

God as Jesus says "That it is easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God." Matthew CH.19. V.24.

THE RICH MAN, THE CAMEL AND "THE EYE OF A NEEDLE."

There is a rich merchant who wishes to sell his wares at a market place in Jerusalem. The route to the bazaar lies through a narrow passage way that almost tapers to a point and because of this, is known locally as "The eye of a needle. His camel is laden with rugs from the Orient, bolts of silk from Damascus, jars of precious ointments and luxurious animal skins, the panniers on either side of the camel are bulging and further wares are hooked onto the outside of the baskets.

Slowly the beast moves over the cobbled track. But as the path narrows, its progress is impeded by the close proximity of the houses. Finally the camel comes to a standstill. The merchant realises that to move any further he will have to jettison some of the animal's burden. With ill grace he knocks on a door and thrusts several costly items into an astonished house-holder's hands "We are in sore need and you come in answer to our prayers, thank you sir and God bless you for your generosity" the man says.

The merchant is somewhat mollified by the

reception he is given, so that when the alley way is constricted even further and he has to part with more of his merchandise he anticipates the pleasure his gifts will bring. For the first time in his life he is able to appreciate the meaning of "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

He moves on and further impediments become a source of delight to him for he senses that love given and received is far more precious than any material wealth.

At last the camel emerges into the sunlit market place, its burden much reduced but the merchant filled with spiritual love is happier than he has ever been.

And that is how, in my humble opinion, the camel got through the eye of a needle and the rich man entered the Kingdom of God.

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