



A farmer's determination

"The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen." Frank Lloyd Wright

Once, in a country where the land was lush and crops abundant, there was a long period of drought, such as to put the barley and wheat crops at risk. Fearing that they would lose so many months of hard work, the farmers decided to dig ditches to channel the river water and irrigate the fields. Everyone got busy and in particular a farmer who even decided to take a vow: "I will not stop digging until my field has been irrigated by the river."

He had been digging since dawn when his daughter arrived with a tray full of food.

"Father," said the young woman. "The other farmers all went home for a bite to eat. Take a rest and eat something. Here's your breakfast."

"Breakfast? Don't you see that I can't stop?," replied her father, as he continued to dig.

At lunchtime, the daughter returned. She carried a tray overflowing with fragrant delicacies, a jug of water and a towel. "Father, it's lunchtime," said the girl. "You need to take a break and eat something. Everyone went home to freshen up. I brought you some water and a towel so you can cool off, too."

"Cool off?" said the farmer. He shook his head and continued digging.



The daughter went home and told her mother that her father had neither drunk nor eaten, and that he had no intention of resting in the shade to take a break from the scorching sun. The woman, worried about her husband's health, ran to him.

"Why don't you eat something?" she asked him. "Why do you always exaggerate everything you do?" The woman added in a reproachful tone.

"I know what I'm doing", replied her husband, concentrating on his work. "Now go home! You are distracting me from my work. It hasn't rained for days. Without water we will have no crops and no food. I made a vow and will respect my vow: I will not eat or rest until I am able to bring water to our fields."

The farmer kept digging. He dug without stopping, without ever raising his head, until finally late at night he reached the mouth of the river. He put down the hoe and watched the river water flow along the canal until it ran into his field. The gurgle of the water was music to his ears and his heart was filled with joy. His work was done. He was relieved but very exhausted. He headed home where his wife and daughter welcomed him with open arms.

After washing up, he ate a hearty meal and sat on the porch to look at the moon. His soul was calm and he was filled with a feeling of deep satisfaction. The farmer thanked the heavens for giving him the strength and perseverance he needed that day. Then he went to bed and immediately fell asleep, which is what happens to people who are at peace with themselves, and very tired!

The next morning, the sun was blazing and the heat was torrid; at noon there was no more hope for the small plants of wheat; a great misfortune for all the farmers. All but one.

Determination doesn't make things easy, but it makes them possible!