

The Three Bones

An Irish father was seeing his son off on the steamship to America, where the boy was going with the intention of seeking his fortune in a new way of life.

“Now, Michael, my boy,” said the elderly man as they parted, “remember the three bones, and ye’ll always get along all right.”

A stranger standing nearby overheard the remark, and when the ship had gone, he inquired of the old gentleman what three bones he had referred to in his parting advice to his son.

“Sure, now,” responded the old Irishman, “and wouldn’t it be the wishbone and the jawbone and the backbone?”

The questioner was puzzled. The Irishman explained:

“It’s the wishbone that keeps you going after things, and it’s the jawbone that helps you to find out how to go after them if you are not too proud to ask a question when there’s something you don’t know, and it’s the backbone that keeps you at it ‘til you get there!”

Words fitly spoken. Good advice for all of us.

– Beecher Hunter