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# 穿越 沙漠

## Crossing the Desert



♥ by Agnes Gabriel



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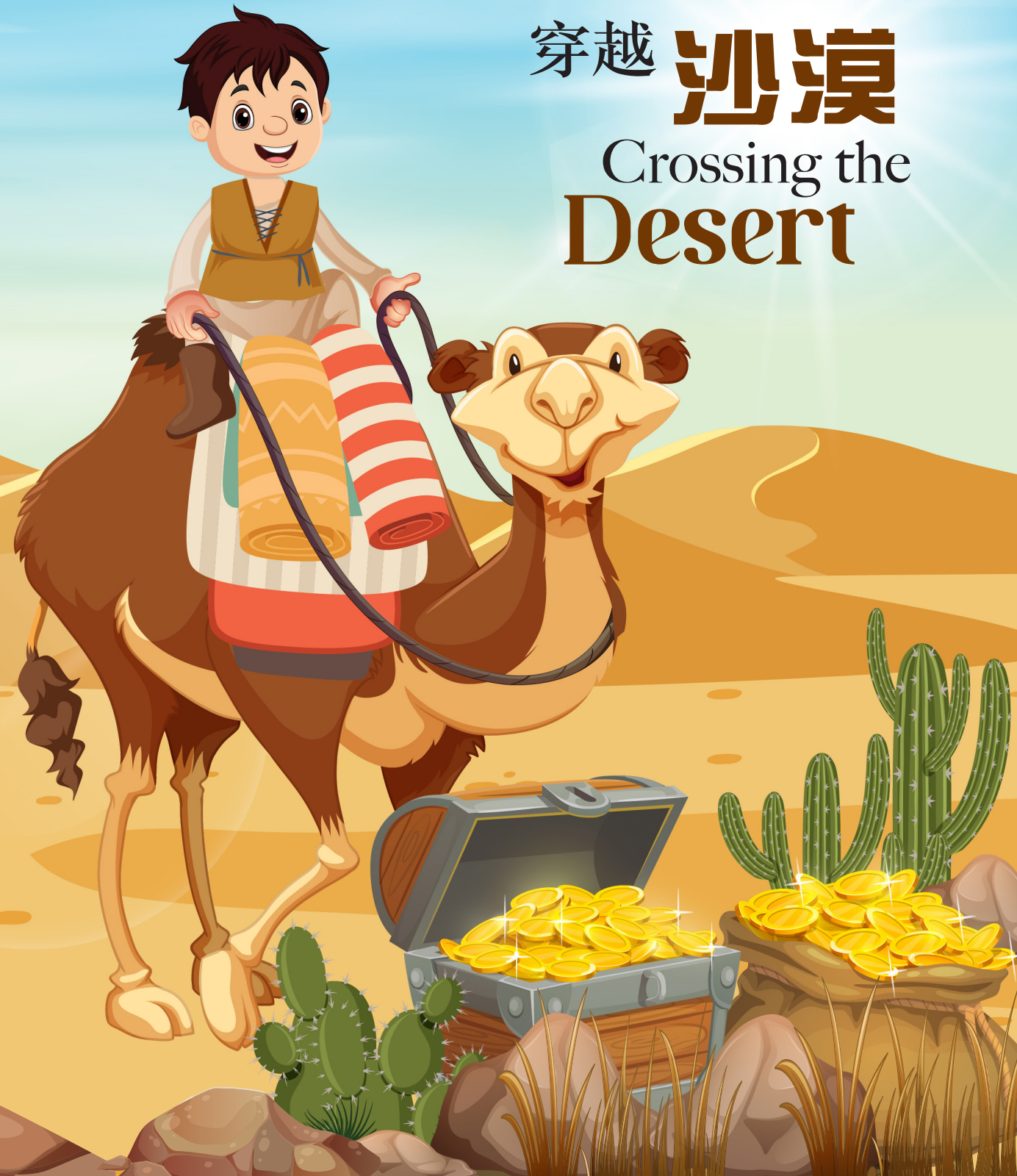


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# 穿越 沙漠

Crossing the  
Desert



Hello everyone, meet Chang An. He has dark brown hair, big, round, **expressive**<sup>[1]</sup> eyes and a long nose. He had just turned 18 and was very eager to carve a name for himself as a renowned trader. His father was a well-known trader — **a gold standard**<sup>[2]</sup> for traders on many trading routes. Chang An wanted to be more famous than his father and was preparing to go to the faraway town of Bao Chan on his first trading expedition.

长安有一头深色的头发，又大又圆的双眼，还有漂亮的鼻子。他刚满十八岁，从小的愿望就是成为一名商人，就像他的父亲一样，是许多商人的学习对象。长安想比自己父亲更成功，更优秀，于是他准备前往「宝禅」这个小镇，开始他人生中第一次的**贸易**<sup>[1]</sup>之旅。







西地

Chang An lived in a busy trading town named Xi Di, where merchants from all around came to buy and sell things. It was a very busy town, with many shops as well as inns for people to stay in, rest and eat. Chang An wanted to travel to Bao Chan because people there liked the cloths made in Xi Di. He could sell bales of cloths for high prices, and he hoped to bring home cartloads of gold and become well-known and rich.

长安居住的城镇叫「西地」，是一个繁荣的城市。那里有来自不同国家的商人进行交易。在他的城镇，有许多商店和客栈<sup>[2]</sup>让商人住宿、休息和吃饭。长安想去「宝禅」最主要的目的，是因为那里的人都喜欢「西地」的布料。他希望把家乡的布料卖到「西地」，赚取一车车的黄金回到家乡，成为了了不起的商人。







On a bright Sunday afternoon, Chang An and his 40 men loaded up 500 carts with many bales of fabric. Then, they saddled up their horses and slowly plodded out of town.

Days passed and slowly Chang An and his team found themselves close to the town of Bao Chan. At a small outpost, they **swapped**<sup>[3]</sup> their horses for camels. Chang An and his team were excited. Now they just needed to cross the stretch called "The Lost Wilderness".

在一个风和日丽的下午，长安决定带着四十名队员，也装了五百辆推车的布料，骑着马离开了家乡。

几天过去，长安和他的团队离「宝禅」越来越近。路途中，他们将自己的马换成了骆驼继续前行。他们感到非常开心，因为接下来只要穿过「失落荒野」的沙漠，就可以到达「宝禅」了。



It was a large area of desert with rolling dunes and sand so fine that it would slip through the fingers of a closed fist. In the past, many traders had lost their way and their lives while crossing it. As soon as the sun rose from the horizon, the sand would bake until it felt like they were walking on a large bed of burning charcoal. So Chang An and his team travelled only at night. For safety, they arranged their carts in a circle to form a **protective**<sup>[4]</sup> ring. During the day, they used a very large mat as a protective covering for the men and animals and waited until sunset.

When the sun had disappeared and the moon and stars blanketed the wide sky, they would yoke their carts and continue their journey. Along the way, they saw **bleached**<sup>[5]</sup> white bones half-buried in the sand — a final resting place for lost traders and their animals.



这是一片非常大的沙漠，沙丘起起伏伏<sup>[3]</sup>，沙粒也非常细。曾经有许多商人在这里迷路，丢失了性命。当太阳升起时，沙漠就像个大烤盘，白天就像走在火炭上一样，热得大家无法忍受。所以长安和团队只能在晚上赶路。为了安全起见，他们把骆驼和推车排成一个圆形，形成了一个保护圈。白天，他们就用一个很大的布盖着骆驼和推车，保护自己不被太阳照射。

当太阳下山后，月亮和星星布满天空，他们继续带着推车和骆驼赶路。一路上，都是曾经迷路的商人和动物的白骨，沙漠也成为了他们的安息之地。



When morning came, Chang An and his team set up their camp and rested again. Shortly before nightfall, excited by the feeling that they were now almost at their destination, Chang An gave orders for the men to pour away most of their water and bury most of their remaining food in the sand. They would bring just enough supplies with them for one more day. Some of the men disagreed with Chang An's order, but he stood firm. With a lighter load, they would be able to travel faster. Even though some of his team members were not comfortable with Chang An's decision, they did as they were told.

Chang An had proven his leadership by taking his team that far on their long journey. They would not have gotten that far without his knowledge of the stars and navigational skills. Travelling through the desert was like travelling along a rolling sea with no landmarks in sight. Chang An's skills had enabled the team to make their way through the desert up to that point.



到了早上，长安和队友搭了帐篷再次休息。长安非常高兴，因为他们就快要到达「宝禅」了。长安命令大家把所有的水倒掉，把剩下的食物埋进沙漠里，只带上一点点食物就继续出发了。有些人不同意长安的命令，但长安认为行李变轻的话，他们可以走得更快更轻松。

穿越沙漠就像在大海上漂流，看不到任何方向。如果没有长安的观星知识<sup>[4]</sup>，导航技能<sup>[5]</sup>，还有他的领导能力，大家不可能走的这么远。



When the moon rose, they set off again in the cool of the night. Even though they were very close to their destination, everyone in the team had been travelling for weeks and **fatigue**<sup>[6]</sup> had set in. **Lulled**<sup>[7]</sup> by the rhythmic slow plodding of the camels they were sitting on and the confidence that they would reach the town the next day, they all fell fast asleep while the camels continued the journey.



终于到了夜晚，长安和团队开始继续赶路。走了几个星期大家都没有停下脚步，非常的累。于是大家决定坐上骆驼，慢慢的前进，如果没有意外，第二天就能到达「宝禅」了。由于太过劳累，大家都不小心在骆驼的背上睡着了。





At daybreak, Chang An woke up with a startle when he heard loud cries among his men. Shock and horror dawned on his face when he saw where they were. During the night, the camels had walked in a big circle, and they were now back at the same place where they had camped the day before.

Having thrown away almost all their water and food, the men were hot and dirty, and very angry with Chang An. If all had gone well the night before, they would have reached Bao Chan by then, instead, they were still in the desert.





天亮时，刚睡醒的长安听到了大家的哭声，他对眼前的一幕感到震惊<sup>[6]</sup>。骆驼在大家睡着之后，把大家带回到前一晚露营的地方。现在的他们已经没有食物和水了，大家又累又脏，对长安的决定感到非常生气。

Heaviness and weariness spread throughout the group. Chang An felt arrows of anger from his men and realised the folly of his actions. He thought to himself, "If I give in now, every one of us will die. I will need to find a water source."

Chang An walked around the **perimeter**<sup>[9]</sup> of his team's camp, looking for signs of water. He came to a place where he thought there might be water under the ground. Hurriedly, he ordered his men to bring the spade and he started digging. The men gathered round and joined in. With only one spade, they took turns digging under the hot sun. Eventually, the spade hit a rock and broke. The men, hot and sweaty, collapsed on the hot sand and felt utterly defeated.



大家都没有力气再继续前进，长安明白大家的愤怒，也明白自己错误的决定，但他并没有感到沮丧：“如果我现在倒下，每个人都会死去。我一定要先找到水源，让大家活下去！”

长安开始在营地附近寻找水源。他来到营地旁边，拿起铁铲开始挖掘。尽管生气，但团员们还是聚集在一起帮助长安。因为只有一把铁铲，每个人都轮流在大太阳底下挖掘。挖了很久之后，铁铲因为撞到石头断裂了。大家已经筋疲力尽，累倒在炎热的沙漠上。





Chang An jumped into the hole they had dug and put his ear on the rock. With a smile, he climbed out and faced his tired, dirty, and thirsty men. "If we give up now", he said, "we shall all die. So, let's take heart and be courageous. Bring the sledgehammer and let's break this rock." When he said this, many of his men rolled their eyes and sighed with **exasperation**<sup>[9]</sup>. However, Chang An spoke with so much passion and sincerity that the men also felt his conviction, so they did as they were told and fetched the sledgehammer.

Then something amazing happened! When they broke the rock, a jet of water shot up from the ground. As the water continued to flow, the thirsty men cheered and drank to their hearts' content. They filled their flasks with water and continued their journey. Finally, they arrived at the town of Bao Chan.

这时，长安把耳朵贴在石头上，露出了微笑，对大家说：“如果我们现在放弃的话，大家都会死的！我们一定要振作、勇敢起来！一起把这块石头**砸碎**<sup>[8]</sup>！”长安的热情与真诚打动了大家，他们也决定一起砸碎大石头。

神奇的一刻出现了，大石头裂开后，一股泉水从地上喷出。团员们非常的感动，尽情地喝着水，也庆幸大家没有放弃。补充水分之后，他们便继续赶路，最终成功到达了「宝禅」。



The people of Bao Chan loved the cloths. Chang An sold all the bales and returned home a very rich person. He became famous for leading his team safely to Bao Chan and back. Now, in the comfort of their hometown, his men gathered for a celebration. One of the men asked Chang An how he had known where to dig when they were looking for water in the desert.

Chang An told his men that he had noticed the presence of a **sole**<sup>[10]</sup> plant in the area where he had told his men to dig and when he placed his ear on the rock, he heard the gurgle of water under it. That was why he had urged them to continue and break open the rock.

With admiration and respect, Chang An's team stood up and cheered for their leader.



「宝禅」的人非常喜欢这些布料，长安也卖掉了所有的布料回到家乡，成为了出名的商人。他因为成功穿越沙漠，受到大家的**表扬**<sup>[9]</sup>。回到家乡后，他和大家一起庆祝这次的旅程。其中一个团员问长安：“你是怎么知道沙漠中有水源的？”。

长安说：“我注意到一棵**孤伶伶**<sup>[10]</sup>的植物，于是便开始往下挖。当我把耳朵贴在大石头上的时候，我听到了水的声音。”这也是长安叫大家不要放弃的原因。听完长安的话以后，大家都非常**敬佩**<sup>[11]</sup>长安，起立为他鼓掌欢呼。





### **Moral of the story:**

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. In times of duress and danger, it is even more important for one to remain calm, level-headed and stay as cool as a cucumber.

In this way, together with resilience and perseverance, one can then deal with adversity in the best and wisest

### **故事的启发:**

在**绝境**<sup>[12]</sup>时，我们会觉得任何事情都非常的困难。在面临危险的时候，最重要的是保持冷静，用智慧解决问题。

只要有**恒心**<sup>[13]</sup>，加上坚韧不拔的毅力，我们一定可以化解危机，突破难关，激发无限可能。



## Vocabulary

- 1 expressive — showing feelings very clearly
- 2 gold standard — a model of excellence
- 3 swapped — exchanged
- 4 protective — keeping people safe
- 5 bleached — to make white or colourless
- 6 fatigue — a feeling of extreme tiredness
- 7 lulled — causing someone to relax or sleep
- 8 perimeter — the outer border around a space
- 9 exasperation — a feeling of extreme frustration and annoyance
- 10 sole — the only one

## 词汇注解

- 1 贸易 — 指商品交换等商业活动
- 2 客栈 — 旧时指服务设施简单的旅店
- 3 起起伏伏 — 不稳定的，上上下下，像波浪一样
- 4 观星知识 — 观察星象的能力
- 5 导航技能 — 辨别方向和道路的能力
- 6 震惊 — 感到极其惊讶
- 7 断裂 — 折断；裂开
- 8 砸碎 — 碰撞成碎片
- 9 表扬 — 公开称赞
- 10 孤伶伶 — 无依无靠或无人陪伴
- 11 敬佩 — 敬重，佩服
- 12 绝境 — 没有任何出路的境地
- 13 恒心 — 持久不变的意志



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Crossing the Desert is a story about Chang An, a young man who faced unforeseen danger, and how he and his team, through resilience, wits and perseverance overcame these challenges and found victory and success in the end.

主人公长安克服重重困难，用智慧化解危机，

在未知的险难中，带领团队成功穿越沙漠。

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