

Lesson of life

**What have some tennis balls and not only...
to do in a sweets' jar?**



When everyday life “keeps going on swiftly”, so full that we need more than 24 hours in order to catch up with it all, remember... the sweets' jar!

Saying these words, a professor of school of philosophy, intrigued his students. He knew very well how to gain their interest and how to give “lessons of life”.

He had some objects n front of him. The students were looking at him with attention. He took a sweet jar and began to fill it with tennis balls! When finally there was no space for more, he asked his students:

“What do you think, is the jar full?
They replied “Yes” with curiosity.

He went on. As he was shaking the jar, he took pebbles and began to throw them into it. Those pebbles had been intercalated in the empty spaces between the tennis balls. There was no more space. And then he asked them:

“What do you say. Is the jar now filled up”?
“Yes” they replied, as their interest was growing.

The professor, who kept talking with acts, took sand this time,, threw it in the pebbles and asked again:

“Now, what do you think about the jar, is it even more full”?
They all said “Yes” at once while they seemed pleasantly confused.

The lesson was reaching its zenith! The professor bent down under the desk, took 2 cups of coffee and poured them in the full jar in front of his students' astonished eyes. When the coffee fell down, it found at once its position. All were leading to a realistic conclusion...

“The sweets' jar symbolizes our life” said the professor with emphasis. The tennis balls are the A to Z! The greatest and the most sacred things in life! The most valuable things we have: God, country, family, health, our children, friends, voluntary service, our favorite occupations. Even if all the other things are gone, these things by themselves are filling our lives. Pebbles symbolize important things like job, our home, material goods, our comforts. The sand refers to other minor things, more trivial, that we can even live without them.

If we first fill up the jar with sand, there will be no room for the pebbles and for the tennis balls. The same thing stands for life. If we waste our time in little and unsubstantial things, we won't have time nor energy for the more important things. Set priorities! First, deal with the tennis balls, then with the pebbles. The rest is...sand and there is room for it.

A student raised his hand and asked:
“What does coffee mean”?

The professor answered him laughingly:

No matter how full your life is, there will always be space to drink a cup of coffee with a friend!