

The Bundle of sticks.

There was once a farmer with several sons who could never agree among themselves. He had often told them how foolish they were to be always quarrelling, but they kept on and paid no attention to his advice.

One day the father called his sons before him and showed them a bundle of sticks tied tightly together. “See which one of you can break this bundle in two”, he commanded.

Each son in turn took the bundle in his hands and tried his best to break it. They all tried, but in vain, for the bundle was so strong that not one of them could even bend it. At last they gave it back to their father, saying “We cannot break it”.

Then the father untied the bundle and gave a single stick to each of his sons. “Now see what you can do”, he said. Each one broke his stick with the greatest of ease.

“My sons”, said the wise father, “you, like these sticks, will be strong if you stand together; but once you quarrel and become separated, then you are easily destroyed like these sticks.”