

Sharpen Your Axe

INNOVATION



Once upon a time a very strong woodcutter asked a timber merchant for a job and he got it. The pay was really good and so were the work conditions. For this reason, the woodcutter was determined to do his best.

The merchant gave him an axe and showed him the area where he was supposed to work.

The first day, the woodcutter brought down 18 trees.

"Congratulations," the merchant said. "Go on that way!"

Very motivated with the merchant's words, the woodcutter tried harder the next day, but he could only bring down

15 trees. The third day he tried even harder, but he could only bring down 10 trees. Day after day he was bringing down lesser and lesser trees.

"I must be losing my strength", the woodcutter thought. He went to the merchant and apologised, saying that he could not understand what was going on.

"When was the last time you sharpened your axe?" the merchant asked.

"Sharpen? I had no time to sharpen my axe. I have been very busy trying to cut trees...!"

If we really understand the problem, the answer will come out of it, because the answer is not separate from the problem.

– J. Krishnamurti