

THE MYNAH AND THE ELEPHANT

From: Stories, Parables and Fables of life of P. Ribes, s.j.

Published by Gujarat Sahitya Prakash.

Intent of the Fable

- ✓ *Believe you can, and you will be able.*
- ✓ *Never give up trying.*
- ✓ *Have trust and faith and trust in yourself*
- ✓ *Faith moves mountains*

The Fable.

A Mynah and an Elephant struck a deep friendship. One day the Elephant said: “You know all my life I wanted to fly. I have always dreamt of the fun it would be to fly over the villages and to look from the sky at the houses and people below, to glide over rivers and jungles. Do you think I can fly?”

“Sure you can,” said the Mynah. Reaching back with his beak, she pulled a feather from her tail. “Here” she said, “take this feather and hold it firmly in your mouth. Then flap your big ears as hard as you can and you will fly.”

The Elephant did as he was told. He put the feather in his mouth, flapped his ears as hard as he could and, lo and behold! He began to fly. Holding the feather tight in his mouth, he flew over the villages. He looked at the people below; he glided over rivers and trees. He managed to do things he had never done before, he saw things he had never seen in his life.

At last, when he glided back to earth, he ran to meet his friend, guarding his feather carefully with his trunk. “Mynah, you have changed my whole life”, he said. “I really can’t thank you enough for this feather”.

“That feather?” said the Mynah. “You didn’t need it at all!. That was a discarded one. **I just gave you something to believe in**” It was your belief and the flapping of your ears that did it, not the feather!”

(Old Indian fable. Quoted by E. H. McGrath in “Basic Managerial Skills for all”.)

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION.

1. What is the main point or idea of this fable?
2. Do our attitudes, our beliefs and our frame of mind influence our actions? How much? Explain.
3. Wherefrom do great exploits and accomplishments originate?

4. Does a good self-image and self confidence give us strength and motivation to tackle difficult tasks? How? Give examples.
5. Has there been anything in your life that gave you courage to persevere even against seemingly invincible odds? Would you mind to share your experience now?
6. Explain the following sentences:
 - They can do things, because they thing that they can do them. (Old Latin adage)
 - If hope is lost, everything is lost.
 - Burn our boats and forge ahead. We shall conquer! (Hernan Cortes. from the conquest of Mexico)
 - The impossible becomes possible when your faith is strong enough.
 - There is a solution for every problem, except death. (Don Quixote)
 - Never quit, till you fall dead!

APPENDIX

Comment on the lyrics of the Impossible Dream. Reflect and Pray

THE MAN OF LA MANCHA

To dream the impossible dream
 To fight the unbeatable foe
 To bear with unbearable sorrow
 To run where the brave dare not go

To right the unrightable wrong
 To love pure and chaste from afar
 To try when your arms are too weary
 To reach the unreachable star

This is my quest
 To follow that star
 No matter how hopeless
 No matter how far

To fight for the right
 Without question or pause
 To be willing to march into Hell
 For a heavenly cause

And I know if I'll only be true
 To this glorious quest
 That my heart will lie peaceful and calm
 When I'm laid to my rest

And the world will be better for this
That one man, scorned and covered with scars
Still strove with his last ounce of courage
To reach the unreachable star

(Joe Darion)