

THE SHORTHAND STUDY:
THE SLOWER YOU GO,
THE FASTER AND DEEPER WILL LEARNING BE!

By: Waldir Cury

There is, in Latin, a saying often used by ancients, expressing a great wisdom: "*Festina lente*" ("Make haste slowly"). This was one of the favorite phrases of the emperor Augustus, according to Suetonius (Life of Augustus, chapter 25).

These words, "*festina lente*", were inscribed on some medals casted by order of the emperor Vespasian. Those medals had the effigy of the emperor on one side and, on the other, an anchor attached to the dolphin, a symbol very much used by ancients meaning the *firmness of intent* joined by the *promptness in the execution*.

The concept of "*more haste, less speed*" is already expressed in several languages. The Germans say "*Eile mit Weile*"; the Italians have two well-known sayings: "*Piano piano se va lontano*" ("Slow and steady wins the race"), and "*Adagio, perché ho fretta*" ("Make haste slowly").

The French also offer us the same wisdom by two sayings: "*Plus on est pressé, moins on va vite*." ("Haste trips over its own heels") and "*Qui trop se hâte reste en chemin*." ("In haste is error").

The Spanish say: "*La prisa es mala consejera*" ("Haste is a bad advisor").

The wisdom of the statements above teaches us that it is better to go slowly in order to perform a well done job (Haste is the enemy of perfection!) and that if we do it in a hurry, there is the risk of stopping in the middle ("Slow, but sure").

Here in Brazil we have a popular saying: "Those that are in a hurry eat everything raw!", meaning that if we eat fast we will end up not digesting the food well. Not digesting well means not absorbing all the vital nutrients. Taking this proverb to shorthand study, not to digest well means: not understanding the rules thoroughly; not assimilating soundly the shorthand signs; not using proficiently the connections of signs; not reaching the heart of the method. It means a hasty, superficial study, with mediocre results.

Everybody knows Aesop's famous fable: "The Hare and the Tortoise", in which the hare lost the race to the tortoise because it got too tired from running too much, and

lied down to sleep in the middle of the race. Meanwhile, the turtle continued walking with its slow but steady pace and eventually, won the race. Due to the turtle's achievement, which was winning the race against the hare because it went slowly, a new saying was born to express another wisdom: "The tortoise knows the way better than the hares". It knows the way better because it went slowly and had time to look at everything along the path, every stone, every obstacle, and yet, had the opportunity to enjoy the scenery.

In shorthand study, there is no doubt, those who know the path better is the ones who are performing a calm, methodical, applied study and are trying to digest each lesson and more, are devoting themselves body and soul in training every step of the shorthand speed.

In shorthand study, there is so much to learn, so much to memorize and so much to exercise. It would be wise to imitate the turtles!