

# *The Camel and the Floating Sticks*

La Fontaine  
French

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*Easy*  
*1 min read*

The first who saw the humpback'd camel  
Fled off for life; the next approach'd with care;  
The third with tyrant rope did boldly dare  
The desert wanderer to trammel.  
Such is the power of use to change  
The face of objects new and strange;  
Which grow, by looking at, so tame,  
They do not even seem the same.  
And since this theme is up for our attention,  
A certain watchman I will mention,  
Who, seeing something far  
Away upon the ocean,  
Could not but speak his notion  
That 'twas a ship of war.  
Some minutes more had past,—  
A bomb-ketch 'twas without a sail,

And then a boat, and then a bale,  
And floating sticks of wood at last!  
Full many things on earth, I wot,  
Will claim this tale,—and well they may;  
They're something dreadful far away,  
But near at hand—they're not.

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