THE CROW AND THE PITCHER by AESOP

A Crow, half-dead with thirst, came upon a Pitcher which had once been full of water; but when the Crow put its beak into the mouth of the Pitcher he found that only very little water was left in it, and that he could not reach far enough down to get at it. He tried, and he tried, but at last had to give up in despair. Then a thought came to him, and he took a pebble and dropped it into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped it into the Pitcher. Then he took another pebble and dropped that into the Pitcher. He repeated this process many more times. At last, at last, he saw the water mount up near him, and after casting in a few more pebbles he was able to quench his thirst and save his life.

LIFE LESSON: Little by little does the trick.

At one point or another in our existence, we have to face seemingly insurmountable challenges or apparently impossible situations. This is a reality of life: At every step in our journey through earth, from infancy to adulthood, life will throw unexpected and unpleasant challenges and difficulties that will constantly test our endurance and stamina.

Persistence—which is firm continuance in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition—is the key to solving any problem you have. Persistence requires both endurance and stamina. Endurance is the power of enduring an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way. Stamina is the ability to sustain prolonged physical or mental effort.

The Crow exhibited the quality of persistence, and demonstrated that when confronting a seemingly insurmountable challenge, little by little does the trick.

Similarly, all the challenges and problems you face in school can be overcome with persistence, one step at a time. In any effort, persistence guarantees that the desired results are certain to happen. A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what initially seemed like an insurmountable problem will turn to triumphant success.

Always be persistent in your pursuits. You will discover that persistence always pays off. Whether you want to get an A on an exam, be elected president of your club or captain of your team, pass your college entrance exams, or learn to play an instrument or speak a language, persist until you succeed. Even in romantic endeavors, persistence matters, for the art of love is largely the art of persistence. Whatever it is that you want to do, just keep plugging away, little by little. A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence.

Everything worthwhile takes time. It is important that you don’t give up when things get bad. You can do anything you want as long as you stick to it long enough. As Confucius rightly stated, “It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop.” So develop a definite purpose and a definite plan, for persistence is the path to success.