

When walking through an elephant camp, a man noticed that the elephants were only secured with a small rope that was tied around one ankle. He wondered why the elephants didn't break free from the rope, as the elephants were certainly strong enough to do so.

He asked a trainer why the elephants didn't try to break free, and the trainer responded by saying that they use the same size rope for baby elephants all the way up to adulthood. Because they're too small when they're babies to break free from the rope, **they grow up being conditioned that the rope is stronger than they are**. As adults, they think the rope can still hold them, so they don't try to fight it.

As a parent, teaching our children about the importance of freedom within limits is best taught very early on. If we do not, then as they grow older, having learned they can "break free" whenever they want, they will become adults who are self-focused, self-indulgent, undisciplined, and develop the belief of entitlement. Teaching children self-restraint with loving patience when they are very young will make both the parents and the children's lives a lot more fulfilling. This also pertains to our spiritual lives!