

Philosophy on the Ice

Among some ice skaters was a boy so small and so evidently a beginner that his frequent mishaps awakened the pity of a tenderhearted, if not wise, spectator.



“Why, Sonny, you are getting all bumped up,” she said. “I wouldn’t stay on the ice and keep falling down so; I’d just come off and watch the others.”

The tears of the last downfall were still rolling over the rosy cheeks, as the child looked from his advisor to the shining steel on his feet, and answered, half-indignantly: “I didn’t get some new skates to give up with. I got them to learn how with.”

The whole philosophy of earthly discipline is bound up in the little boy’s reply.

Life’s hard tasks are never presented for us “to give up with.” They are always intended to awaken strength, skill and courage in learning how to master them.

– Beecher Hunter