

The Donkey Story

A parable is told of a farmer who owned an old, worn out, tired mule. The mule had not worked hard for quite some time. The farmer just didn't think it was worth keeping and feeding and be useless. One day, the mule fell into the farmer's well. It was a long fall and the farmer assumed that the donkey was done, gone and didn't want to fool with getting him out of the well. The farmer heard the mule "braying" -- or --whatever mules do when they fall into wells. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, and indeed decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbors together and told them what had happened . . . and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery!

Shovel upon shovel of dirt began to hit the old, tired mule in the back. Initially, the old mule was hysterical, but as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back . . . a thought struck the mule! It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back . . . he should simply *shake it off and step up!*

This he did, blow after blow. **Shake it off and step up . . . shake it off and step up . . . shake it off and step up!"**

He kept repeating this to encourage himself. He got a vision that he could survive. He would survive. He knew it. No matter how painful the blows, or distressing the situation seemed, the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on *shaking it off and stepping up!*

It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, *stepped triumphantly over the wall of that well!* He survived, just like he knew he would. He did not let all that dirt bury him and make him give up...no, he shook off the dirt and stepped up, just like *True Leaders* do. What seemed like it would *bury him*, actually *blessed him . . . all because of the manner* in which *he handled his adversity!*

That's life! If we face our challenges and respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, to the critics, to those who hurt us, disappoint us, situations beyond our control, or self-pity . . .

The adversities that come along to bury us usually have within them the potential to benefit and bless us!

Remember this, when adversity comes into your life, which it will, prepare for it and shake it off and step up. Give no one permission to steal your dreams. You can't get to home base with your foot on third. Go for greatness! When you are kicked down, hurt, or discouraged, remember the Donkey Story. [Visit www.JanRuhe.com for More Great Training & Resources]