

Day 18

While Balthazar was at the market choosing embellished velour ribbons and embossed foil wrapping paper, Caspar was sitting on the ground finishing a lengthy note to the Apprentices. He felt he had one or two important points to get across that Balthazar might have left out in his previous letter, and also was hoping that by sending extra instructions, he would appear extra thoughtful and authoritative to the Apprentices.

Caspar folded up the letter and neatly wrote the address on it, then put it down on the floor next to him to post later. Just then, Melchior arrived with his arms full of the most succulent looking leaves he could find, with the odd flower thrown in for good measure.

“You spoil those camels” Caspar observed.

“But they are such hard workers!” gushed Melchior. “Taking us all the way from the East over field and fountain, moor and mountain...” Of all the wise men, he was fondest of the camels, as well as being slightly prone to exaggerating the achievements of Kevin, Gary and Wayne.

He put the greenery down on the floor for the camels to graze on, then busied himself with packing away the magi’s camping kit.

“I can’t wait to stay in a proper inn tomorrow night!” said Melchior excitedly, as he tidied away the last tent pegs into a bag.

“...yes, I do love inns. You meet some interesting people. And people in inns just love listening to my little speeches full of wisdom...” mused Caspar as he rolled up some manuscripts and stowed away his writing equipment.

“Right- I think that’s everything packed! We’ll just wait for the camels to finish their leaves, then we’ll be off and collect Balthazar from the market, then onwards towards Bethlehem.” said Melchior. “Is your letter ready? We can post it on the way!”

But the letter was nowhere to be found. It wasn’t in any of the bags, nor was it anywhere in the pockets of the magi’s voluminous swishy robes, or rolled up in any of the manuscripts Caspar had been perusing.

After several minutes of fraught searching, Melchior helpfully asked:

“Where did you last have it?”

“I was sitting on the floor here, I put the letter down next to me, then you came along and put the leaves for the camels on the floor...”

Simultaneously, both Melchior and Caspar turned their heads towards the camels. Both Gary and Kevin were sitting contentedly on the ground chewing a mixture of leaves, flowers, and-

“My letter! *Spit it out!*” shouted Caspar in alarm.

Using a mixture of gentle persuasion and stern commands, Melchior managed to prise open the jaws of both camels, and extract the various pieces of masticated missive.

“This is just pieces! Just single words on soggy bits of paper! It’s ruined!” howled Caspar.

“Well, you’re the wisest, I am sure you’ll think of something” said Melchior sullenly, wiping camel spit and green goo off his hands.

Help Caspar put the pieces of writing back in the right order. In each question, there are enough words to make one complete sentence with one word left over at the end.

- 1- copy Dummies” Please “Camel hide of Management before the magi other my return. mine For
- 2- have into Check that spiders room. no snuck my hid
- 3- take my then study, leave the complicated most looking on the book out desk. Dust
- 4- about catchy writing song my Start to adventures a following Bethlehem. sung star the
- 5- Don’t “Wise forget of to the order next Sayings copy really Weekly”.
- 6- the get camels a feeding on strict as diet soon they home. Put as

Answers
1- Please hide my copy of “Camel Management For Dummies” before the other magi return.
2- Check that no spiders have snuck into my room.
3- Dust my study, then leave the most complicated looking book out on the desk.
4- Start writing a catchy song about my adventures following the star to Bethlehem.
5- Don’t forget to order the next copy of “Wise Sayings Weekly”.
6- Put the camels on a strict diet as soon as they get home.