

**Dictation Contest (PRJr, 初級) No. 559**

Hello, everyone! Welcome to PR Junior.

Today, I will be telling you a story about Mark and his aunts. This is the last part of the story. Let's begin.

"Mark, could you use a blanket?" said Iris.

"Oh, a blanket," Mark said and nodded in agreement.

Iris, Brendan, Daisy, and Becky all came to reward Mark's hard work by putting a blanket over Mark's tired body, and Mark fell fast asleep.

This is it for today. See you!

**Dictation Contest (PR 1, 中級) No. 559**

Hello! Welcome back.

Today's movie is the fourth part of the tortoise's trick. Let's get started.

Hare didn't know that Sister Tortoise had come out from her hiding place to trick him.

"How did you get there so quickly?" called Hare as he ran by.

He ran as fast as he could to reach the finish line at the end of the row of cabbages. But when he stopped running, he found Tortoise, munching on a cabbage leaf. Hare didn't know that it was really Brother Tortoise.

"That race was too short," grumbled Hare. "We will have to race again. I'm sure that I'm faster than you."

Tortoise agreed to have another race.

Alright, let's find out in the next movie what happened afterwards. Bye-bye!

Dictation Contest (PR2 上級) No. 559

Hello, Everyone! Welcome back to PR 2.

Today, I have the third part of Sven Hedin's journey into the Mankiller desert. Take a listen.

Unfortunately, Yollchi was wrong. The Khotan River was not just four days away. It was a full 15 days' journey from where the men stood. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Hedin and his men ran into a terrible sand storm. "Clouds and columns of sand whirled in a mad dance across the desert," he wrote. "The fine red drift-sand penetrated everywhere – into mouth, nose, ears..."

The next day Hedin discovered that they were almost out of water. They eventually discovered that the servants hadn't filled the water caskets all the way to the halfway mark. Grimly, Hedin cut everyone's water rations way down. The group dug deep into the sand, looking for a well or a spring, but they found nothing. Knowing they couldn't properly water eight thirsty camels, they decided to leave two behind. Then they hurried through the hot, dusty desert, hoping to reach the Khotan River soon.

By April 30<sup>th</sup> they were in real trouble. It had been 10 days since they had left the oasis. They were now totally out of water. They had also dumped most of their food to lighten their load. "We are all terribly weak, men as well as camels," wrote Hedin in his diary that day. "God help us all!"

Oh dear, that sound like quite the predicament. Well, that's all for today, and come back next time for the continuation of this story. Bye-bye!