

EXPRESSIONS

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Editor : Gita Srivatsan

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Building the fence

Once upon a time two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?"

"Yes," said John, the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor; in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go on him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence -- an 8-foot fence -- so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore!"

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job.

The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge -- a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all -- and the neighbour, his younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched. "You are quite a man to build this bridge after all I've said and done", he said.

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge . . . and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand in tears. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I want to thank you!" said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but, I have many more bridges to build."

Today when geography is becoming history, we have to keep building more bridges ... bridges of understanding, of sharing, of caring, of loving, of giving. Every living being is bonded in a symbiotic relationship and has to cherish that relationship of universal love and brotherhood. Gandhiji believed in this oneness and strived to sow seeds of love even when hatred painted the country red with blood. This man has proved that peace will exist and bridges can be built to last. Let us help build bridges so that man treads above and hearts meet, and let the waters flow beneath them, unconditionally. Let us make the celebration happen, when the lights come on.

Happy Diwali

Follow the leader, not the follower.

Management Advisory Services

Reaching the targeted level of process maturity

So what happens when your company reaches its targeted level?

- First, the organization will want to **take advantage** of its new process capability to strengthen its competitive position. (You have a strengthened corporate asset ... now is the time to take advantage!)
- Second, your organization will have to be diligent and systematic about **maintaining your achieved level** of Process Maturity. It will take continued energy and focus to hold your level!
- Third, your organization might now want to **repeat the process of moving** to a next target level of Process Maturity as needed to support your corporate strategy and to stay ahead of competitors. This next journey will call for a repeat of Steps One, Two and Three!!

In the stages of constant evolving, the processes get refined further and further reaching the maximum maturity level. This level is a stage where the fuzziness between 'corporate think' and 'executive do' vanish. There is a total sync between the objectives and results.



BEES WAX

Mathew John, Keystone Foundation

Beeswax is a natural wax secreted by various species of honey bee. It is obtained from old and damaged combs and from the cappings with which the bees cover cells containing honey. A substantial portion of bees wax exported from developing countries comes from combs of wild bees, which are damaged during the process of honey collection.

Bees Wax from honeybees has unique physical and chemical characteristics. Of all the products available from bees, it is the most versatile and most widely used material. It has a wide range of uses and for centuries, it has been used for making candles. Ancient jewellers and artisans formed delicate objects from wax and cast them later in precious metals. Colours of ancient wall paintings and icons contain bees wax which remain unchanged. It has also found much use in medicinal practices and in creams and lotions.

The cosmetics industry is the largest user of bees wax. Cosmetics containing beeswax include: skin creams (e.g. cold cream for facial use), emulsions, make-up foundations, face powders, cheek pomades, hair creams/pomades, lipsticks and eye make-ups (e.g., eyebrow pencils and mascaras). The pharmaceutical industry is the second largest user of beeswax, since it is used as an ingredient in certain ointments, for coating pills, and in some manufacturing processes. Candle manufacturers are the third major users of beeswax. Other

uses include preparation of polishes for furniture, wood and leather, finishes for leather, rexine, wood and paper, lithographic and engraving materials, castings, dental equipment, ornaments and confectioneries

Though in many cases bees wax has been replaced with cheaper, synthetic waxes, its very special characteristics, medicinal benefits, plasticity and aroma ensure its continuing use. Many of these characteristics cannot be achieved with artificial waxes. Since bees wax has a higher melting point than most paraffin waxes (most of which melt between 480 and 680 C), bees wax candles remain straight at higher ambient temperatures. They are also less likely to drip than candles made from other materials.

Bees wax and Oil Spill Control

How do you clean up an oil spill? With balls of beeswax, what else?! These aren't the usual balls of beeswax, however. These contain microorganisms (little critters that can only be seen under a microscope) that "eat" oil.

The beeswax microcapsules are designed so that water cannot get in, but oil can. When the oil seeps through the shell, the microorganisms inside release enzymes digest the oil. When the balls get full of digested oil, they explode. They release enzymes, carbon dioxide and water, all environmentally safe. This mixture is even good fish food!



Astral in the field of

Business Process Engineering ★ Inventory Management ★ Cost Consultancy

An exception tests a rule; it never proves it.