Being Busy

In a village there lived two woodcutters. One was old and experienced and other one was young and strong. Every day early morning they would go to the nearby forest to cut trees. They would sell the wood to the villagers for a living.

One day the young woodcutter noticed that the old man had more wooden logs than him. He was aghast at first and thought he wasn’t working hard enough to earn more. So he decided that then on he would work harder and be a better woodcutter than the old man. He decided from tomorrow he would go to the forest earlier and come back late. This change in schedule went on for a while and the young woodcutter never saw to the old man for a few days.

One day they happened to meet in the market where they were both there to sell the logs they had collected. When young one saw the amount of log the old man had managed to cut, he got even more disheartened. As this time he saw that the old man had much more logs than the last time. How could this be possible? He wondered.

Young one couldn’t contain his anxiety and frustration anymore, so he approached the old man and poured his heart out. The old man looked at the young man’s axe and said to him “Sharpen your axe”. He said every day before going to bed he would sharpen his axe so that the next day he could be better at work.

Moral of this story - you need to make time to sharpen your axe. This principle of sharpening the axe applies to us in all spheres of our life.  Especially to our body, mind and soul.

No matter how costly our car is, we need to stop to refuel it to continue on our journey. Our body, mind and soul are costlier than any car in this world. They need constant refueling for a better living.

Reduce your wants and understand your needs. Know that you will always want more than what you have. Remember life may not always give you what you ask for; but it will most certainly give you what you need. The key is NOT to make your happiness dependent on finding that elusive pot of gold at end of the rainbow, which ultimately you will find empty.

Goals energize your life, but never put off happiness for the sake of achievements. Climbing corporate ladder by missing your child’s first walk is not climbing. What’s the point of working to buy a big house, when you didn’t spare time to build a home? It’s not fame that adds meaning to life. Doesn’t matter that the whole of your business world knows about you, if your kids at home don’t know your middle name. Embrace the wonders of living; spend more time with those who make your life meaningful.

Remember to do nothing in extreme and everything in moderation.