

Perfect Teams and Porcupines

There is no such thing as a perfect or well-rounded person.

But you can build and thrive with a well-rounded team.

Perfect well-rounded teams are diverse and built with people who are weaker in some areas and stronger in others. The following story illustrates our need to work with those imperfect people, overcome our differences, and together become a perfect team.

“It was one of the coldest winters ever, and many animals were dying. Because porcupines do not hibernate, most of them live in trees during the winter. Realizing the situation was dangerous, many decided to huddle their bodies together to be protected and stay warm. But it caused a curious and unexpected problem.

The quills of each porcupine began to stick and wound the ones next to them.

After a while, many decided that it would be better to distance themselves. But it was incredibly cold, and one by one the porcupines began to freeze and fall and die alone.

Seeing this, the remaining porcupines chose to stay close and accept the discomfort of the quills rather than succumb to the elements and a lonely death.

Though it wasn't always easy, they survived the winter together.”

So, is a perfect team built with perfect people? Certainly not...

Even if it is uncomfortable, truly great teams appreciate the strengths and the differences of each contributor.

They realize that whatever challenge we are facing, whatever elements are threatening us, will only be more dangerous when we try to combat it alone. It is only by leaning on and supporting others that we can enjoy and share the warmth and strengths that ultimately ensures our success!

