

Balance Your Eggs

A group of people held a big banquet for Christopher Columbus shortly after he returned from discovering the Americas.

After dinner, one of the guests confronted Columbus and said, “Anyone could have found the Americas,” and that Columbus had “no special skills to help him achieve his historical find.”

Columbus picked up a hard-boiled egg from the table, and asked the gentleman who had challenged him to balance the egg on its narrow end. The man tried unsuccessfully, and pretty soon the entire party had joined in. Nobody could do it.



Finally, after everyone agreed it was an impossible task, Columbus took the egg, cracked the tip of it slightly, and flattened out the narrow end a little. Then, he easily balanced the egg on the table.

Of course, there was an uproar, as all the guests claimed that any one of them could have also tapped the top of the egg to balance it.

Columbus made his point: Certainly, any one of them could have done it. But none of them did. He said the same thing could be said about discovering the New World. Although we are all capable, few of us actually use the available knowledge to reach our goals.

It's a lesson we all need to heed.

– Beecher Hunter