

## The Story \_\_\_\_\_

In his endeavour to give practical learnings to his Shishya, the guru once sowed a seed in the ground in the circular of his aashram. Then the guru made a Flowerbed around the seed in the form of a circle of about radius 2 feet. The guru instructed his shishya to jump over the circle from one side to another and back everyday for two minutes. The guru further reiterated to practice this exercise daily and follow it sacrosanctly. The Shishya was surprised but decided to follow the instructions of his guru. Everyday in the morning, the shishya used to come to the Flowerbed and jump from one side to another and back continuously for two minutes. A week later, the shishya saw that the seed germinated, but he continued his routine. After a months time, the shishya could see the seedling. The shishya continued to practice the exercise as usual. The seedling grew further to a small plant, which further kept growing in height. Six months later, the plant was 1 feet tall and the shishya could see the small branches and leaves. The shishya was confused as to what the guru was expecting from him. But he never dared to raise a question. He continued his daily practice. As time passed, the plant further grew to 2 feet, then 3 feet and 4 feet. The shishya continued his daily practice as usual. One day, while the shishya was practicing at the Flowerbed and was easily jumping over the 4 feet tall plant the guru came. There was a smile on his face. The shishya saw the opportunity and asked his guru the reason behind his smile. The guru said, I am happy to see that you are able to jump over the 4 feet tall plant across the 4 feet circle so easily. If I had asked you to jump over this plant now and not from the very beginning, it would not have been possible for you. Its all the result of your continuous practice and hard work. The shishya immediately fell at his guru's feet.

## The Secret of Success

The late Earl Nightingale, in his book, The Strangest Secret, said that if we read for two hours every day on any subject, in five years, we would become national experts on that particular subject. And in ten years, we would have the equivalent of a PhD! To me, reading quality books is the ultimate joy in life. It rekindles my hope and takes me to new heights. It rejuvenates me and gives me a boost. We can no longer make excuses about not having time to read. Today we can even buy most books on CDs, thereby turning our cars into a university on wheels while commuting to and from work! On the road to success, we must gather a lot of information through quality reading.