The Story of Cam

Once upon a time, there was a camel who went by the name of Cam. After numerous complications during birth, Cam the Camel had been born with severe back problems that would affect him throughout his life. Once Cam completed his camel schooling, he decided to join the traveling circus.   
 Unfortunately for Cam, the circus camel trainer, Mack the Camel Slayer, was one of the most vicious and vengeful individuals you could ever have the misfortune of meeting. When Mack was a young child, he was involved in a nasty incident that included a camel’s foot and his rear end. He hated camels from that moment on and did not trust the “nasty beasts,” as he would like to call them.

After several years in the traveling circus, Cam became the star of the Animal Review Show that took place every night under the big top, and he became the favorite of all the children. Mack thought that a great way to make a little extra money would be to start selling Cam the Camel rides for fifty cents per ride. Unfortunately for Cam, Mack did not place any restrictions on the combined weight of the riders and, thus, often allowed multiple riders to sit on Cam’s back at the same time. He also forced Cam to give rides all day long, without breaks, until the time of the Animal Review Show each evening.

After many months of this, Cam’s back problems began to affect his work. Mack thought that Cam’s work performance was slipping, so he felt the need to discipline Cam by forcing him to sleep outside in the cold without a proper bed. Cam continued to perform at a high level, but nothing he ever did was good enough for Mack. One day, Mack thought that it would be great to see how many people he could load onto Cam’s back. He thought that he could become famous if he were the one responsible for organizing this feat, and he even began imagining his name in the Guinness Book of World Records and thought about all of the talk shows on which he would appear.

Mack picked up a piece of straw off the ground and started chewing on it as he brashly began to invite people to be a part of history in the making. He was able to load three adults and four children on Cam’s back. Meanwhile, Cam struggled to remain standing and groaned as the weight of his load became overwhelming. Mack stood back and was proud of his efforts to set a new world record. He then took the piece of straw out of his mouth and casually tossed it onto Cam’s back. Cam dropped to his knees, keeled over, and died of massive back collapse.

The main question that arises from all of this is, “Was it the straw that broke the camel’s back?”