

A Donkey in the Well

INNOVATION



One day, a farmer's donkey fell into a dry well. The animal brayed piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided that the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth retrieving the donkey. He requested his neighbours to come over and help him cover the well. Each picked up a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well.

The donkey immediately realised what was happening and once again started braying piteously. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quietened down. A few shovel loads later,

the farmer looked down the well, and was astonished at what he saw.

As every shovel of dirt hit his back, the donkey did something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer and his neighbours continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up.

Pretty soon, to everybody's amazement and delight, the donkey stepped over the edge of the well and trotted off happily.

Skepticism is slow suicide.
– R.W.Emerson