Three sons and a bundle of sticks

Once upon a time, an old man lived with his three sons in a village. All his three sons were hard workers. Still, none of them agreed with each other and quarrelled all the time. The old man tried a lot to unite them but he failed. While the villagers were surprised at their hard work and efforts, they also made fun of them on their fights. Months passed by and the old man fell sick. He talked to his sons to stay united, but none of his sons heard his words. So, he decided to teach them a practical lesson so that they would shed off their differences and stay united. The old man called all his sons. He told them, ‘I will give you a bundle of sticks. Separate each stick and you will have to break each stick into pieces of two. The one who breaks the sticks quickly will be rewarded more. All sons agreed. The old man gave a bundle of 10 sticks to everyone of them and asked to break it into pieces. All the sons broke the sticks into pieces in minutes. And again they started to quarrel among themselves as who came first.

The old man said, ‘Dear sons, the game is not over. Now I will give another bundle of sticks to all of you. You will have to break the sticks as a bundle, not as separate sticks.’ The sons agreed and began to break the bundle of sticks. Unfortunately, they could not break the bundle. They tried very hard but failed to complete the task. All sons said to the father about their failure. The old man replied, ‘Dear sons, see! You could easily break the single sticks into pieces, but you were not able to break the bundle! The sticks were same. So, if you stay united, nobody can make any harm to you. If you quarrel every time with your brothers, anyone can easily defeat you. I request you to stay united.’ The three sons understood the power of unity and promised their father that whatever be the problem, they would all stay together.

Moral: Unity is strength!

Personality intro

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Born on May 9, 1866 in Kothlu, Ratnagiri, Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a pioneer of the Indian National Movement against the British Empire in India. Poverty didn’t stop his parents from encouraging him in taking up university education. In 1884, he graduated from Elphinstone College. Same year, he gained membership at the Deccan Educational Society.

He moved to Pune and became one of the founding members of the Fergusson College and started off as a professor of history and political economy, and soon rose to become its principal.

Politically, he took up the position of the secretary at the Sarvajanik Sabha, a leading political organisation of Bombay. In 1889, he became a member of Indian National congress.

In Bal Gangadhar Tilak’s weekly publication ‘Maharatta’, he started contributing articles on nationalism.

His relentless petitions, agitations and persuasions influenced the Britishers to recognise the capabilities of educated Indians and include them in the governing process.

Gokhale served in the Imperial Legislative Council, became the President of the Indian National Congress and founded the famed Servants of the India Society.

He also influenced greatly the two important personalities of Indian national movement, Gandhi and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, both of whom regarded Gokhale as their mentor.

In 1895, when the Indian Congress held its session in Pune, he was chosen as the Secretary to the Indian National Congress along with Tilak. Same year, he was elected to the Senate of Bombay University.

In 1905 he was elected as the President in the Indian National Congress.

He died at the age of 49 on 19 February 1915.

Guinness geniuses

(From Guinness Book of World Records)

Longest bread twist

The longest bread twist measured 20.7 m (67 ft 10 in) and was made by the Kroppedal Museum with the assistance of the Albertslund and Høje Taastrup scouts (all Denmark) in Taastrup, Denmark, on October 16, 2010.

Who: Kroppedal Museum, Albertslund and Høje Taastrup scouts
Where: Taastrup Denmark
When: October 16, 2010

Colour the picture

DIY

Source: topdreamer.com