

#118 The First Mistake

A young beaver was working at felling a tree. His father was watching, so as to instruct. "Father, I am afraid to make a mistake cutting the tree," said the youth. His father adjusted his technique and encouraged him not to be afraid. A second time the young one worried about his chopping and his father showed him the right way, reminding him that he is just learning. A third time, the son asked for alteration, for fear of dropping the tree in the wrong direction, and once again, his father gently obliged with advice, saying, "The only error you are making my son is that you are afraid to make an error." The little beaver chuckled, then looked up at his father with admiration and relief, asking his father how he knew so much. His father just laughed and said, "In my life, I have already tried all of the ways to fell a tree that do not work."

DO NOT FEAR MISTAKES THERE ARE NONE