

## ***The Camel and the Tortoise***

*A camel and a tortoise attempt to show each other the Truth.*

*As he was walking in the desert one day, the Camel realized that he was thirsty. As often happens at times like these, there was no water in sight. Never one to worry much, the Camel walked on, and a little further along, he came to the edge a small oasis, blessed by the shade of several fine palm trees.*

*As he lowered his head to drink, the Camel thought he heard a very small "hrmph" sound. There, near the water's edge, was a rather ordinary if somewhat impatient looking tortoise. The Tortoise was resting comfortably on a flat stone. His body was almost entirely below the water, though his eyes and snout appeared above the surface, adequately conveying his irritation.*

*"Hrmph", repeated the Tortoise. "I suppose it's really too much to expect good manners from strangers."*

*"Beg your pardon?" asked the Camel, unconcerned.*

*"Would it be so terribly difficult," continued the Tortoise, "to ask first before drinking in SOMEONE ELSE'S HOME?"*

*"But, I AM home!" insisted the Camel.*

*"I am a native of this pond", said the Tortoise. "It is MY pond, and everything in it!"*

*"Ah," said the Camel. "and I am a native of this desert. YOUR pond is merely a small part of MY desert."*