

# "The Woodcutter"

(Unknown origin)

**Message: Reflect on the past year and find ways to improve and be more efficient.**

Once upon a time, there was a strong and sturdy woodcutter. A well-known timber merchant hired him under agreeable terms. Motivated by this, the woodcutter was determined to work with all his might.

On his first day, his employer gave him an axe and showed him the work area. The woodcutter worked diligently and felled 18 trees.

"Well done!" his employer praised him. "Keep up the good work!"

Thrilled by the praise, the woodcutter returned to the forest with renewed vigor the next day, but could only fell 15 trees. On the third day, despite increased effort, he managed to fell just ten. This pattern continued, with fewer trees cut each day.

"I must be losing my strength," he thought, and apologetically approached his employer.

"When was the last time you sharpened your axe?" asked the employer.

"The axe?" replied the woodcutter, surprised. "Oh, I haven't had time to sharpen it, I've been so busy cutting trees."

**Food for thought:**

**At the end of one year and the beginning of the next, how can I "sharpen my axe" (become more efficient)?**

