

## The 18<sup>th</sup> Camel

There was a father who left 17 camels as an asset for his three sons.

When the father passed away, his sons opened up the Will.

The Will of the father stated that the eldest son should get  $\frac{1}{2}$  (half) of total camels while the middle son should be given  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd (one-third)

and the youngest son should be given  $\frac{1}{9}$ th (one-ninth) of the total camels.

As it was not possible to divide 17 into half or 17 by 3 or 17 by 9, the three sons started to fight with each other.

So, the three sons decided to go to a wise man.

The wise man read the Will patiently. The wise man, after giving due thought, brought one camel of his own and added the same to 17.

That increased the total to 18 camels.

Now, he started reading the deceased father's Will.

Half of 18 = 9. So he gave the eldest son 9 camels

$\frac{1}{3}$ rd of 18 = 6. So he gave the middle son 6 camels

$\frac{1}{9}$ th of 18 = 2. So he gave the youngest son 2 camels.

Now add this up: 9 plus 6 plus 2 is 17 and this leaves one camel, which the wise man took back!

Moral: The attitude of negotiation and problem solving is to find the 18th camel i.e. the common ground. Once a person is able to find the 18th camel the issue is resolved.

It is difficult at times. However, to reach a solution, the first step is to believe that there is a solution.

If we think that there is no solution, we won't be able to reach any!