the days when everybody started fair, Best Beloved, the Leopard lived in a place called the High Veldt. 'Member it wasn't the Low Veldt, or the Bush Veldt, or the Sour Veldt, but the 'sclusively bare, hot, shiny High Veldt, where there was sand and sandy-coloured rock and 'sclusively tufts of sandy-yellowish grass. The Giraffe and the Zebra and the Eland and the Koodoo and the Hartebeest lived there; and they were 'sclusively sandy-yellow-brownish all over; but the Leopard, he was the 'sclusivest sandiest-yellowest-

stale: dry because not fresh. **tickly**: causing irritation.
burned: hardened and dried by fire. **hold**: contain.

tickled: irritated the skin, itched.
scratch: rub to relieve irritation.
rolled: turned over.

rubbed: moved against with pressure.
fold: *here*, large area of loose skin.

spoiled his temper: made him angry. **least**: smallest.

tickled: irritated. **indeed**: really. **horribly**: terribly, very.
scratchy: with a hot, rough and irritating sensation.

on account of: because of.

packed up: put away.

Orotavo, Amygdala, Anantarivo, Sonaput: *inames of maginary places that echo the names of real places (e.g. Sonapur in India).*

Upland: higher part of a region. **Meadows**: areas of grass.

Marshes: wet lands.

Spots: small round marks.

fair: *here*, equal. **Best Beloved**: My Dear.

Veldt: open, unforested, grass country. **High Veldt**: *imaginary place*. **Member**: remember, don't forget. **Low**: not high. **Bush**:

place with low growing plants. **Sour**: bitter. **'sclusively**: exclu-

sively, uniquely. **bare**: empty. **hot**: of high temperature. **shiny**: bright. **tufts**: bunches, groups. **sandy**: covered with sand, sand-

coloured. **yellowish**: rather yellow. **Eland**: type of antelope, deer-

like animal. **Koodoo**: antelope with long spiral horns. **Hartebeest**:

type of antelope. **brownish**: rather brown. **'sclusivest**: most exclusive, most unique.

brownest of them all – a greyish-yellowish catty-shaped kind of beast, and he matched the 'sclusively yellowish-greyish-brownish colour of the High Veldt to one hair. This was very bad for the Giraffe and the Zebra and the rest of them: for he would lie down by a 'sclusively yellowish-greyish-brownish stone or clump of grass, and when the Giraffe or the Zebra or the Eland or the Koodoo or the Bush-Buck or the Bonte-Buck came by he would surprise them out of their jumpsome lives. He would indeed! And, also, there was an Ethiopian with bows and arrows (a 'sclusively greyish-brownish-yellowish man he was then), who lived on the High Veldt with the Leopard; and the two used to hunt together – the Ethiopian with his bows and arrows, and the Leopard 'sclusively with his teeth and claws – till the Giraffe and the Eland and the Koodoo and the Quagga and all the rest of them didn't know which way to jump, Best Beloved. They didn't indeed!

After a long time – things lived for ever so long in those days – they learned to avoid anything that looked like a Leopard or an Ethiopian; and bit by bit – the Giraffe began it, because his legs were the longest – they went away from the High Veldt. They scuttled for days and days and days till they came to a great forest, 'sclusively full of trees and bushes and stripy, speckly, patchy-blatchy shadows, and there they hid; and after another longtime, what with standing half in the shade and half out of it, and what with the slippery-slidy shadows of the trees falling on them, the Giraffe grew blotchy, and the Zebra grew stripy, and the Eland and the Koodoo grew darker, with little wavy grey lines on their backs like bark on a tree trunk; and so, though you could hear them and smell them, you could very seldom see them, and then only when you knew precisely where to look. They had a beautiful time in the 'sclusively speckly-spickly shadows of the forest, while the Leopard and the Ethiopian ran about over the 'sclusively greyish-yellowish-reddish High Veldt outside, wondering where all their breakfasts and their dinners and their teas had gone. At last they were so hungry that they ate rats and beetles and rock-rabbits, the Leopard and the Ethiopian,