



“The Horse That Won’t Drink”

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What is going on in a student's mind when they don't want to do something?

This story provides an opportunity to open a dialogue about why learning, growing and trying new things can sometimes be difficult, but important.

1. There was a farmer that owned many horses. One day, the farmer noticed that one of his horses, named Yankee, was looking down and not eating like the other horses.
2. Yankee would eat a little, then become a bit mopey, slowly moving around, and not appear to enjoy the other horses' company at all.
3. He preferred to graze in the field by himself. The farmer watched Yankee's behavior. Days turned into weeks and weeks into months. Yankee still looked forlorn and preferred to be alone. The farmer could not understand the horse's strange behavior.
4. Yankee had friends, food, and a nice pasture to graze in. There was no logical reason for the horse to behave so unhappily and lonely.
5. One day, the farmer wanted to take the horses down to the watering hole. All the horses, except Yankee, loved to go down to the watering hole and play and drink the freshwater. But, no matter how hard he tried, the farmer couldn't get Yankee to move even SLIGHTLY in the direction of the watering hole.
6. He tried different tactics to get Yankee to cooperate. He spoke sweetly to Yankee, and even tried to gently push Yankee in the direction of the watering hole, but the stubborn horse would not budge. Puzzled, and not wanting to upset Yankee any further, the farmer gave up.

7. Yankee remained in the farmer's field watching the other horses play and frolic in the watering hole. They all looked so happy. "What is so special about the watering hole?" Yankee thought to himself. "The water here is just fine."
8. What the farmer did not understand was that Yankee was not depressed. He was just not ready to try something new. Yankee saw that the other horses had fun and enjoyed the watering hole. Yankee felt very safe and content staying in the farmer's field. He had no desire to venture to the watering hole. He had perfectly good water right there in the farmer's pasture.
9. As Yankee was watching the other horses play and frolic in the freshwater of the watering hole, he began thinking,
"I don't see what's wrong with my thinking."
"I feel fine."
"I don't HAVE to enjoy this."
"I am happy staying right HERE."
"The water here is just FINE."
10. The farmer, getting more and more frustrated with Yankee's stubbornness, attempted to take Yankee down to the watering hole without the other horses. This was a difficult task because Yankee continued to show his disagreement with the farmer by digging his feet into the soft earth. The farmer was using a lot of effort, dragging the poor horse in the direction of the watering hole. The farmer even shouted and cracked his whip to get Yankee to cooperate!
11. Why didn't the farmer understand that Yankee just didn't want to go to the watering hole? He was content to stay just where he was. "What is the big deal about the watering hole?" thought Yankee. "Why do the horses look like they are having so much fun there? The water is fine right here," Yankee continued to think.

"Maybe something *IS* wrong with my thinking."
"*DO* I feel fine?"
"Maybe I *WOULD* enjoy this..."
"*AM* I happy staying right here?"
"The water there *DOES* look refreshing..."
12. One day, Yankee spontaneously went down to the watering hole on his own. He wanted to see for himself what was so special about the watering hole. He cautiously bent down and let the water rise up and touch the top of his snout. It was cool and crisp. He took a drink. It was very exhilarating. "This watering hole **IS** wonderful! I am so glad that I decided to try it!" he rejoiced. He spent the afternoon splashing about and drinking the refreshing water. He was happy and feeling wonderful.

Morals of the Story:

“You can bring a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink.”

“You will never know the taste of the water if you don’t ever go to the watering hole.”

“Trying something new can bring you great joy.”

“Have you ever decided to ‘drink the water’ and felt the joy it produced inside of you?”

“Yankee forgot what joy felt like. He forgot his true nature and became too comfortable in his surroundings.”

“There may be many reasons that prevented Yankee from going to the watering hole. Maybe he didn’t want to go to the watering hole because he was anxious about trying something new or breaking his routine. Or perhaps, he was simply afraid of the unknown.”

Reflection:

What is the water in your life you are avoiding?

What are the thoughts that stop you and impede your life?

Do you give yourself love and say kind things to yourself?

Who does Yankee remind you of?

Summary:

This is the story of a young horse named Yankee that did things at his own pace. In life, people behave in much the same way and move at their own pace. If someone is not ready to try something new, it would be a waste of time to force this new experience upon someone. Rather, it is more beneficial to wait until one is ready to try a new experience. Only then will it be appreciated and meaningful.

Adam Khedoori - Bio

Adam Khedoori spent many years on a quest to find great teachers of this world and share their work. Adam Lives in Sydney Australia with his wife Anita and has 3 boys ages 8-11 years old. To get a copy of the book and updates when the book is finished join my Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/DreamBelieveCreate2020/>

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