

# Scribbles

Bringing colour to your lives

Volume No. 13

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Issue No. 4

## From the Editor's desk...

*Dear colleagues,*

*"No story lives unless someone wants to listen. The stories we love best do live in us forever. So whether you come back by page or by the big screen, Hogwarts will always be there to welcome you home."*

**- J.K. Rowling**

I read this quote recently and my mind went back to all the Enid Blyton's series – Famous Five, The Secret Seven, Malory Towers and so on the Nancy Drew series, and many more that I was glued to when I was young. Later on Agatha Christie, Perry Mason, Arthur Hailey ... and my list would continue. Both parents were voracious readers of different kinds of books. So each of them gave me their favourites. I was known either to have a school text or a story book in my hand all the time. They were my friends. Their story was mine. I would emote with them.

Simultaneously, I remember reading the entire Amar Chitra Katha comics – every one of them (at that point in time) – my pride possessions! A different impact altogether – learning about our ancient times, visually experiencing the Mahabharata, Ramayana, Jataka tales, Panchatantra, the heroes and heroines of Indian history.



Each of these left a solid impression and looking back, I think it is the time that I spent in reading that injected the interest in studying people, human behaviour, from a very young age. I would also say that apart from experiencing lessons on behaviour and values, it is these stories that inculcated in me the right and wrong and the foundation of my ethics system.

So, it was during the COVID situation when many of us were experiencing a lot of stress and disturbance to our happiness, family welfare etc., that I thought of the Staying Ahead series (released through Me to You), a story a day with simple thoughts to instil positivity, and address mental health and happiness. This led me to re-live my younger days of reading books and realising how powerful story telling is. The feedback on Staying Ahead was so positive and heartening. It was such a satisfying experience when many colleagues said that they and their family members looked forward to the next day's story.

As a final round to this initiative, we thought of running a Scribbles special issue using Stories and kindling the Sanmartini teams to participate in it. Eight topics were chosen,

- **Believe in yourself** • **Calmness during adversity**
- **Celebrating life** • **Never give up attitude**
- **Power of communication** • **The power of positive thinking**
- **Power of working together** • **Taking Responsibility**

Rules were circulated on contributions and I am happy to share that we did receive over 50 stories – most of them were unpublished in Staying Ahead (one of the rules of the contest). A big Thank You to all contributors. We had to pick stories to be published and the ones that do not feature in this edition of Scribbles are those which did not illustrate enough the subject, or were repeats of an earlier story or had more of content on the subject than a story.

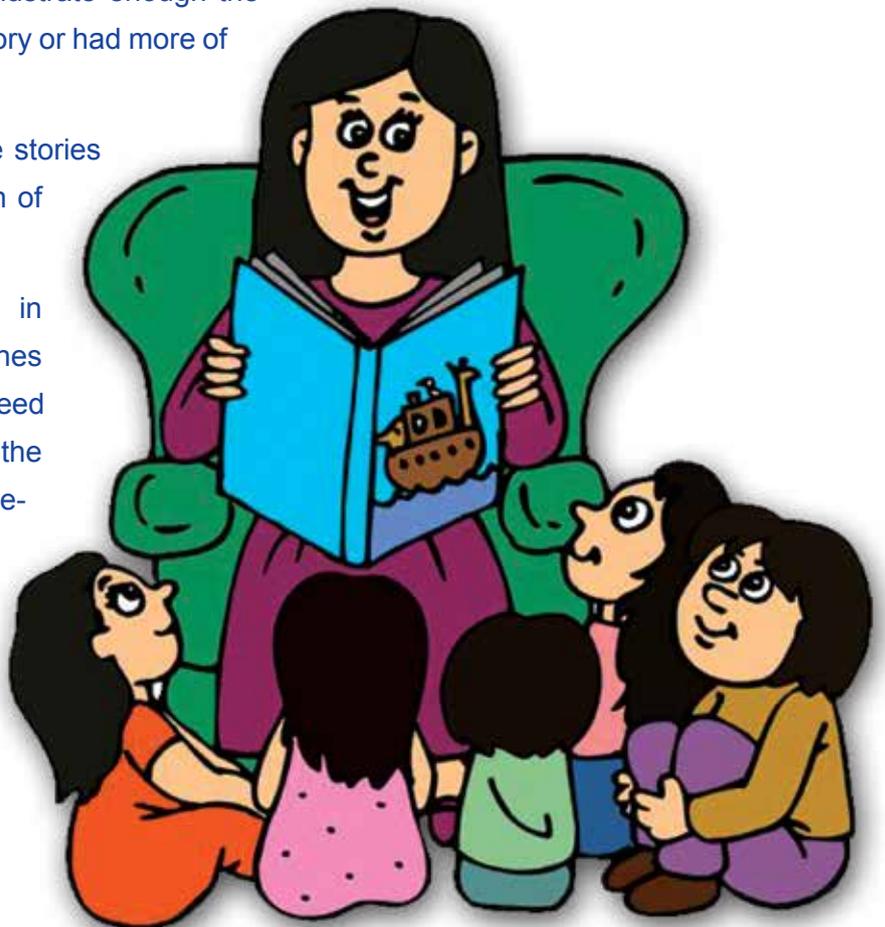
As announced in the contest, all those stories are published here will receive a token of our appreciation.

As I had written earlier, all stories in Staying Ahead 1 and 2 and the ones published in this edition of Scribbles need to be preserved, to re-read and re-live the thoughts they convey. These are not one-time reads, but companions for life, for you and your family.

Good luck, God Bless and until next time,

Stay Positive, Stay Healthy, Stay Safe

*Ananda Jagam*



## Never give up

Two cockroaches lived in a house. Both of them were young and full of energy. Each day, they would run, jump and chase each other while playing. Though they were equally strong, there was a difference. One cockroach was optimistic and always lived in hope, while the other was pessimistic and lived in despair.

One day, while playing, both cockroaches fell into a pot of milk. They swam around and tried to hop out, but, as there was no solid support under their feet, it was not possible for the cockroaches to hop out and escape from the pot. After some struggle, the pessimistic cockroach said. To itself, "It is impossible to hop out. No doubt, I have strength but I can't swim very long. I am already tired." Thinking thus, the cockroach did become tired soon and could not swim any longer. It gave up its struggle and went down to the bottom of the pot. On the other hand, the optimistic cockroach kept on struggling, saying to itself, "No doubt, it seems difficult but who knows! Maybe some miracle will occur. If I try a little longer, something good might happen. It is a question of only a few minutes more and then I will be out of here."

Hoping for a miracle to happen, the second cockroach went on swimming. His constant leg movements churned the milk and turned it into a huge heap of butter. Soon the cockroach was able to climb up the heap of butter and hopped out of the pot. Positive thinking saved the life of the cockroach.

### Thoughts to ponder:

Nothing is impossible as long as you don't give up!

**Vijay M, SRSTI, Mettur.**



Socrates

## Great power gives greater responsibility

MS Dhoni was once asked by a student, how he manages to stay calm during crucial situations in a game. It was during the promotions of the Movie MS Dhoni: The untold story. We all know how calm and focused our captain cool is, here is exactly what Dhoni replied,

"Talking about my own life and relating the same with me, I think during the class 12 as you can see that in the trailer as well. We had a match and I was very hesitant in talking to my father. My mother had agreed to it but how to make my father, understand, that there is an exam but I have a match to play before that and just after the completion of the exam, I have to take a train to play another match and only then I will come back. So finally, after collecting some courage I went to my father and explained the scenario," Dhoni said.

My father answered very calmly by saying that, "Son, if you have studied hard the whole year then one day won't affect much and if you haven't studied the whole year then still it won't affect much. So, go and play."

This may not exactly sound like staying calm in adverse situations but what is important here is the context of the scenario. Difficult situations test your patience and your will power to stay focused. Whatever harm was about to happen it will happen anyway. You won't get a say about that. What you can do is make the best of what is in your hands. Stay focused and keep doing what you would have done anyway. Prepare yourself for the worst and face the consequences of your choices with a smile on your face.

### Thoughts to ponder:

"With great difficult situation comes great opportunity"

**T Ram Siva Prasad, Safety, Karaikal.**

## Celebrate God's gift

Will one be considered smart if he thinks only special occasions are to be celebrated or will one be considered a fool if he celebrates God's best gift to him – "Life"? Let me narrate a small incident.

During my college days, along with my two other friends I stayed at a place near Kolkata for a month to undergo an internship. One month that I spent was one of the best, in my life till now. Every morning started off with a fight as to who would take the shower first and the day ended with deep discussions regarding our lives, our future plans at a tea stall, near the factory where we were interns.

We made friends with the tea stall owner, who told us stories about the people around. Few factory workers, who stayed near our locality became our friends too. Soon we were like a family. The New Year's Eve of 2015, we stayed awake and enjoyed. After a month, we left the place with a dozen memories. Our lives became so busy that none of us met each other ever since.

A couple of days ago, I happened to pass by that area after a customer visit. It is still the same. Buzzing with energy but, our lives have changed. The room where we used to stay is still there,

the temporary tea stall is now a permanent shop. The man who served us tea is now a grandfather. Unfortunately, the palmist who used to predict our future occurrences every day, had passed away 6 months ago.

Looking around I felt those memories fresh in my mind. I realised that the three of us never spoke to each other after we parted. I called them and spoke about my visit at length. It was lovely to recall the good old days. We decided to meet up one day this year to celebrate the 7 years' journey, that we had travelled from our internship till now, in the same tea stall.

How often do we plan to celebrate these moments of life? We celebrate academic excellence of an individual, we celebrate our success in job or business, buying a house, an expensive car and what not. Unfortunately, we do not care to celebrate the life we had led, the people we have met and the memories we created so far, except for some attention seeking birthday and anniversary celebrations.

I leave to the readers to make a choice. Given a choice I would choose to be a fool for life and celebrate this best gift, given to me by God.

**Ramanjan Ganguly, Sales, Kolkata.**

## Mother's love

There was an innocent mother who worked as a housekeeper and lived in a village along with her son. One day, her son informed her that he had got a project at his company. His mom replied with a smile, that he would perform well.

After a few days, her son was very dull and said that he was unfit for the job and could not complete the project. His mother told him that she was illiterate, she doesn't even know his qualification or the project that he was into but, that she strongly believed and prayed that her son should achieve his best in the project and always think positive. Have positive thoughts in your mind and move forward again, she advised.

These positive words from his mother encouraged him and he tried to complete his project again, which this time was a success. His managers and colleagues appreciated his success.



### Thoughts to ponder:

Believe in yourself, just like the way your mother believes in everything you do.

**Balakrishnan S, Mechanical Maintenance, Berigai.**

## The wise lion

One day a lion passed near the river side of the forest, when he heard someone crying but, was not able to see anyone around.

Suddenly, the ant said, I'm here, the lion asked 'why are you crying? what's the problem?'

'You are not able to see me, right that's my problem. The fox teased me for my small structure and that I am not able to do things they do. I am a small creature, who is unable to do anything, I'm useless. You are the king of the forest you don't know how I feel'.

'Oh, come with me.'

Lion and ant went to the bank of the river where they saw a crane trying to catch the fish in the river and a group of foxes laughing because the crane was not able to catch the fish.

The foxes started commenting 'Crane, come with me, I will give you the leftover food in my house' and they laughed.

The crane didn't care about the fox's comments. He kept trying to catch the fish but failed. After a few hours, foxes went but the crane was not able to catch any fish. It never gave up until he caught fish and flew up in the sky.

Lion said, "See you went through the same situation, see how the crane handled the situation because he believed in himself and did not care about what others said about him. The crane could have stopped his effort once the foxes left, but he didn't want to prove anything to the fox, the goal of the crane was to catch fish and he did it. So, you are good just the way you are don't believe what others say, you need to believe in yourself. Only you know what you are capable of.'

### Thoughts to ponder:

If both heart and mind say go for it, just believe in yourself and go for it irrespective of the result. Believe in yourself, be patient, keep trying, never lose hope!

**M Balaji, SRSTI, Berigai.**

## True leader is one who takes responsibility

A perfect example of this is Senegalese/Liverpool football star, Sadio Mané. He earns approximately around \$10.2 million per year. When a reporter clicked a photo of him it went viral and stirred a rude awakening between the world and his fans because he was carrying a cracked I-phone. With the amount he earns, he may even own the entire mobile dealership but when asked his response shook the world.

He said, "Why would I want 10 Ferraris, 20 diamond watches and 2 jet planes? I starved, worked in the fields, played barefoot and I didn't go to school. Now I can help people. I prefer to build schools and give poor people food or clothing. I have built schools and a stadium. Provided clothes, shoes and food for people in extreme poverty. In addition, I give 70 Euros per month to all people from a very poor Senegalese region to contribute to their

economy. I prefer giving what I have to my people some of what life has given me."

This is what taking responsibility is. He took responsibility to improve his people's economy. Such that a true leader is one who takes responsibility for their team and helps them achieve their goals.

**K Sathish Kumar, Mechanical Maintenance, Caustic Chlor, Mettur.**

When you think everything is someone else's fault, you suffer a lot.  
When you realize everything springs only from yourself, you will learn both peace and joy.

Dalai Lama



## Choose to be optimistic

An eight-year-old boy, Sanjay was playing in a park, climbing trees and hanging around. While playing he got on top of a 30 feet tree, hanging on one of its branches and swinging back and forth. Boy was having fun and didn't realise that branch could break.

His cousin Kavin, who was just a year older than him was playing on the same tree. He was hanging just 10 feet below the branch of that tree. Sanjay's father and Kavin's mother noticed that kids were up high on that tree and they could fall. Before they could get the kids back, suddenly a gust of wind came over the tree and the tree started to sway.

Sanjay could hear the voice of his father saying, "Sanjay, hold on tightly."

On the other side, Kavin's mother was saying, "Kavin, don't fall!"

Just at that moment, they saw that Kavin had fallen out of that tree and was a little hurt. Sanjay scampered down the tree to safety. After getting home, Kavin's mother asked Sanjay's dad, "Sanjay and Kavin both were hanging from the same tree but, how did only Kavin fell from that tree and Sanjay didn't?"

Sanjay's father explained to her, "When the wind blew you said don't fall, and he fell."

**"The purpose of a storyteller is not to tell you how to think, but to give you questions to think upon."**

*- Brandon Sanderson*

He explained further, "Mind has a very difficult time processing a negative image. For Kavin to process the command of not falling, he first had to imagine falling and then try to tell his brain not to fall, when Sanjay was told to hold on tightly, he had an instant image of him hanging on tightly."

Kavin's mother understood the difference.

### Thoughts to ponder:

Positive words would bring better results than negative words. To break out of negative approach and negative thinking, we need to develop good positive thinking and automatically things will start to get better and we will feel positive.

If we think and approach positively even in a negative situation our thinking will become optimistic and we shall be able to solve our problems more efficiently.

**T Dharmarajan, Personnel, PVC, Mettur.**

## Socrates

### Right question for right answer

Jack and John were walking from religious service. Jack wondered whether it would be all right to smoke while praying. John replied, "why don't you ask the priest?" so Jack goes up to the priest and asks, "Priest, may I smoke while I pray?" The priest says, "No, my son, you may not. That's utter disrespect to our religion."

Jack goes back to his friend and tells him what the good Priest told him. John says, "I'm not surprised. You asked the wrong question. Let me try." And so, John goes up to the priest and asks, "Priest, may I pray while I smoke?" To which the Priest eagerly replies, "By all means, my son. By all means."

### Thoughts to ponder:

The reply you get depends on the question you ask.

**Dr B Senthil Kumar, Medical Services, Karaikal.**



## Turn adversity into advantages

“Energy and persistence conquer all things.”  
– Benjamin Franklin

Never give up attitude really means to believe in yourself. It means a willingness to accept ‘failure’ so you can learn the skill of adapting.

Kiran Kanojia was born on 25th December 1986 in Faridabad, Uttar Pradesh. She hails from a humble background. From studying under street lights to becoming a software engineer for Infosys was no small achievement.

In December 2011, while returning from her 25th birthday celebration with her parents, she was pushed off a train by robbers trying to steal her bag, and her left leg was crushed. Six months after the incident, she returned to Hyderabad and enrolled herself in the Dakshin Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) to regain control of her life.

This turned out to be life-saving guidance for her. They provided her with not just counselling, but also her first-ever artificial leg and later blade. They taught her how to walk and run. They introduced her to sports that she could get involved with. It was here that she accepted that there is more to her life than just that one tragedy. She was involved in meditation which gave her more power.

**NEVER  
GIVE-UP  
ATTITUDE**



She wanted to do something different in life than work in a 9-5 corporate set-up.

Initially, she started off walking and running without much progress. With her vigorous and rigorous practice, Kanojia attempted the Hyderabad Airtel Marathon and won her first medal in 2014.

The survivor of a horrific accident, Kiran is now a champion and India’s first female blade runner, constantly pushing the limits with one marathon after another marathon.

### Thoughts to ponder:

We must turn adversity into advantages. Whatever the situation, the choice is ours and ours alone. We should always have never give up attitude.

**R Sriram, Support Services, Mettur.**

## Work towards team goal

It was a bright sunny morning, and a group of boys decided to play a football match, all of them bought some items for playing.

One boy bought a football, another the corner flag. Similarly, all the other football kits like goalkeeper gloves, goalposts, etc.,

After some time, everyone gathered on the ground and started picking the team. Soon there was an argument about who will select the team members and, on whose team, will be placed.

Then they decided that the persons who bought the most valuable object to play the game should pick the team. To select the valuable object, the elimination started, the first thing they got rid of was the whistle because they thought the referee could shout instead of whistling. Then they replaced the goalpost with a couple of bins on each side. And so on and finally, they replaced football with old tin.

A thing possessed by a person seemed to be not crucial for the game by others as they were thinking that the thing bought by them only was valuable.

One of the boys soon realised that, because of their ego and individual pride, they were not able to enjoy the game. Also, they were not playing a proper football match even though they had all the necessary kits. The boys then decided to park their ego and selfishness aside and start playing with appropriate football kits. The match started, and the boys enjoyed the game, and in addition, improved their skills.

### Thoughts to ponder:

In teamwork, it’s crucial to set aside our pride and ego. Instead, we should work towards the team’s goal, we will also achieve our individual goals like improving our game, getting a promotion in the office, learning a new process, etc.

**M Suresh, Development, Sand Foundry, Viralimalai.**

## Understand the value of people

A young man, who excelled throughout his academic career applied for a managerial role in a reputed industry. He cleared the preliminary round and met the director for the final round. Director was impressed with his academic performance and he asked “Did you obtain any scholarships in school?” The young man replied “none”. Director asked “Was it your father who paid the school fees?” he replied, “No, my father passed away when I was a year old; my mother paid the school fees”.

The director asked, “Where does your mother work?” The youth answered, “My mother works as a utensil cleaner and housemaid”. The director requested the candidate to show his hands. He showed his hands that were clear and smooth”.

The director said, “I request you clean your mother’s hand when you come back tomorrow”.

He returned happily as the probability of getting that job was high. He requested his mother that he would like to clean her hands. His mother felt different but happy and she showed her hands. He started to clean her hands slowly with a shattered heart. His tears fell on her hand as her hands were so wrinkled, and bruised. The injuries shredded him into pieces.

Socrates

## The cashew fruit

It was a hot June afternoon. We were returning home after attending a marriage in our native village. My wife and son have never seen a cashew fruit and I was curious to show it to them.

We passed by a lot of cashew trees but none had fruits on it. My father told me that it was off season and in the month of May they would have harvested all the fruits. But, I was desperate to find at least one fruit.

Luckily, I found one fruit, stopped the car and plucked it. But, the fruit was small and raw. There was no flavour as it was raw. My folks teased me. After some time, my cousin called me and invited us to visit their house, which was on route. We were warmly welcomed, this was the first time we visited their house.

My cousin found the raw cashew in our car, on seeing it my wife explained my pursuit behind that fruit. My cousin took us hastily to his garden, which was filled with cashew trees and surprisingly the



He realised the suffering of his mother and the next day he went to the office. The director asked after seeing tears in his eyes “Did you wash? Tell me how you felt?”. He answered, “I realised the value of appreciation, family and the pain that my mother has been undergoing.”

Director said, “My manager should have these qualities and you have acquired the qualities who can appreciate, understand their sufferings and who won’t put money as a primary goal. You are hired”. Later, he worked very hard and received awards from the company as well as respect from his subordinates.

**Harish TB, Production, Mettron, Mettur.**

fruits were not yet harvested. My cousin explained that he was looking out for people to pluck it and it was just getting delayed.

### Thoughts to ponder:

It is a simple incident. Some force kept pushing me towards taking continuous efforts to get the fruit, despite the hot weather and the negative comments from my family. I realised that it was the power of positive thinking.

**L John Anand Antony, Production, Karaikal.**



## Lessons from the 2011 Cricket World Cup final

It was the final of the 2011 Cricket World Cup, being held at The Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. The result of that match sent an entire nation into frenzied celebrations, which all of us know. The image of Dhoni hitting that final six and the voice of Ravi Shastri commenting on the same will remain in the minds of millions for years to come.



But what many do not realise is the kind of lessons that can be learnt from that night. There was a stiff target to be chased down which had never been done in the world cup finals. India had lost its premier batsmen Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag within the first few overs. Virat Kohli and Gautham Gambhir were trying their best to keep the boat afloat. At the fall of Virat Kohli's wicket, the best option available was to send Yuvraj Singh, who had been India's best player in the tournament. What followed was a moment of decision-making that has a number of lessons for all. MS Dhoni promoted himself ahead of Yuvraj. MS Dhoni later revealed that this was done to counter the Sri Lankan right-arm off-spinners, who would have posed a great threat to the left-handed Yuvraj.

Also, MS Dhoni was not in great form till that point in the tournament and there was a lot of media criticism since he was the captain as well. He struggled to put any impactful performances in the preceding matches. But what happened after these innings in the final is written in history books forever.

### Thoughts to ponder

**Calmness in adversity:** To think beyond the situation and make logical decisions.

**Taking responsibility:** The repercussions of the failure of this idea would have been huge. Considering that it was the world cup final and being held in India. Take responsibility to finish the job.

**Belief in ability:** Despite not performing well in the recent past, have the belief to deliver in extreme situations.

**J Ragnath, CTD, HO.**

## Acres of diamonds

Hafiz was a farmer in Africa who was happy and content. He was happy because he was content. He was content because he was happy. One day a wise man came and told him about the glory of diamonds and the power that goes along with them. The wise man said, "If you had a diamond the size of your thumb, you could buy your own city. If you had a diamond the size of your fist, you could probably buy your own country." And then the wise man left.

That night, Hafiz couldn't sleep. He was unhappy and he was discontented. He was unhappy because he was discontented and discontented because



he was unhappy. The next morning Hafiz planned to sell his farm, take care of his family and went off in search of diamonds. He looked all over Africa and couldn't find any. He looked all through Europe and couldn't find any. By the time he got to Spain, he was emotionally, physically and financially broke. He was so disheartened that he threw himself into the Barcelona River and committed suicide.

Back home, the person who had bought his farm was watering the camels at the stream that ran through the farm. Across the stream, the rays of the morning sun hit a stone and made it sparkle like a rainbow. He thought the stone would look good in his living room. He picked up the stone and put it on his mantelpiece. That afternoon, the wise man came and saw the stone sparkling. He asked, "Is Hafiz back?" The new owner said, "No, why do you ask?" The wise man said, "Because that is a diamond. I recognise one when I see one." The man said, "No, that's just a stone I picked up from the stream. Come I'll show you. There are many more." They went and picked some samples and sent them for analysis. Sure enough, the stones were diamonds. They found that the farm was indeed covered with acres and acres of diamonds.

### Thoughts to ponder:

When we believe, we realise that we are all walking on acres of diamonds. Opportunities are always under our feet. We don't have to go anywhere.

**P Mohan, Personnel, Karaikal.**

## An Olympic dream

He's a national hero of Hungary. In 1938, Károly Takács of the Hungarian Army was the top pistol shooter in the world. He was expected to win the gold in the 1940 Olympic Games scheduled for Tokyo. Those expectations vanished one terrible day just months before the Olympics. While training with his army squad, a hand grenade exploded in Takács' right hand, and Takács' shooting hand was blown off. Takács spent a month in the hospital depressed at both the loss of his hand, and the end to his Olympic dream. At that point most people would have quit. And they would have probably spent the rest of their life feeling sorry for themselves. Most people would have quit but not Takács. Takács was a winner. Winners know that they can't let circumstances keep them down. They understand that life is hard and that they can't let life beat them down. Winners know in their heart that quitting is not an option. Takács did the unthinkable, he picked himself up, dusted himself off, and decided to learn how to shoot with his left hand. His reasoning was simple. He simply asked himself, "Why not?" Instead of focusing on what he didn't have – a world class right shooting hand, he decided to focus on what he did have – incredible mental toughness, and a healthy left hand that with time, could be developed to shoot like a champion. For months Takács practiced by himself. No one knew what he was doing. Maybe he didn't want to

subject himself to people who most certainly would have discouraged him from his rekindled dream.

In 1948 he qualified for the London Olympics. At the age of 38, Takács won the Gold Medal and set a new world record in pistol shooting. Four years later, Takács won the Gold Medal again at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. Takács – a man with the mental toughness to bounce back from anything.

Winners in every field have a special trait that helps them become unstoppable. A special characteristic that allows them to survive major setbacks on the road to success. Winners recover quickly. Bouncing back is not enough. Winners bounce back quickly. They take their hit, they experience their setback, they have the wind taken out of their sails, but they immediately recover. Right away they force themselves to look at the bright side of things and say to themselves, "That's ok. There is always a way. I will find a way." They dust themselves off, and pick up where they left. Takács definitely had a right to feel sorry for himself. He had a right to stay depressed and to ask himself "Why me?" for the rest of his life. He had the right to act like a mediocre man, but he chose not to. Winners always search for a solution. Losers always search for an escape. Next time you get knocked down, decide you will act like a winner. Decide to act like Takács. Get up quickly, act, and astound the world.

**M Esakki Ashok**, *Quality Control, AGCSL, Viralimalai.*

Winning a gold medal in Olympic is less about the hand, more about the mind. Life is the same as that winning is less about skills more about attitude



## Camp of lifetime

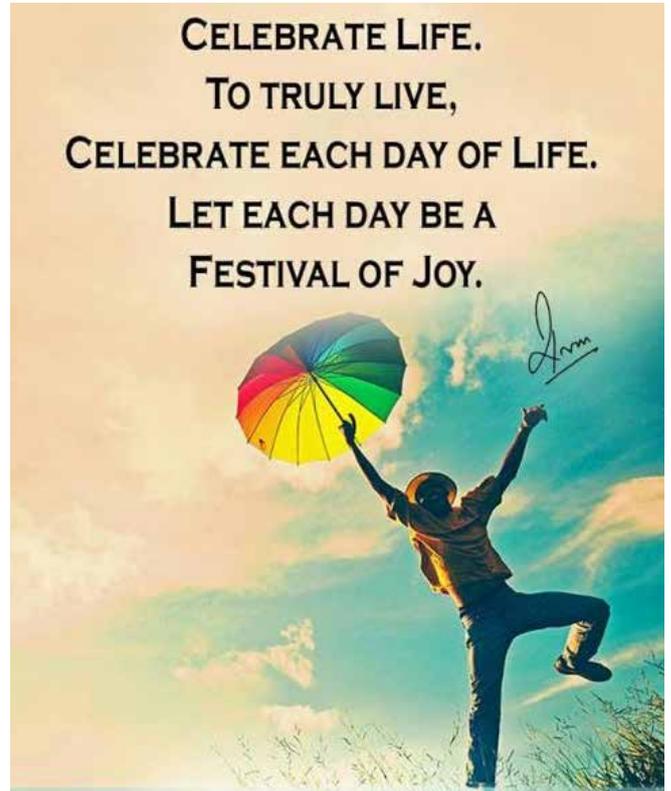
I would like to share my special memories that happened at my NCC Camp. It was my second NCC camp called CATC held at a private engineering college in Coimbatore. The camp duration was 10 days.

Over 500 Cadets from Tamil Nadu attended this camp. I was quite nervous and curious about how the camp would be. The schedule was tightly packed. Wake up at 4'o clock in the morning, freshen up quickly and fall in the field before the whistle. Followed by 3 km of running, exercises, breakfast with sweat clothes then get ready for the parade, punishment, map reading, fun with friends at lunch, sports with other college cadets, NCC songs singing, evening cultural and late-night sleep for 10 days was the schedule.

The best moment for me in the camp was being MC before my friends, colleagues and military officers. Amidst many activities, rifle shooting was a different experience to learn.

Life is beautiful when you are with people who care for you. All of us have our own destiny, but my destiny was written by my friends who care abundantly. The camp life taught me to be unique, to be myself, to accept people as they are and do what is right. These thoughts aligned my heart in a row, where I found myself what I wanted to be in my life.

The thought of humanity rose from our army men, a living example, they learn at times of war, and thought that I need to achieve something in the NCC tenure. Nothing comes easy, everything has or takes its own time, be patient until your



time comes. These words clocked me all night, left asking me a question what I am going to do? Those campsites, late-night talks, night guard duty, boot, beret, and NCC uniform reminds me of my responsibilities to be carried out with dedication.

The parade shots were one of the happiest moments of my life *tej chal, kadam chal, Jai hind saab*, all these commands always hit hard in my brain. I hold very good memories, sweet today though not those days. But, today whenever we meet friends together and talk about camps, it really brings the celebration of life.

### Thoughts to ponder:

Life should not only be lived; it should be celebrated.

**Gowtham Keerthi TK, SRSTI, Mettur.**



## The earthquake at Haiti

When I think about ‘Power of working together,’ an incident comes to my mind, the work done by the Red Cross, during the earthquake at Haiti.

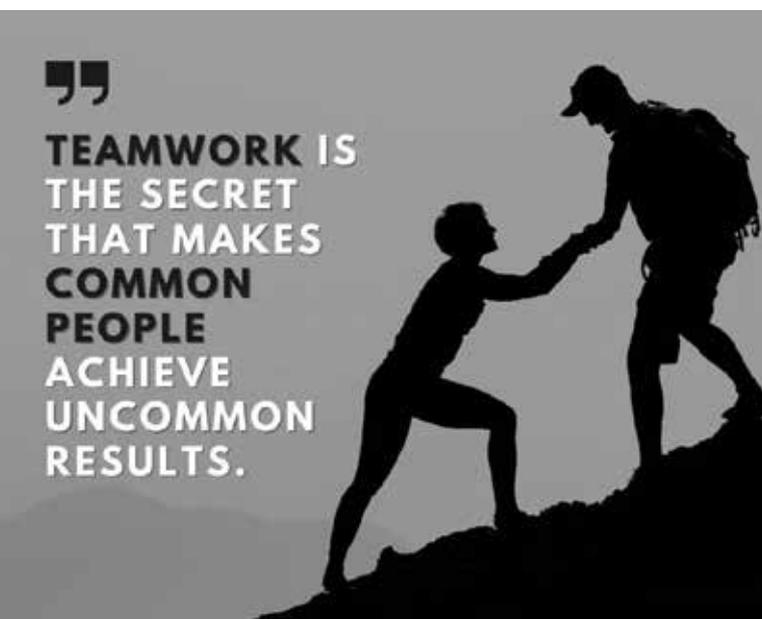
During the devastating Haiti earthquake of January 2010, the British Red Cross immediately sprung into action. They gathered thousands of workers, which included volunteers to frontline disaster specialists, who were mobilized into a community of purpose.

This team joined together and saved many lives. It really doesn't matter if they were on the ground in Haiti or at charity shops across the high streets of UK. For most teams, there won't be such an innate crisis to respond to, but there should always be a sense of meaning in their work. For a team's purpose to be potent, it needs to be compelling to its members. You need to inspire your team, in an affectionate way, which would result worthwhile for all teammates. When you are part of a team, a truly cohesive unit that functions with a single purpose, you can accomplish wonders.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much” – Helen Keller

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success” - Henry Ford

**J Ramasamy**, *Production, PVC, Mettur.*



Apollo

## Be prepared to face the future

The Kingdom of Mithilai once witnessed a heavy drought situation that prolonged years together. The people of Mithilai were under deep stress on their livelihood and lost their hope of survival. During such time, the king of Mithilai, Janakar visited his people to instil confidence and provide food grains.

During the journey, he happened to encounter an old man surprisingly busy sharpening his agriculture tools and preparing the land. Without portraying himself, asked the old man why was he spending time and energy on this work when there were no signs of cropping or harvesting. The old man looked at Janakar's eyes and said,

“I know that crop won't come out but I am doing it as a matter of practice. After a few years, I will forget the process of growing crops and working in the field. I must keep doing it; so that I am fit to produce the crop when this momentary situation changes and rains”.

The King was struck by the old man's omnipresence of positive thinking.

### Thoughts to ponder

We should cultivate positive thinking during adverse situations, encountering adverse situations is part of life, we should pass through them calmly and focus on preparing ourselves for the future.

**K Prabhakaran**, *Personnel, HO.*

## Learning from our epic

Communication is the act of giving, receiving and sharing information. Mahatma Gandhi, Bill Clinton, Winston Churchill and Indian Cricketer Dhoni, are some of the best communicators in the world.

Here is the story of Hanuman from Valmiki Ramayana, the great Indian epic to understand the power of communication. We refer to two instances in Ramayana, where Hanuman showcase his power of communication. 1) Briefing Rama after his findings of Sita and 2) Convincing Sita in Lanka.

After having found Sita in the Asoka Garden of Ravana, Hanuman returned to Khishkinta and conveyed the message to Lord Rama and his fellow monkey army. Hanuman started with his word "Seen Sita" which itself released the tension between Rama and the monkey army. His statement pinpoints the clarity and unambiguous message to the listeners proving his power of communication.



In Lanka, after sensible searches, at last, Hanuman found Sita, who was trying to commit suicide. He wanted to stop her from committing suicide and also to convey to her about the arrival of Rama. As an Emissary of Rama, winning her trust was the priority. To succeed in this task, he thought carefully and uttered only one sentence "Dasaratha is the King of Ayodhya". Then he started narrating the story while sitting on the branches of the tree. Sita stopped her efforts of strangling herself to death after listening to the word "Dasaratha" in Lanka, where Rama is only familiar with the demon population. Then Hanuman appeared before her and explained all the happenings of happiness that Rama is coming to Lanka to release her from the clutches of Ravana to console her and to give her courage.

### Thoughts to ponder:

The power of communication can be symbolised the supreme mental and physical strength, high intellect, and simplicity. It should touch the heart and soul.

**R Sriram, Support Services, Mettur.**

## How to create your own happiness

Who decides whether you shall be happy or unhappy? The answer—you do!

A television celebrity had an aged man as a guest on his program. And he was a very rare old man indeed. His remarks were entirely unpremeditated and of course absolutely unrehearsed. They simply bubbled up out of a personality that was radiant and happy. And whenever he said anything, it was so naive, so apt, that the audience roared with laughter. They loved him. The celebrity was impressed, and enjoyed it with the others.

Finally he asked the old man why he was so happy. "You must have a wonderful secret of happiness," he suggested.

"No," replied the old man, "I haven't any great secret. It's just as plain as the nose on your face. When I get up in the morning," he explained, "I have two choices – either to be happy or to be unhappy, and what do you think I do? I just choose to be happy, and that's all there is to it."

### Thought to ponder:

You are the deciding authority of your own happiness so if you think to celebrate your life whatever situation you come across you will be always happy.

**R Vinoth, Administration, Karaikal.**



## Unstoppable – if you believe in yourself

One Sunday morning, the area was filled with pilgrims and local villagers. People had gathered in the open hall to attend the church service. Children could not focus on the event and were trying to play with the available toys.

There came the small girl of around ten years and her younger brother who was five. They were not properly dressed. But they tried to be part of the gathering so that they could get some eatables or toys. After a while, they got gas-filled balloons one for each of them. The boy was happier than his sister.

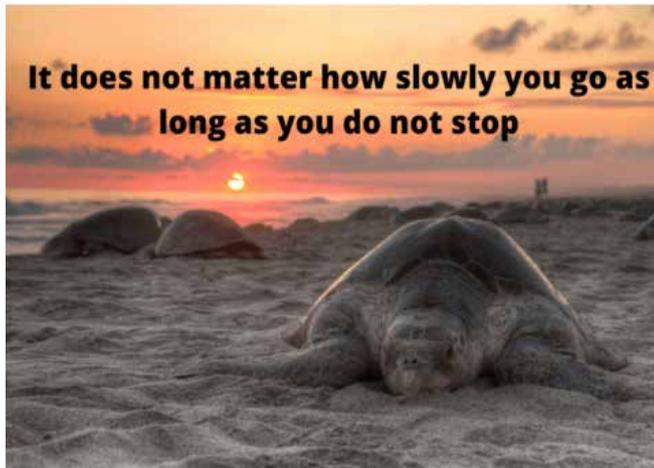
They were roaming among the crowd to exhibit their possession. In a moment the boy missed the thread of his balloon. It flew away from him and went straight upwards. Luckily it did not fly far away, it got stuck

on the ceiling. He explained to his sister what had happened. She didn't scold him but, immediately started to plan to get the balloon down.

She jumped to catch the thread but it was higher than the reach of an adult. After a few minutes, she started to execute plan B. She brought her balloon closer to the one on the ceiling. She tried to attach the thread of her balloon to her brother's balloon. There was a mild breeze, so the threads didn't touch. But she continued her efforts, without giving up.

When the wind was a little stronger the threads got tangled and she pulled her balloon. As she pulled fast, the threads were untangled and again the balloon went up. But the girl showed no frustration but continued to try again. Those who were sitting near them were distracted. The organiser came and expelled both the children to avoid distraction.

The children went away from the hall with their eyes on the balloon. Once the service was over, within minutes the brother and sister came back. From the previous learning, she very soon attached the threads of the balloon. She slowly pulled her brother's balloon from the ceiling. The children were happy and the girl was more cheerful than the boy, as she had achieved what she wanted, in spite of all the hurdles.



### Thoughts to ponder

Never mind the atmosphere that prevents you from achieving the goal.

**L John Anand Antony**, *Production, Karaikal.*

## Atlas

### Life is beautiful

Once upon a time, there lived a father and a baby mosquito. Father mosquito advised the baby to be aware of humans and should not go near them. One day out of curiosity the baby mosquito flew toward the humans. The humans tried to kill the baby mosquito but, they missed it. When the baby mosquito returned home, the anxious father mosquito asked him what had happened and how was he feeling about the humans.

The baby mosquito replied, "It was wonderful daddy. All humans clapped their hands for me", I am really happy about that.

### Thoughts to ponder:

Life is too beautiful when we look at things in a positive way.

**K Sathish Kumar**, *Mechanical Maintenance, Caustic Chlor, Mettur.*

**"Stories have to be told or they die, and when they die, we can't remember who we are or why we're here."**

- Sue Monk Kidd

## The buck stops here

Have you heard the phrase “passing the buck”? It’s simply passing on the responsibility for something to someone else.

This is a story about former US President Harry S Truman who had a sign on his desk that said “The Buck Stops Here!” As President of the United States, he was responsible for making important decisions. The sign was a reminder that he was also responsible for the outcome of the decisions. He should not pass the buck to anyone.

This shows that taking ownership in the workplace refers to a person’s sense of confidence in their ability to take responsibility for a task and get it done.

Taking responsibility at work. Taking responsibility of tasks and projects is the hallmark of a leader. A good leader commits to the success of a task and demonstrates willingness to do whatever it takes to get the work done. Responsibility equals accountability equals ownership. And a sense of ownership is the most powerful weapon a team or organisation can have.

Five key aspects of taking a responsibility are:

- Taking ownership
- Being a problem solver
- Empowering others



Knowledge sharing  
Team spirit

Another example is Sachin Tendulkar who was a marketing manager at a FMCG company with declining sales. The CEO felt that the brand wasn’t able to connect properly with consumers. When the marketing head shared this problem with his team and asked for new campaign ideas to revive the sales, Sachin stepped forward. He showed his willingness to lead the campaign. The campaigns did well and the company registered good sales numbers. He was promoted to senior manager of marketing. This example tells us to accept responsibility for our actions; Be accountable for our results; Take ownership of our mistakes”.

**E Vinoth Kannan**, *Electrical Maintance, PVC, Mettur.*

## Timely advice

In the 8th Century, the Chola dynasty was losing its territories. King Sundara Chola led a war to protect the people and his boundaries. Enemies surrounded him from all directions. He was badly attacked by enemies; all his frontline leaders and army men were killed. With his wounds and defeat in the war, the king lost hope and worried about the dynasty and the life of the people.

He spent his life hiding in forests, and during such time, he met a saint. The saint blessed him with the words “*ithuvum kadanthu pogum*” (even this will pass by). He was inspired by those words. His mind believed that all his worries will pass by, and he can rebuild his empire again. All his optimistic thoughts

brought confidence in him and bravery was re-instilled in him. He trained a few tribes and produced indigenous wood-made weapons. One fine day, he attacked his enemy army and regained his kingdom. Later the Chola Kingdom established their rule in many countries. The monuments built by the Chola Kingdom represent the power of communication.



This clearly shows the power of communication and its impact on motivating people and turning things around.

**S Sivananthan**, *Human Resources, HO.*

## The lion and jackal

In a forest there lived a lion. He had a jackal as his partner. They both always went together hunting. The lion used to kill the animals and the jackal got his share for helping the lion then and there. One day, the lion fell sick. He could not go out. But he was very hungry. He called the jackal and said, "Dear friend, I am hungry. But I am too sick to hunt. You have to help me get some food". The jackal went off in search of prey. He found a donkey at last. He said to the donkey, "Hello, Donkey Sir! The king of the forest wants to make you his minister". The foolish donkey was too happy to think of the plot. He followed the jackal. The lion killed the donkey. But before eating, he felt so thirsty. He said to the jackal, "Take care of the donkey. I will return in no time". As soon as the lion left, the jackal started eating the brain of the donkey. When the lion returned, he found the donkey's brain missing.

He asked the jackal. "Where is the donkey's brain?" The jackal answered timidly, "If he had a brain would he have come here?"

### Thoughts to ponder:

How we communicate is what matters the most.

**P Mohan, Personnel, Karaikal**



## Apollo

## Teamwork pays

One day, while walking near the house, I saw a massive construction in progress. It was a termite nest. I started walking away from there but, curiosity made me stop by and check it out. I questioned my brain, "Hey, what's up? It's just a termite nest". My brain replied, "look how energetic they are? They are all working together to make a nest that is 1000000 times greater than their size."

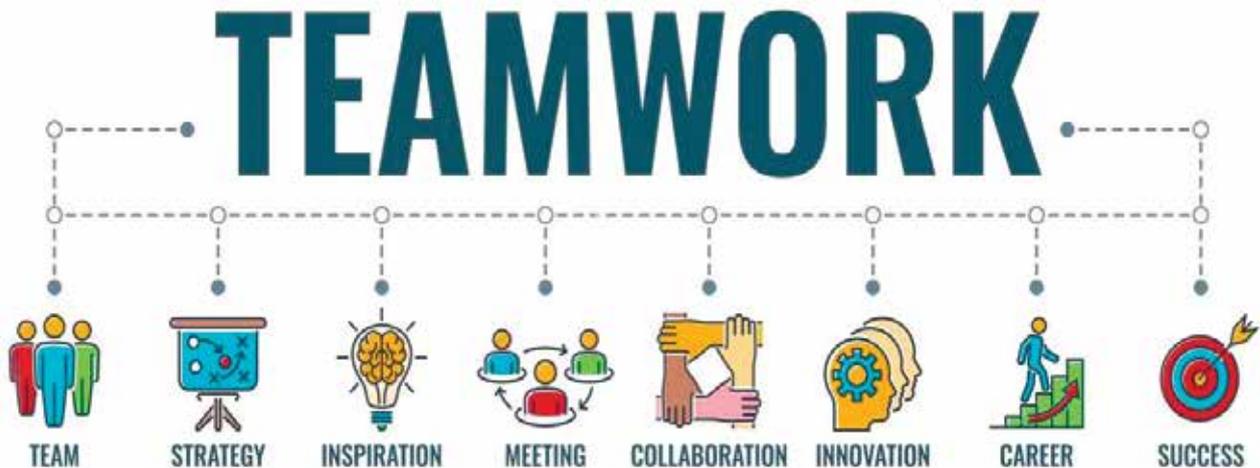
"Hey brain, but how do they do this with just sand?"

"Hey man! It's very simple, regardless of our resources, We can achieve anything, such as termites If we work together."

### Thoughts to ponder:

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

**Balakrishnan S, Mechanical Maintenance, Berigai.**



## The Bahubali task

This incident happened about 30 years back. My father Late Shri S Bose IRS was a Deputy Commissioner of Income-tax then. As we have all watched in movies, he and his team went for an income tax raid, on a very famous vessel shop in T Nagar, Chennai. Their job was to check if the owner had all his goods in the record or if he had anything in black, unaccounted for. The shop was locked for raid and the 20 officers, started searching the entire shop, accounting for the goods and their purchase orders, their income etc. Of course, it was a tiresome job and my dad was heading the team. He was answerable to his boss and to the press as to what they had recovered and the proceedings. As a sincere government official, he never gave up and did thorough work, never skipped any of the procedures, until they met with an obstacle. An obstacle which drained out the team's energy by just looking at it. The shop had a huge godown, filled with vessels, jam-packed in such a way that removing them to check was a Bahubali task. But they had to count the stock to tally, and the shop owner felt that the team would never break their bones to count the stock, which was filled in that room. He miscalculated that my father would give up. The team lost hope, they fell between the devil and the deep sea. They cannot do the Herculean task, but their strict lead would not let them escape



doing the work. My father asked the team to take a break. When they were back with sulked faces, they were surprised to see my father jeering into a civil structure plan. He had asked the owner to give him the construction plan of the entire shop, which included the godown. He found the area of the godown in square feet as per the plan. As a university first, gold medalist in M.Sc. Math, it was no big deal for him to calculate the area of the godown, and arrive at the quantity of the vessels it could hold. Viola! He had the answer and the shop owner was baffled as his accounts didn't tally. He ended up paying a hefty tax and fine.

My father could have given up like the other officers or could have given a fake number, but his positive thinking that there will be a way out, led him to great glory. Always think positive and the rest will follow!

**Leena Bose, Corporate Communications, HO.**

## Responsibility is demonstrated by actions

There were two families living nearby. One family was constantly fighting, while the other one lived quietly and peacefully. One day, feeling jealous about how nicely the neighbouring family got along in the neighbourhood, the wife told her husband.

Wife: Go to the neighbours and see what they are doing for their well-being.

The husband went, hid and began observing. He saw the woman of the house cleaning the floor. Suddenly, something distracted her and she ran to the kitchen. At the same time her husband rushed into the bedroom, not noticing the bucket of water, he kicked it and spilt water all over the floor.

His wife came back from the kitchen and said, 'I am sorry honey! It's my fault, I didn't move the bucket out of the way.'

The husband replied, 'No I am sorry honey! It's my fault. Because I did not notice it.' The man returned home and his wife asked him if he found out what their secret was?

The husband replied, 'I think the difference is that we always seek to be right while they seek to take responsibility for their part'.

### Thoughts to ponder:

Having peaceful relationships means taking responsibility for our own part.

**J Prasanth, Personnel, Karaikal.**

## Positive mindset brings positive things

Positivity is the biggest strength in life. Success follows those who are positive in every situation. Many great celebrities have had one or more weaknesses but, they always thought positive about themselves, others and the situations they were in. Hence became successful by overcoming all sorts of obstacles. Everybody has something that can be appreciated, we only need to apply a positive vision and appreciate others.

Once a small shoe company had planned to raise their selling graph and become a successful leader and pioneer in the market. They arranged a team meeting and discussed the vision to expand their market outside their country. Finally, it was decided to hire a few fresh graduates with new ideas as a part of their marketing and sales team. So, their business will boom.

A new team was hired and the task for them was to increase the sales of their company through marketing. The new team was trained and they were ranked according to their performance finally two top-ranked executives were picked out based on their performance. It was decided to send them both to a new island where they planned to expand their business.

The newly elected executives were sent to the island where their company had not sold their product before. Their task was to stay on the island

for ten days and research the possibilities, also observe the difficulties regarding the marketing of their product on that island.

The executives stayed there and finally prepared their observations and submitted their reports to the company. The next day, management called up both the executives to seek their individual opinion regarding their start-up on their new venture on the island.

The first executive entered the hall with a worried face and submitted his report and said investing in the new venture would become a total loss to the company because he found that not even a single person in the island wore shoes. The people over there were not used to wearing shoes. So, if we plan to start a new venture on the island, we will end up losing huge money. So, it is better to drop the plan, and he left the room.

The second executive entered the room full of positive energy and with a warm smile on his face. And submitted his report to the management. He explained that our company has a great opportunity to sell our products in the new venture because no one in the island wore shoes, so we have huge customers over there where we can sell our products to all. We can market our shoes to them by advertising their usages. Once we make the island people get used to it, we can capture a big market over there and gain a huge profit in our new venture.

The management was very happy and promoted the positive attitude executive as a new manager for the new venture which was to begin in the island the business boomed up and the company become a pioneer in the shoe industry.

Out of the two, one executive worked with full determination, to succeed in his mission. He had a single-minded devotion, toward his goal with a positive attitude. The other executive although working hard, had a negative attitude so he was not able to succeed in this mission.

However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed in life.

“A positive mindset brings positive things”

**R Karthikeyan, Support Services, PVC, Mettur.**



## Live every moment

This is my story. It's about a city boy who was sheltered for his whole life. He was talented but the things he called hard were trivial for most people. Wakeup -> College -> Internet -> Sleep -> Repeat. Since he was comfortable with his small group of friends and rarely participated in any events, he was notoriously known for being a nobody. He confessed to his crush twice and rejected thrice (the third time was for good measure I guess). Saying his life was dull was an understatement.

But then one day, he found himself in a strange industrial town, far away (350km may not be far away for you but it is far away for me) from his home. He was anxious and uncertain, being in a new place where he had no kith or kin. But he was wrong as this was the best thing that happened in his life. He met new people and made new friends. He learnt to take care of himself. He got his driver's license and learned to ride a bike. He made a living for himself. He went on adventures that he never thought he would. He ate food that his mother would frown upon. He went to places his father would've never allowed him to go to. On the whole, he was having fun like he never had.

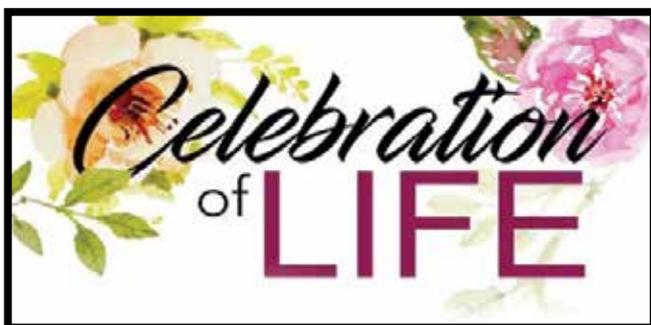
And then he looked back and realised how mundane his old life was and all the things that he could have done. He felt like a sparrow, released from its golden cage. You could say that he found a way to celebrate his life.

"When you go through life, so sure of where you're headed,

But then you wind up lost, which is the best thing that could've happened"

- From song "Find yourself" by Brad Paisley in movie "Cars"

**Y Hariharan, SRSTI, Mettur.**



## The powerful mantra

Believe in yourself - a powerful mantra for achieving success. From my childhood I am used to doing my chores on my own independently. When I work independently, I saw great output and so this belief became my attitude. As I studied in a residential school we had to do all the work by ourselves with discipline, I applied this to both my personal and professional life.

Before I start any work the first step was to tell myself, "Believe - it can be done".

Believing in something strongly, sets the mind in motion to find ways to do anything.

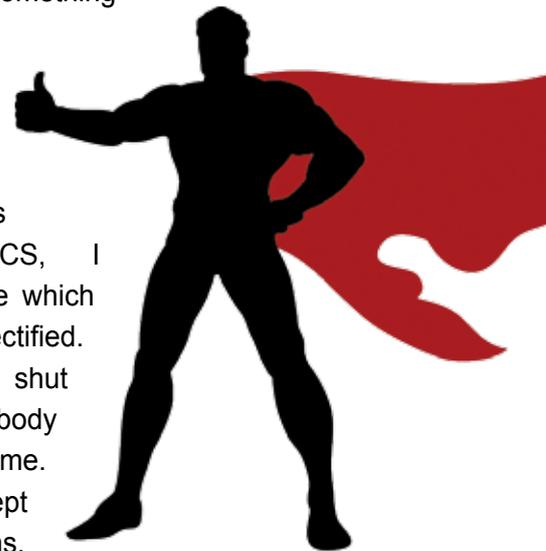
In my previous organisation DCS, I met with a failure which could not be rectified. The Plant was shut down and everybody started firing me. I did not accept the accusations.

When a new component was introduced in a functional plant by the Instrument department, DCS becomes a failure. The vendor was called in to address this issue but it was not resolved, in spite of working throughout the night. My observation was not accepted by senior officials. Then I strongly communicated this to the vendor regarding the origin of the problem. Soon they rectified it and the plant was fully functional the next day. I believed that I did not commit any mistake hence, I stood firm in my position.

Later on, I came to know that there are popular books like 'The magic of thinking big' and 'Born to win' have the same concept as mine. When you believe, something can be done, your mind works for you and helps you find ways to do it.

Belief releases creative powers but, disbelief puts brakes on. Believe and you will start thinking constructively.

**S Rajaram, Production, Karaikal.**



## Greatest motivator is belief

There was a young boy who came regularly to football practice but never made it to the “A-Team”. While he was practicing, his father would sit at the far end of the field, waiting for him. For four days, the boy didn’t show up for practice. The matches had begun and his team was playing in the finals.

He showed up for finals and went up to the coach and said, “Coach, you have always kept me in reserves and never let me play in the matches. But today, please let me play. “The coach said “son, I am sorry, I can’t let you play. There are better players than you and besides, it is the finals; the reputation of the school is at stake and I cannot take a chance”. The boy pleaded, “Coach, I promise I will not let you down. Please let me play”. The coach had never seen the boy plead like that before. He said, “Ok son, go play. But remember, I am going against my better judgement and the reputation of the school is at stake. Don’t let me down.”

The game started the boy played like a ball on fire. Every time he got the ball, he shot a goal. Needless to say, he was the star of the game and his team won. When the game finished, the coach went up to him and said, “Son, how could I have been wrong in my life? I have never seen you play like this before either. What happened? How did you play this way today?

The boy replied, “Coach, my father is watching me today.” The coach turned around and looked at the place where the boy’s father used to sit. There was only an empty bench. He said, “Son, your father used to sit there when you come for practice, but I don’t see anyone there today.”

The boy replied, “Coach, there is something I never told you. My father was blind. Just four days ago, he died. Today is the first day he is watching me from above.”

What motivated the Boy? It was his belief.

### Thoughts to ponder:

The greatest motivator is belief, but remember, a false belief is also a belief. So, when we believe that we are responsible for our lives and our behaviour, our outlook towards life changes for the better.

**C Venkatesh**, *Personnel, Caustic Chlor, Mettur.*

## The balloon

There was a man who made his living by selling balloons at a fair. He had balloons of many different colours, including red, yellow, blue and green. Whenever business was slow, he would release a helium-filled balloon into the air. When the children saw the balloons go up in the sky, they would come forward to buy one and his sales would go up. All day, he continued to release a balloon whenever sales was slow. One day, the balloon man felt someone tugging his jacket. He turned around and a little boy asked, “If you release a black balloon, will that also fly?” moved by the boy’s concern, the man replied gently, “Son, it is not the colour of the balloon, it is what’s inside that makes it go up.”

### Thoughts to ponder:

No matter the problem size or nature, your positive thinking makes you solve problems and take you further up.

**J Prasanth**, *Personnel, Karaikal.*

**“The Mind Is Every Thing.  
What You Think You Become.”**  
- Buddha



## The driver

A lorry driver was standing in the box at the court for accidentally killing a motor cyclist. On seeing the magistrate, the driver was shocked. He could recall the incident that had happened few years back.

Those days he used to drive small goods carrier. Once when he suddenly stopped the vehicle in middle of the road, an unregistered car, which belonged to a lawyer, hit his vehicle from the rear. The driver assessed the damage done, but could not help the lawyer. The lawyer said, 'there will come a day when you will be answerable to me'.

When the magistrate saw the driver his expression clearly stated that he has not forgotten him nor the incident. Public prosecutor argued that it was sheer carelessness of the driver and due to his reckless driving a life was lost. On hearing this the parents of the demised boy wept.

The driver explained that he was sorry for the accident. He also added that the truth was that the victim had come in wrong route and was fully drunk, it was an unavoidable situation. In fact, he was the first person to take the boy and admit in a nearby hospital. While the boy's parents shouted furiously.



The magistrate carefully examined the photos and CCTV coverage and said that he believed the driver was innocent and not guilty. The driver stood at a distance and thanked the magistrate with a namaste and the magistrate smiled. On his way back, the magistrate recalled the incident that had happened few years back. He told himself, if a person applied brakes on a busy road to save a puppy, then he would definitely not willfully kill a boy.

### Thoughts to ponder:

Doing right things with honest thoughts definitely would not betray us.

L John Anand Antony, *Production, Karaikal.*

**SUCCESS IS NOT FINAL;  
FAILURE IS NOT FATAL:  
IT IS THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE  
THAT COUNTS.**

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

## Success is all about believing in yourself

He was born in a small, poor farming village in Japan. His family lived in a small house with very little money. When he was only 9 years old he left school and started working in a small shop to support his family.

He used to get up every day before sunrise clean the store, run errands and then look after his employee's children. Few years later, destiny gave him a new path, he got a job in an electric company. There he learnt about light bulbs and sockets. Every night he started learning and experimenting on his own.

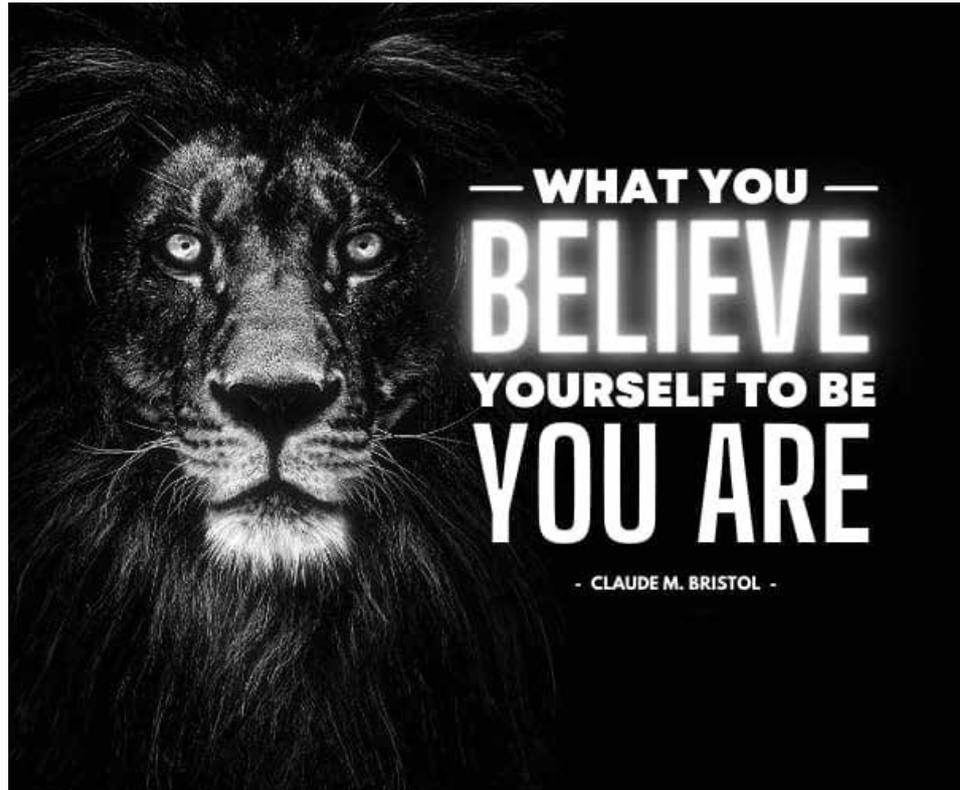
One day he made an improved version of a light socket, all by himself. He got very excited and showed it to his boss. But, his boss was not impressed and said, such a product will never work. Even though he was rejected, he believed in his idea. He wanted to do something on his own, start his own company. He asked his friends. They told him he cannot do it. He could not leave his permanent job and start his own company. He had no experience, very little money and hardly any education still he believed in himself.

So, when he turned 22, he took a big decision. He left his stable job and started his own small manufacturing company.

He and his wife started manufacturing sockets in their small house. They both went door to door trying to sell it. But, no shop owner was interested. They did not get any orders. Months passed by and still they were not able to sell their product.

He sold his furniture, borrowed money, to survive a little longer. Many a day he would think of quitting and going back to his electric shop work. But, in the morning as the sun rose he was out on the streets looking for orders, surviving for one more day.

Then came a time, he was almost bankrupt and just when he was closest to give up his dream. That's when a MIRACLE happened in his life, out of nowhere he got his first major order of 1000 pieces. Now 100 years after that first major order of 1000 pieces. His company, has over 2,50,000 employees with annual sales of 65 billion dollars. His company's products are now sold across the world. All this was made possible by a man with no education and no money. All he had was a belief in him.



### Thoughts to ponder:

“Success is not dependent on how educated you are or how much money you have, success is all about believing in yourself”.

**J Prasanth**, *Personnel, Karaikal.*

**“It's like everyone tells a story about themselves inside their own head. Always. All the time. That story makes you what you are. We build ourselves out of that story.”**

- *Patrick Rothfuss*

**Apollo**

## Be calm and wait

There was a man who worked in a private firm, earned well and lived happily with his family. He was known for his calm and good character. One day, he lost his job and got into depression. Slowly his family's happiness also flew away. None of them spoke to each other with happiness, the family members were worried about him.

He had a dream, in which God had offered him a job. When he thanked God for the job, God responded "will you give me what I ask for?"

The man said, "Yes my lord."

God said can you be the same person who you were before you lost your job, bring back the calmness and happiness in your family?

He had no reply.

When he woke up, he understood his folly and believed that being depressed in adversity is not the way to be. It is not how we solve problems; it will ruin reality. He becomes his normal self and starts to search for a job.

### Thoughts to ponder:

Adversity is not permanent, but your character does. So be calm and wait for the day. It's not a bad life it's just a bad day. Don't spoil your permanent happiness and calmness for temporary problems.

**Balakrishnan S**, *Mechanical Maintenance, Berigai.*



**Socrates**

## Two seeds

Two seeds lay side by side in a fertile soil. The first seed said, "I want to grow! I want to send my roots deep into the soil beneath me, and thrust my sprouts through the earth's crust above me ... I want to unfurl my tender buds like banners to announce the arrival of spring ... I want to feel the warmth of the sun on my face and the blessing of the morning dew on my petals!"



### And so she grew...

The second seed said, "Hmm. If I send my roots into the ground below, I don't know what I will encounter in the dark. If I push my way through the hard soil above me, I may damage my delicate sprouts ... what if I let my buds open and a snail tries to eat them? And if I were to open my blossoms, a small child may pull me from the ground. No, it is much better for me to wait until it is safe."

### And so she waited...

A yard hen scratching around the ground for food found the waiting seed and promptly ate it.

### Thoughts to ponder:

When you celebrate and enjoy every stage of your life, you are always happy in your life.

**P Mohan**, *Personnel, Karaikal.*



## Sudoku

		3			7		6	
		7	8			2		
							3	
				5				1
		5	4		8	3	7	9
	3		2	7	9	6	4	
5								3
	7	6	3	9	4			
		4			5		8	

9	8	7	5	2	1	4	9	3
2	1	5	4	6	3	9	7	8
3	6	4	9	8	7	2	1	5
5	4	9	6	7	2	8	3	1
6	7	3	8	1	4	5	2	9
1	2	8	3	5	6	9	4	7
7	3	6	2	9	5	1	8	4
4	5	4	2	1	3	8	7	9
8	6	1	7	4	9	3	5	2

T	E	E	H	S		D	E	T	H	G	S
E		I	E	E		E		I		N	E
D	E	V	E	E	S	L	E	K		R	D
A		O		R	U					P	A
C	M	I	O	T	A		G	N	I	O	C
	R		A		N		A	I		E	R
N		P	N	O	I		N	E	T	T	A
I		U		U	O	Y		O		N	
E	G	N	A	H	C		G	E	M	T	N
D		E				E		C	E	E	O
A		R	A	X	E			I	T	C	R
R			A	Y		I		E		G	A
T											

Source: Internet

## Crossword

This puzzle features phrases that begin with the word short. But to make these answers even briefer, we've omitted the short. So, for example, in response to the clue "Finalists," you'd write "list" in the grid ("short list").

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8								9				
10	11		12				13	14				
							15					
16		17		18	19				20		21	
				22								
23								24	25		26	27
							28					
29				30			31					
32									33			

### ACROSS

- Thick cookie
- Brief documentary film
- 1986 Ally Sheedy movie
- Additional
- CT's favorite spice
- Cheat
- Not me, but...
- Goldfish are said to have this
- Life
- Bond creator Fleming
- Deficiency
- Type of energy
- Imbibe
- A T-shirt, for example
- Myopic
- Play a trick on a roommate

### DOWN

- Breakfast meat
- Leggy wading bird
- Two-spot
- Location
- "See ya!"
- Devoured
- Swap
- University of North Texas, for short
- Banged Stooze
- Speak sweetly
- Attila the
- Yang partner
- Video game parlors
- Filling in
- Author Anais
- Price place
- Paulo
- Onassis who wed Jackie
- Elm, cherry, and maple, for example
- Flick
- Military academy student
- Secondhand
- Caboodle sidekick?

For Internal Circulation Only.