



A good craftsman

By Janusz Korczak

A wealthy merchant bought himself a car. When the car broke down, the merchant returned it to the manufacturer to have it repaired. There the car was dissembled to its parts, repaired over couple of weeks and returned to its owner. But the repair was unsuccessful. The angry merchant brought the car to another garage. Once again he pay for the work - and once again the repair was unsuccessful.

Someone said to him:

I know a poor mechanic who has a workshop in a small booth. He works alone, without help. If he does not know how to fix your car - he will not take the job, if he says: "It is possible to fix" - the fix is guaranteed. I know him. He is a decent, good craftsman.

The rich man instructed to call him. The craftsman carefully inspected the car. Then he took a hammer out of his pocket, tapped it twice here and there and said: "Now everything will be fine". The rich man did not pay him immediately, firstly because he did not believe, and secondly - he wanted to prove that the correction was really successful.

A week has gone by, after two weeks - the car was ready – a real miracle!
The rich man sent for the mechanic to pay him.

"How much do I owe you for the fixing my car?"

"One hundred and two Zlotys.

"One hundred and two Zlotys? That's a lot. For two hammer knocks? Why do you ask for a hundred and two Zlotys and not a hundred?"

The mechanic replied:

"For the two knocks of the hammer I charge two Zlotys - one Zloty for each knock. And I deserve a hundred Zlotys for knowing how and where to knock in order to fix the car."

I did not make up the story. I heard it from an acquaintance, a young craftsman. You don't pay just for the work, but also for the experience and fairness, and you acquire these two in the course of many years.

