Well Begun
is Half Done
The great philosopher Aristotle once said, ‘Well begun is half done.’

Most people are fearful of experiencing something for the first time. Once we are equipped with the courage to take the initial step, what is left is only the other half, the effort to maintain courage till the end. Most things seem impossible mainly due to self-doubt, a scared mind and a pre-conceived notion that ‘I might not be able to do it’.

In this sense, Aristotle’s proverb brings to light the importance of actually ‘starting.’ If we hesitate in the face of difficulty and take the easy way, it tends to result in failure. However, once we embrace the challenge, it takes less fear to confront the remaining problems. Overall, the proverb ‘Well begun is half done’ is not meant be taken literally, instead it means that the bravery required to make an attempt is valuable in itself since we cannot measure the future event without taking real action.

Often people live with stereotype which means leads to them blocking themselves from achieving success. By not challenging our pre-conceived notions we lose the ability to attempt doing something in the first place. A flea which gives up escaping the box it has been captured in will be unable to fly out even when the box is opened. Our worries are same. They constrain us from getting closer to the real problem and therefore, the real solution.

However, there is also the ancient Korean saying that ‘If you stop in the middle, it is no better than not doing it.’ This saying is in contrast to the previous one. It implies that starting something without finishing it through to the very end is meaningless. This proverb sheds lights on the true value of patience, as it is patience that helps us keep up the work that we start.

Similar to the saying ‘Well begun is half done’ is the proverb, ‘Do ‘so’ not Say ‘so’.’ Often we design elaborate plans but never actually carry out, or ‘do’, what we intended. As a simple example, many of us make a daily schedule at the start of the year, waking early in the morning, studying hard etc. But, in reality, from the first morning, we off the alarm unconsciously. Many people worry about their weight and plan to do exercise. However, unfortunately, it rains on the first day, it is too cold on the second, and one is tired on the third day, and so on. Thus, the proverb underlines the importance of taking ‘action’ not just ‘words’. Starting is important but action is key.

This is a common with any first step we take in life and we continue trying and taking it forward to make it a success story in our life whether it be career, education or a startup, the idea is to follow it with full interest and vigor.

This same goes for many companies who try to bring good products into the market only after having gone through rigorous Research and Development along with validation programs. These companies keep themselves involved completely without dropping pace, even if all the hard work will take years to come to fruition.

There are numerous startups that we call “garage start-ups” which started from a tiny office with a single entrepreneur or a team of two who burned plenty of midnight oil to realize their dreams. To create a successful venture, it does not matter how you start, what matters is how you follow up once you start. The size of a start-up has never been an issue, the focus is always the idea and the efforts put in by entrepreneurs.