

# The Elephant and the Rope

(Jorge Damien)

When I was young, I was very fond of the circus, especially the animals. I particularly loved the elephant, which showcased its remarkable skills to the crowd.

Between performances, the elephant was restrained with an iron chain attached to a small wooden stake planted in the ground. The stake was nothing more than a slender wooden pole, barely penetrating the earth. Despite the thick and heavy chain, it was evident that the massive elephant, capable of uprooting an entire tree, could easily extract the small stake and break free.

A perplexing question arose: What force held such a mighty creature in place?

When I was young, I trusted the wisdom of adults who told me that the elephant didn't run away because it was tamed. I then proposed an obvious question: "If it was tamed, why did they need to chain it at all?" I do not recall any worthy answer.

One day I ran into a great man who provided a great answer. And so he explained, "The elephant doesn't run away because it has been chained in exactly the same manner from a very young age."

I closed my eyes and imagined the baby elephant pushing, pulling, grunting, and doing everything in its power to break free, but to no avail. Its strength was no match for the chain and stake. I also imagined the baby elephant falling asleep from exhaustion after those futile efforts, only to wake up the next day and try again. This continued for many days without success. The little elephant was weak. Finally, on a bleak day, it accepted its fate and succumbed to its limitations. From that day forward, it never attempted to escape again.

## **Food for thought:**

**The moral of this story isn't just for elephants! That mighty, strong circus elephant doesn't run away because it believes it can't. It remembers its past weakness and helplessness, which are now ingrained in its subconscious from infancy. The saddest part is that the elephant never questioned this feeling of inability and never tried to test its strength as a mighty adult.**

**Please share a past event where you failed but recently tried again and succeeded. What contributed to your success this time? What has changed within you?**

