

***Presenting Burke and Steve in....***

**“HAVE PATIENCE”**



**It was a beautiful summer day, and two friends, Burke and Steve, had gone to spend the summer with Steve's uncle Herbert. Uncle Herbert lived on a small country farm.**

**Steve usually spent a couple of weeks during summer vacation with his uncle and helped him on the farm. Steve's friend Burke had joined him that summer.**



**“Morning, boys,” Uncle Herbert said as Burke and Steve entered the barn where Uncle Herbert had been checking on his animals. “Think you two could take care of milking the cows this morning?”**

**“You bet!” Burke shouted eagerly as he dashed toward the cows’ stall.**

**“Wait up, Burke,” called Uncle Herbert as he and Steve followed Burke.**

**When they reached Bessie, the cow, Burke had found a bucket and a stool and was ready to start milking.**

**“Here, let me show you how it’s done,” Uncle Herbert said.**

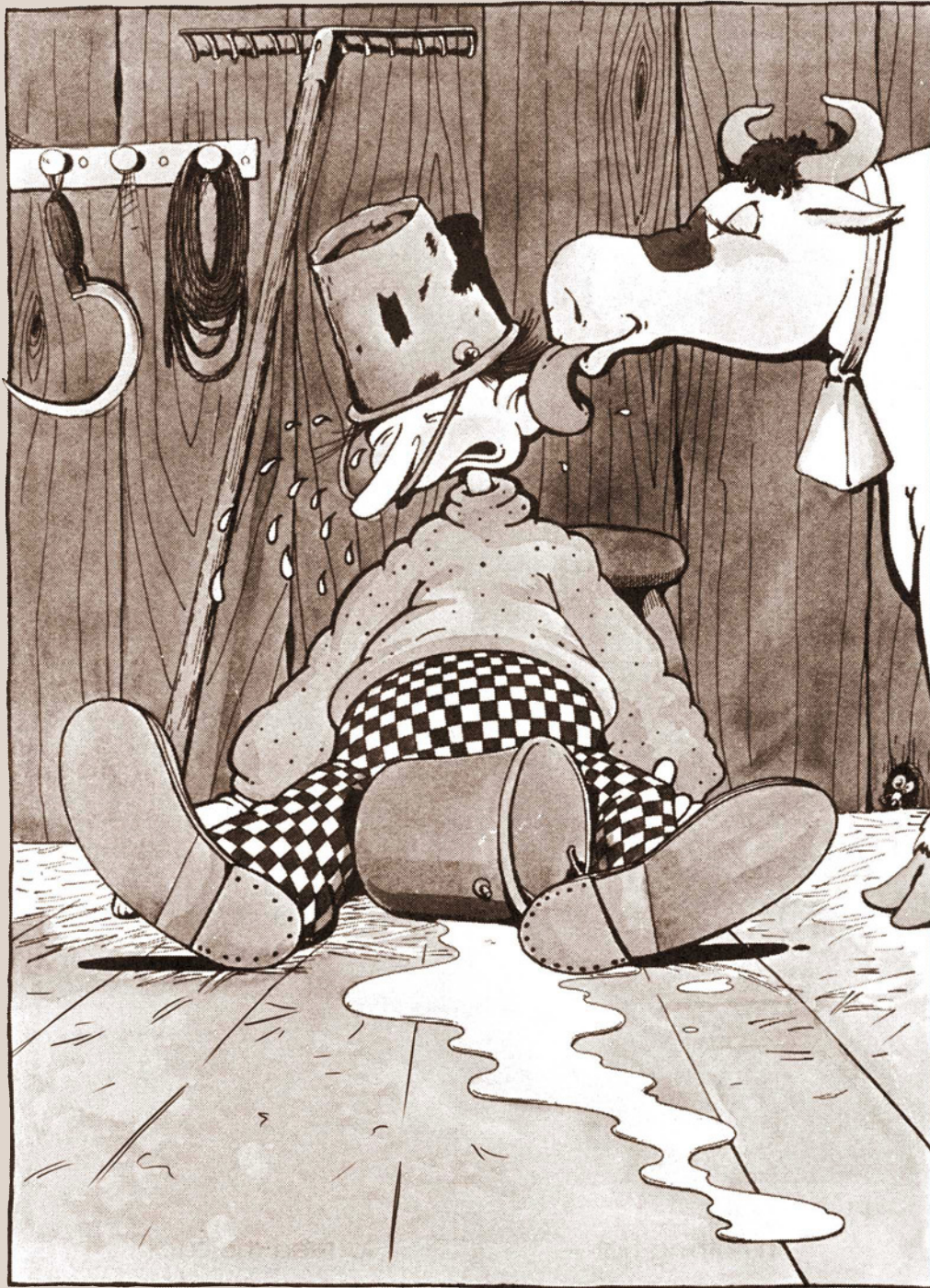
**“I can do this myself,” Burke announced as he tried to milk Bessie. But Burke didn’t really know what he was doing.**



**“MOOOOO!”** cried Bessie when Burke accidentally knocked her leg with the bucket.

No matter how much Burke pulled and yanked at the cow’s teats, the milk would not come out. Finally, after many tries, the milk started to flow, but by then Burke was bored. *Milking Bessie is taking too long,* Burke thought. *I’ll do this as fast as I can, so I can go do something else.*

In his haste, Burke jerked and pulled, trying to make the milk flow faster. Instead, the milk missed the bucket and spilled all over the ground. Somehow, Burke even managed to squirt milk right in Uncle Herbert’s face!



The bucket was less than a quarter full when Burke decided he was done. He stood up quickly and accidentally kicked over the bucket. The milk spilled all over the ground. He was making an awful mess of things!

*"Boo hoo hoo!"* cried Burke. "Milking cows is too hard and takes too long! I'll never be good at it!"

Bessie gave a low moo and licked Burke, which made Burke cry even harder.



**“Let me show you how it’s done,” Steve said as he calmly sat on the stool next to Bessie. He carefully placed the bucket under the udder and patiently began to milk the cow.**

**Before long the bucket was brimming with milk. There was even extra for Regina the cat.**



**“That’s my boy!”**  
exclaimed Uncle Herbert  
when Steve brought him the  
pail of milk. **“Sure and steady  
does it. Some things just  
take time and patience to do  
right.”**

**“Why is patience  
important?”** Burke asked. **“I  
like to do things fast. That  
way I can do more things  
each day.”**

**“When you’re patient,  
it’s easier for you to wait for  
things to happen,”** Uncle  
Herbert explained. **“Just  
about everything takes  
time, whether it’s waiting  
your turn, doing a task, or  
learning something new.  
Even things we enjoy take  
time.”**

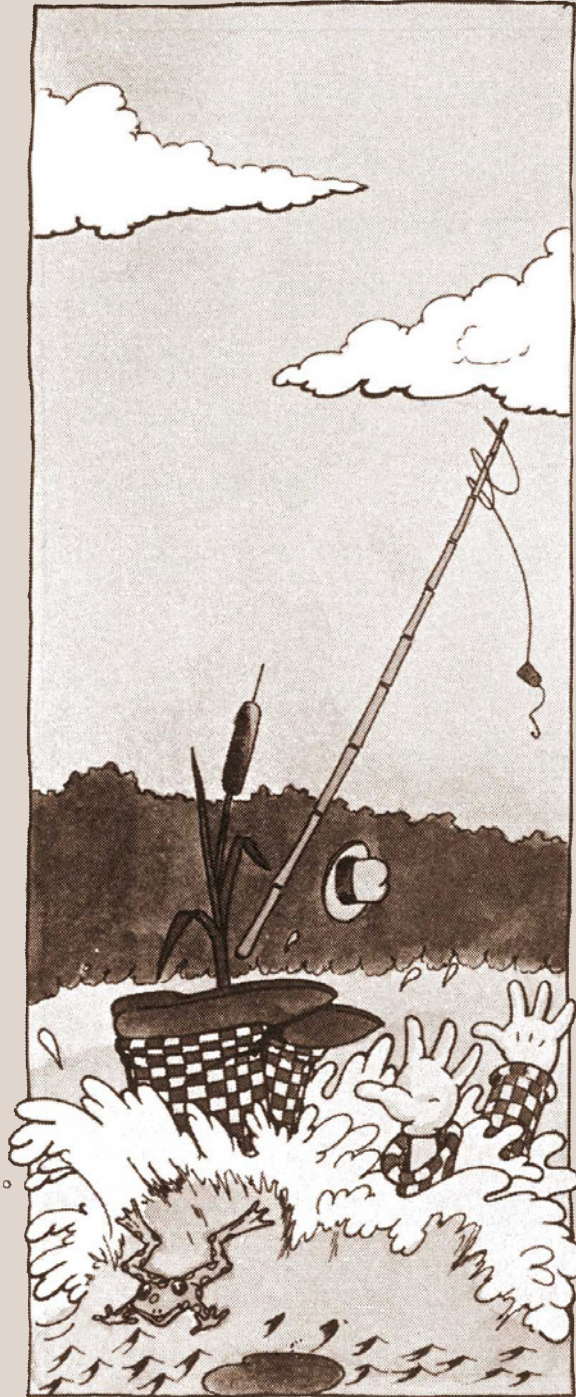


**“If you’re always in a hurry, or if you try to take too many shortcuts with the things you have to do, it can often end up taking longer because you have to go back and fix what you did wrong. Which reminds me of the day I learned a lesson in taking my time and having patience.”**

**“What happened?” Burke asked.**

**“Well, once when I was a young man, I went to look for the perfect spot to fish. I was walking along the riverside when I noticed a perfect nook on the other side of the river. I decided to hop across on some rocks that were sticking out of the water and save myself the time of crossing the bridge downstream. What I didn’t realize was that one of those ‘rocks’ I’d decided to step on was a turtle.”**





**“And that turtle was not pleased when I put my weight down on him! With a mighty splash I went head first into the water. I sat in the river a sopping mess.”**

**Uncle Herbert chuckled. “The bridge really wasn’t that far away, and had I taken the time to walk over it, I wouldn’t have missed a day of fishing, or had to walk home soaking wet and in a terrible mood. But I was impatient and wanted to start fishing right away.”**







**“But going slow is boring!” Burke exclaimed.**

**“It doesn’t have to be,” Uncle Herbert replied**

**“A farmer learns a lot about patience in the course of his work, because it takes time for plants to grow, for trees to bear fruit, and for animals to be born. It’d be rather silly if the farmer planted a crop and then shouted, hollered, and jumped up and down trying to get the wheat and corn to grow quicker. Some things, like crops, just take time to grow, and the farmer has to accept that as part of his work, and that helps him not get frustrated when things take time.”**



Uncle Herbert patted Burke on the back. “When you have patience you’re not so worried about what else you could be doing, and you learn to enjoy and appreciate what you’re doing at that given time. You can use this summer at the farm to appreciate many things that take a little time, and I think you’ll discover new and wonderful experiences.”

And that’s exactly what Burke did: Whenever he felt impatient about something, he would take a moment to look around and think about things—what makes something work like it does, why animals behave the way they do, or even just to gaze up at the fluffy clouds and the fields of crops.

Burke made plenty of wonderful discoveries that summer, all because he went a bit slower, had patience, and took time to appreciate the things around him.



**God takes His time to make a tree,  
A tiny baby and even a bumblebee.  
God makes them slowly so we can see,  
And know the way we also should be.**

**As Master Creator, God takes His ease  
To grow the flowers, the trees, the leaves.  
He's glad to watch things slowly grow.  
God takes His time, this I know.**

**—Sia Giuda, *adapted***

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