

## THE MYNAH AND THE ELEPHANT

*Adapted from Old Indian fable by P. Ribes, s.j.*

### Intent of the Fable

- ✓ Believe you can, and you will . *“Possunt quia sibi posse videntur”*.
- ✓ Never give up trying.
- ✓ Have trust and faith in yourself
- ✓ Faith moves mountains

## The Fable.

A Mynah and an Elephant struck a deep friendship. One day the Elephant said: “You know all my life I wanted to fly. I have always dreamt of the fun it would be to fly over the villages and to look from the sky at the houses and people below, to glide over rivers and jungles. Do you think I can fly?”

“Sure you can,” said the Mynah. Reaching back with his beak, she pulled a feather from her tail. “Here” she said, “take this feather and hold it firmly in your mouth. Then flap your big ears as hard as you can and you will fly.”

The Elephant did as he was told. He put the feather in his mouth, flapped his ears as hard as he could and, lo and behold! He began to fly. Holding the feather tight in his mouth, he flew over the villages. He looked at the people below; he glided over rivers and trees. He managed to do things he had never done before, he saw things he had never seen in his life.

At last, when he glided back to earth, he ran to meet his friend, guarding his feather carefully with his trunk. “Mynah, you have changed my whole life”, he said. “I really can’t thank you enough for this feather”.

“That feather?” said the Mynah. “You didn’t need it at all!. That was just a discarded one. **I just gave you something to believe in**” It was your belief and the flapping of your ears that did it, not the feather!”

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- They can do wonders because they think they can. (*Old Latin adage*)
- If hope is lost, everything is lost.
- Burn the boats and forge ahead. We shall conquer! (*Hernan Cortes. from the conquest of Mexico*)
- The impossible becomes possible when faith is strong enough.
- There is a remedy for every problem, except death. (*Don Quixote*)
- Never quit, till you fall dead!

# APPENDIX

## Comment on the lyrics of the Impossible Dream. Reflect and Pray

### THE MAN OF LA MANCHA

To dream the impossible dream  
To fight the unbeatable foe  
To bear with unbearable sorrow  
To run where the brave dare not go

To right the unrightable wrong  
To love pure and chaste from afar  
To try when your arms are too weary  
To reach the unreachable star

This is my quest  
To follow that star  
No matter how hopeless  
No matter how far

To fight for the right  
Without question or pause  
To be willing to march into Hell  
For a heavenly cause

And I know if I'll only be true  
To this glorious quest  
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm  
When I'm laid to my rest

And the world will be better for this  
That one man, scorned and covered with scars  
Still strove with his last ounce of courage  
To reach the unreachable star

*(Joe Darion)*