

Day 6

Kevin, Gary and Wayne the camels were rather enjoying the Brownie camp. They had their fur brushed and their tails braided by all the little girls with pigtails, and were being lightly dusted with glitter when the magi announced that it was time to go.

Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar clambered onto their beautifully-adorned steeds, and started the next leg of their journey.

“So, where to?” mumbled Melchior through a mouthful of chocolate brownie.

Balthazar frowned at the shopping list. “Well, gold is next on the list... but I suppose we ought to get some more gift wrap for that, and for the frankincense as well. And maybe gift bags to put the gifts in once they’re wrapped. And certainly some of that ribbon that you straighten out with scissors to make it go all curly...”

He continued in this vein for some time, until Wayne the camel’s fool-proof sense of direction kicked in and he became acutely aware that they were actually travelling back in the direction of the first stop on their map- the one he wanted to avoid (check the map on Day 1!). Wayne stopped suddenly, causing the wise man sitting on his back to topple off.

“Oooof.” said Caspar, picking himself up and dusting down his robes. “I think Wayne must have hurt his foot on something”.

This wasn’t strictly speaking true, but Wayne decided to play along, and extended his front foot out while bellowing, as if to say “Yes, my foot really hurts and we must change our route immediately to go only along the easiest of ground, and most certainly not back towards the East”.

Balthazar put away what was now a rather extensive Christmas shopping list, and got out a map. “I suppose we could head South-East instead. There is a gold mine there-“

“And a Christmas Bazaar!” interrupted Melchior. “I’ve seen posters advertising it everywhere since we left the East.”

“A bizzare?” pondered Caspar to himself. As wise as he liked to think himself, he really didn’t know what that was. Determined to find out, he put on his sagest voice and proclaimed “My fellow magi- it has been revealed to me that we must turn South-East to better pursue our quest! Perhaps on the way, we will be fortunate enough to acquire not just gifts, but the greatest of all rewards- *knowledge.*”

Kevin the camel yawned pointedly.

“But we’ll stop for the night first,” conceded Caspar. “After all, the brain works better when it is nice and refreshed.”

Questions

- 1- Who is the second wise man to speak in the passage?
- 2- Which wise man was travelling on Wayne the camel?
- 3- True or false- Wayne the camel had injured his foot.
- 4- Who was the first wise man to suggest walking South-East?
- 5- Which is the final camel to be named in the passage?

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Answers- 1- Balthazar 2- Caspar 3- False 4- Balthazar 5- Kevin