

## Story 6. Six Lights



“Nothing exciting ever happens on this island. It’s so bore-or-or-ring,” complained Geelaugh.

“I don’t know how you can say that,” replied Happypotamus. “There are lots of things that happen. Only last week it was Wombrat’s birthday party. Surely you remember that?”

“Of course I remember. But all he did was take our presents and lock them away. He gave us nothing to eat and nothing to drink. What sort of party was that? And that was during the day. I want to go to a big party - at night,” replied Geelaugh.

Just then Crocosmile screamed up on her motorbike and skidded to a halt next to her two friends.

“Why are you so excited?” Geelaugh and Happypotamus asked together.

“Guess what?” said Crocosmile as she jumped off her motorbike. “I’ve just received an invitation – to a party. On Saturday night there will be a big party at the Town Hall to celebrate KenGaroo’s great win in the Animal Limpics. He won the gold medal for the long jump. I’m sure there will be an invitation in your letterbox when you get home.

Geelaugh and Happypotamus hurried off home and sure enough there was an invitation waiting for them. How exciting. The party was at night – just what Geelaugh wanted.

The invitation read:

You are invited to a Party to celebrate  
KenGaroo’s Gold medal win in the Animal Limpics.  
Come at 7 o’clock. Bring a light to light up his way to the Town hall.  
Then follow him into the Town Hall for a big Party.  
Don’t be late.  
Once KenGaroo and guests are in the Town Hall the doors will be locked.  
Late comers will be locked out.

Whacko,” said Geelaugh. “A party at night. A big party. I’ll be there.”

Geelaugh raced into to his garage where his new silver car sparkled like a bright star. He looked in the boot. And there it was. A brand new lantern that you could use as a torch or a flashing warning light if the car broke down. Not that his new cars ever broke down but he liked to buy the latest and the best of everything. This lantern had rechargeable batteries and Geelaugh was sure that his light would be the brightest of all. It was brand new, still in the box.

Happypotamus found her old torch and put it on the doorstep so she wouldn’t forget it. Then she went into the kitchen to make some cakes to take to the Town Hall.

Dog, Cupine and Wombrat were also invited so they each set about getting a light to wave for KenGaroo.

Dog found her brightest torch. It used rechargeable batteries so she put them in the charger.

Wombrat went into one of his secret food cupboards. There he kept a very reliable gas lamp. He used it to find food that he had hidden in the dark recesses of his biggest secret food cupboard.

Crocsmile didn’t own a torch or a lantern so she bought a brand new torch and some long life batteries. She also bought a head lamp – complete with new batteries.

Cupine had a kerosene lamp that he used when he went camping. He lit it to make sure it was working. Its dull light was just bright enough to light up his small home.

In the days leading up to the party, the animals were so excited. They met together and spoke about their lights. Wombrat was sure that his was best but Geelaugh did not agree. Only two more days to go.

“I hope they have plenty of good food and chocolate at the party,” said you know who!!

At seven o’clock on Saturday night they all met and hurried excitedly down the road. The sun had not yet set so they did not need their lights. But later when it was dark, Geelaugh insisted on using his new lamp to show the way. He showed them how it could be used as a torch or a flashing red light to show danger. As they walked, they sang the happy songs. As it got darker, they all lit their lights. It wasn’t long before they arrived at the Town Hall. They gathered with other animals on the side of the road and waited for KenGaroo to arrive. Other animals had lots and lots of lights and all shone brightly. Much better than fireworks. It was a lovely night. The bright stars and the moon added to the light. It was exciting.

“I wonder what time he will come?” asked Cupine.

“We won’t know until he arrives,” replied the wise Dog.

Soon Happypotamus’ torch began to fade and not long after it stopped shining altogether. “Oh dear, the batteries are flat. I should have bought some new ones. Does anyone have any spares?” she asked.

They all shook their heads and told her she would have to go and buy some new batteries. Happypotamus hurried off to find a shop that was open.

Next Geelaugh's lantern went out. "Oh no," he said. "I can't believe it. It's brand new – I didn't think to charge it!"

He had his charger with him but nowhere to plug it in. He ran home as fast as his long legs could carry him so that he could plug in his charger.

Five minutes later, Cupine's lamp started to splutter and then it went out. "I've run out of kerosene, I thought it was full," he said. He hurried off to get it filled.

"I'm so pleased I filled my lamp with gas," said Wombrat.

"I remembered to charge my batteries," said Dog.

"And I bought brand new long life batteries," said Crocosmile.

All of a sudden, down the road, they saw KenGaroo approaching. All the animals cheered and waved their lights. It was a very happy scene. KenGaroo smiled and waved as he hopped through the avenue of lights and into the building. The animals followed him into the Town Hall. When they were all in, the door-keeper started to close the door.



"Wait," said Wombrat, Crocosmile and Dog together. "Wait. Three of our friends are missing. Their lights went out. They have gone to buy batteries or to have them charged. Please wait for them. They don't want to miss out on the celebrations."

"Can't wait. They know the rule," said the door-keeper as he slammed the door and turned the huge key. "You three have been wise; you made sure your lights would work. Come into the party and eat as much as you like."

Ten minutes later Cupine arrived with a bottle of kerosene for his lamp. But it was too late. The door was locked. Poor Cupine.

Soon after Geelaugh and Happypotamus arrived but the door remained locked. "You wanted to go to a party at night," Happypotamus said to Geelaugh. "But now you have missed out."

"If we had known what time KenGaroo was arriving, we could have saved our lights," replied a disappointed Geelaugh, his ears flopping down over his sad eyes.

"We should have been ready," said Cupine.

"We must always be ready – all the time," said a sad Happypotamus as she wandered off. "That way we won't miss out." She placed the new batteries in her torch but it was too late.

Inside at the party, Wombrat was busy stuffing chocolate cakes into his pouch. He had already eaten as much chocolate as he possibly could.

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## **Source Notes and Discussion**

### **Story 6. Six Lights**

#### **Parable of the Ten Virgins: Matthew 25: 1 - 13**

The story has to make do with six animals rather than ten virgins. But the message is the same: be watchful, you don't know the time or the hour. For there to be a happy ending, focus on the three wise animals – wisdom and preparation brought reward. As boy (and girl) scouts say “Be Prepared”. You don't know the time and the hour.