

## Day 22

The three wise men continued their journey in silence. Melchior's teeth were still glued together with toffee, while Caspar was mentally rehearsing how he would act if they should meet another angel, and trying to compose a speech that sounded suitably awe-struck and humble whilst also conveying that he, as the most learned of all the magi, was definitely the most worthy of angelic conversation. Balthazar was studying the map intently- the journey had been rather eventful so far, and he didn't want anything to go wrong at this late stage in the game.

Kevin, Gary and Wayne the camels were likewise silent. The angels had been very beautiful, but to camel-eyes they were half-bird, half-human hybrids, and the camels were feeling mildly disconcerted.

After travelling a little way, they heard voices in the distance, as well as the unmistakable sound of baa-ing. Melchior wrenched his teeth apart to say-

"Oooh, maybe there'll be some more lost sheep for us to rescue!"

Before long, out of the darkness a flock of white fluffy sheep appeared, but they weren't lost- just behind them were shepherds carrying lanterns, crooks, woolly jumpers and all the other sorts of things you would expect shepherds to have.

The shepherds were chatting animatedly to one another, and as they grew nearer, the wise men overheard:

*Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.*

"People do speak funnily around here, don't they?" muttered Melchior to Balthazar in an undertone.

By then, the shepherds had spotted them, and hurried towards them.

"You'll never guess what we've just seen!" started the foremost shepherd. "While we watched our flocks by night, all seated on the ground..."

"I see what you mean, Melchior" whispered Balthazar "They do have a slightly odd way of arranging words..."

"...an angel of the Lord came down and-"

"Old news!" interrupted Caspar. "Those of us of a more learned disposition aren't so easily excited by the sight of heavenly beings" he scoffed.

Luckily for Caspar, by this point Melchior had started on another extra-chewy toffee, and was unable to open his mouth and inform the shepherds that Caspar's statement was hypocrisy of the highest order.

"This does remind me though," continued Caspar, "that I heard some great jokes about shepherds in the inn..."

At this point, Balthazar felt that he really did have to step in.

“Thank you, Caspar, I don’t think we need to hear them now” he said, very firmly. He then turned to the shepherds-

“Good luck on your journey to Bethlehem! We’ve just got to stop in Jerusalem first, then we’ll head right there”.

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- 1 Another word for “intently” is:
    - a Instantly
    - b Tenaciously
    - c Tactically
    - d Carelessly
    - e Attentively
  - 2 Why were the camels silent?
    - a Because the wise men told them to be quiet
    - b They were always well behaved and quiet
    - c They were feeling a little out of sorts
    - d They had lost their voices from making too much noise
    - e They had taken a vow of silence
  - 3 An antonym of “unmistakeable” is:
    - a Distinctive
    - b Ambiguous
    - c Unusual
    - d Deafening
    - e Mellifluous
  - 4 As used in the passage, the word “funnily” means:
    - a Wittily
    - b Oddly
    - c Comically
    - d Tunefully
    - e Drolly
  - 5 Melchior didn’t speak to the shepherds because:
    - a He didn’t like them
    - b He didn’t need to add anything to what Caspar had already said
    - c Balthazar told him not to
    - d He liked to let Balthazar do the talking
    - e His teeth were stuck together with toffee

All text in italics from Luke 2 (KJV)

Except this:



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Answer: 1- e 2- c 3- b 4- b 5- e