

ANIMAL QUARREL

Once Camel, Horse, Cow, Sheep, Dog, Rooster, Han, Mouse and other animals had a quarrel for they could not decide, whose name the year count should begin with.

“If man sits upon my back and rides, the long distance becomes short,” said Horse. “Man uses my strength, drinks my milk and even makes lassos of my tail. No animal is more useful for man than me. The year count has to begin with my name.”

“When you work for man, you get barley, oat and hay for that. So you have become the slave for men for food, — the camel replied. — But I do lift loads too big for you to lift and carry them for the distances over several months. When I am hungry, I do not ask for oat and barley. I am content with what I came across on my way: if it is feather grass — I eat feather grass, and if it is wormwood — I eat wormwood. If there is water I drink it, and if there is not — I can stand my thirst for very long. This is why the year count has to begin with my name.”

“I help man tilling the land. The man drinks my milk and makes the kurt and batter from it,” Cow said.

“What would man use to cover the yurt if I wouldn’t give them my wool? Man makes felt, twist threads, and wreathes lassos of it, makes robes from jabaga” Sheep replied.

“If not for me, lot of you would have been stolen by thieves or killed by wolves. I watch over all of you and I begin barking if there is a foe getting closer, informing master” Dog said.

“We help man to get up early in the morning not to be late for work,” Han insisted. “Rooster gets up early and starts to warble letting everyone know that the dawn comes. In midnight he screams to inform that it is time to go to bed not to oversleep in next morning. In evening he screams again giving note that time has come to rest.”

Only Mouse was silent not knowing what to say and thinking how to trick others. Then it suggested, “This quarrel will not do us any good. Better let’s wait until the beginning of the new year and name it after the animal who will be the first to see it.”

As long as Camel was the highest, he thought that no one can see the beginning of the year before him, so he was the first to agree with Mouse. So everyone started to stare waiting for the new year to come.

Meanwhile, Mouse slipped away, climbed secretly upon Camel’s hump and stayed there waiting. As a result, it was the first to see the beginning of the year and inform everyone about it. This is why the first year in the count bears the name of mouse.

And after this quarrel, the saying appeared “The camel thought his size would bring him luck, but he ended up with nothing”.

True or false

1. “If not for me, lot of you would have been stolen by thieves or killed by wolves. I watch over all of you and I begin barking if there is a foe getting closer, informing master” Sheep said.
2. A dog hid on a camel's hump.
3. If there is water, I will drink it, and if there is no water, the cat is an animal that can endure thirst for a long time.
4. As a result, the beginning of the year begins with the first mouse.
5. After this quarrel, the saying appeared “The camel thought his size would bring him luck, but he ended up with nothing”.

Fill in the gaps

[felt, luck, wreathes lassos, size, slipped, screams, trick, climbed, camel, twist threads, Mouse, ended up]

1. Man makes ____, ____, and ____ of it, makes robes from jabaga
2. Mouse ____ away, ____ secretly upon ____'s hump and stayed there waiting.
3. Only ____ was silent not knowing what to say and thinking how to ____ others.
4. The camel thought his ____ would bring him ____, but he ____ with nothing
5. In evening he ____ again giving note that time has come to rest.