



Cambridge & Impington Tang Soo Do Clubs



The Donkey and the Well

A long time ago in Korea, there was a farmer who thought himself very fortunate to have a donkey. The donkey helped the farmer plough the fields, bring in the harvest, and it took him to the village market to sell his produce. One day he left the donkey lazing in the field for a well deserved rest. The donkey wandered off around the field exploring the long grass, but when the farmer returned to look for the donkey there was no sign of him anywhere.

He had left the donkey in the field, and closed the gate as he left, yet there was no sign of his faithful companion. "Perhaps he has been stolen? But thieves would not close the gate, so he must be here somewhere" said the farmer to himself, as he wandered further into the field. Then he heard him, a distant braying coming from somewhere, but where.

Listening carefully he slowly moved in the direction of the braying, then there in front of him he saw the old well that had once supplied water to his farm. Full of fear he peered over the low stone wall which ran around the well, and there much to his despair was the donkey at the bottom of the old well.

What could he do, how could he rescue the donkey? No matter how hard he tried he could see no way to rescue the donkey from the well. Resigning himself to losing him, his thoughts turned to the donkey. He could not let the donkey suffer such a fate and decided that to bury him in the well, would be the kindest thing he could do. So having made his decision the farmer called upon his neighbours for help to bury the donkey.

For most of the afternoon they toiled, shovelling earth into the well, bringing it in barrows and buckets to cover the poor donkey and bring to end this tragic event. But still the donkey kept braying, and the more he brayed the faster they tried to fill the well. The farmer could not bring himself to look at the donkey and asked his neighbour to look to see if the donkey was almost buried. Slowly the neighbour peered over the edge and was surprised to see the donkey standing at the bottom of the shaft. Then he began to smile and chuckle to himself as someone threw in another shovel of earth. "Why are you laughing", shouted the farmer rushing to the edge of the well to chastise his neighbour.

On reaching the edge he too began to smile, there in the well was the donkey standing on top of the earth that they had thrown into the well. Each time a shovel of earth fell on to his back, he shook himself and stepped up on to the fresh earth. Seeing what was happening they set to work to free the donkey and soon the donkey was able to step over the wall back into the field, much to the delight of the farmer who thought that all was lost.



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And the moral of the story;

Well perhaps we all have a certain amount of dirt thrown at us at one time or another; perhaps we all go through a bad patch and feel that nothing good ever happens to us, or perhaps everything in your life seems to be against you. Well take a lesson from the donkey, shake off the problem and step up to meet the next challenge, that way life seems all the more manageable.

Instructors comment : Next time all the “crap” ; seems to be falling in your direction, think of the donkey, give yourself a shake, put the problems behind you and move on.