

SPECIMENS

1. A conversation between two boys, one of whom is habitually despondent and thinks that luck is against him, whereas the other is of a more practical turn of mind.

Nasarullah Jan. - Come, Hussain, you are taking your failure too much to heart. I know it is a great disappointment, and I sympathize with you; but you must not allow it to make you so unhappy.

Mohd. Hussain.- It is all very well for a lucky chap like you, Nasarullah. You have passed the first time, and this is my second failure. You would not feel so cheery if you were in my place.

N.J.- I know; but you must pull yourself together, and make up your mind you will pass next time. Remember the old saying "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again!"

M.H.- I think the other version of the saying has more sense in it. 'Tf at first you don't succeed, quit, quit, quit, at once !"

N.J.- Oh nonsense ! You'll never do anything if you don't persevere. Now why do you think you failed?

M.H.- All this year fate has been against me. First, I was ill with enteric, which lost me a whole term. Then just before my examination, my father died, and that so upset me that I could not prepare properly.

NJ.- Well, you certainly did have bad luck, I am sorry. But I am sure you will succeed next time; so you must make up your mind to win through.

M.H.- If s no use. I think I was born unlucky. I seem to fail in everything I touch.'I tried several times to get a scholarship, but some other boy always got it instead. I shall give it up.

NJ.- Indeed, you must not. Remember it's the darkest hour before the dawn. Often when things are at the worst, they begin to improve. I don't believe in all the talk about bad and good luck. A brave man makes his own luck. You have a year before you; you have brains, and if you will only pull yourself together and put your heart into your work, you will win through.

M.H.- I wish I had your disposition. Still, I will take your advice and have another try.

NJ.- That's the style ! And I am sure you will succeed and break your so-called "bad luck" once for all.

Narration

Nasarullah advised Hussain not to be disappointed by failure, reminding him of the old saying, "If at first you do not succeed, try, try again." Hussain, however, cynically quoted the opposite version, "If at first you do not succeed, quit, quit, quit at once", and blamed fate for repeated failures by mentioning his illness and death of his father that year. He added that he remained unlucky in getting scholarship. Nasarullah felt sorry for him. He convinced him to not lose hope and encouraged him to believe in himself, to prepare diligently and make up his mind to succeed. He urged him to let go of good and bad luck because hard work brings success. Eventually, Hussain accepted his friend's advice and resolved to try again.