The Camel and the Pig
An Indian Folktale

“Nothing like being tall! Look how tall I am. I am so tall,” said Camel.

“Ha,” said Pig. “Nothing like being short. Look how short I am. I am so short.”

“Ha,” said Camel. “Tall is better. I will show you.”

“No,” said Pig. “short is better. I will show you.”

They went for a walk. They saw a garden. The garden had a wall. The wall was tall. Camel was tall. Camel ate from the trees. Camel ate and ate. Pig was short. Pig was too short.
The Camel and the Pig

“See,” said Camel. “Tall is better.”

They went for a walk. They saw a new garden. It had a tall wall. It had a small gate. Pig was short. Pig fit in the gate. Camel did not. Pig ate from the garden. Pig ate and ate. Pig came out.

“See,” said Pig. “Short is better.”

Camel saw that it was good to be short. Pig saw that it was good to be tall. They learned a lesson. Sometimes it is good to be tall. Sometimes it is good to be short.
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“There’s nothing like being tall! Look how tall I am. I am so tall,” said Camel. “It is wonderful!”

“Ha,” said Pig. “There’s nothing like being short. Look how short I am. I am so short. It is wonderful!”

“Ha,” said Camel. “I will prove that being tall is better. Or you can have my hump.”

“No,” said Pig. “I will prove that being short is better. Or you can have my snout.”
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They decided to go for a walk. They came to a garden with a tall wall. The wall was taller than Pig. But it wasn’t too tall for Camel. Camel could reach over the wall. He could eat fruit from the garden’s trees. Camel ate until he was full. “See,” said Camel. “Tall is better.”

They continued on their way. They came to another garden. It also had a tall wall and a short gate. The wall was too tall for Camel. The gate was too short for Camel. But Pig could fit into the garden through the small gate. Pig went into the garden and ate his fill. He came back out when he was done.

“See,” Pig said to Camel. “Short is better.”

Camel saw that being tall wasn’t always the best. Pig saw that being short wasn’t always the best. They decided that Pig could keep his snout and Camel could keep his hump. They learned a lesson. Sometimes it is good to be tall. Sometimes it is good to be short.
“There’s nothing like being tall! Look how wonderfully tall I am,” said Camel.

“Ha,” said Pig. “There’s nothing like being short. Look how delightfully short I am!”

“Ha,” said Camel. “If I can’t prove that being tall is better, you can have my hump.”

“Ha,” said Pig. “If I can’t prove that being short is better, you can have my snout.”

They decided to go for a walk together to see which was better. They came to a garden with a tall wall. The wall was much taller than Pig, but it wasn’t too tall for Camel, who could lean over the wall and get to the fruit on the trees. Camel ate the trees’ fruit until he was quite full.
The Camel and the Pig

“See,” said Camel. “Being tall is much better than being short.”

They continued on their way until they came to another garden. It also had a tall wall and a short gate. However, this garden’s wall was much taller than Camel. The gate was too short for Camel. But Pig was short enough to fit through the gate and got into the garden quite easily. Pig enjoyed eating his fill of the garden’s vegetables. He came back out when he was done to join his friend, Camel.

“See,” Pig said to Camel. “Being short is much better than being tall.”

The friends looked at each other and thought about what they learned. Camel saw that being tall was only helpful some of the time. Pig saw that being short was helpful sometimes, and not helpful at other times. They decided they were both right some of the time, so Pig kept his snout and Camel kept his hump.

They made up a rhyme to tell what they learned: “Tall is good where tall would do; of short again, ‘tis also true!”