



**A) Literal Meaning:**

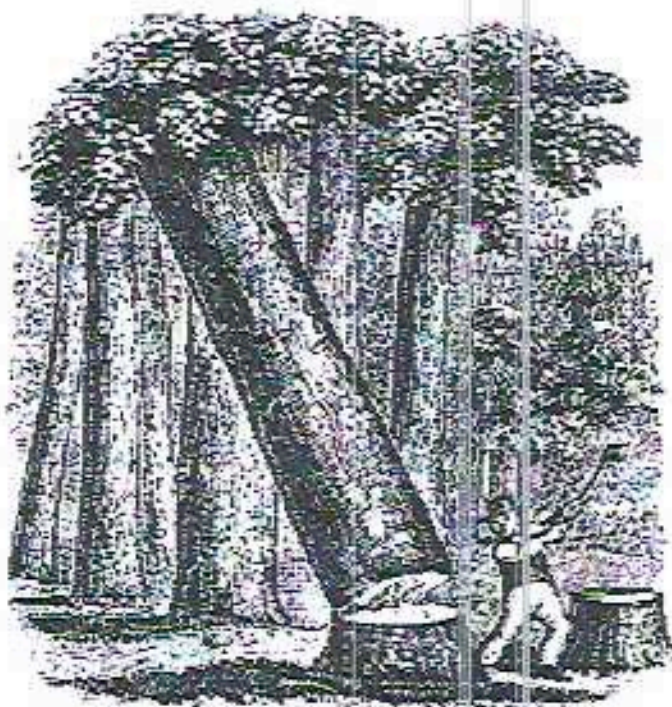
The proverb refers to the fact that when effectively shaping and molding hot iron, a blacksmith must act quickly before it cools down and hardens.

**B) Idea Expressed:**

We should act decisively and take advantage of favorable conditions or opportunities when they arise because they may not always be there.

**C) Specific Real World Example:**

During a particular week when your boss at Sonic is wowed by the fact you fixed the tater tot machine and numerous customers reported your excellent service—though you are really nervous—this could be the perfect moment to ask for a raise.



**Little strokes fell great oaks**

*~Benjamin Franklin*

**A) Literal Meaning:**

The aphorism refers to the fact that the best way to cut down a large tree is not with one simple huge stroke. It's about making many small, repeated, decisive strokes with an axe.

**B) Idea Expressed:**

Many small actions can be powerful enough to make a big change. Or... Though our strengths may be limited, if we are persistent, we can still solve a big problem or accomplish something grand.

**C) Specific Real World Example:**

If you are a slow or weak reader, you can still read a long, difficult text. You just need to take it one page, one passage, one sentence, or even one word at a time.