

## “CHOICE”

### As You Choose

High in the Himalayan mountains lived a wise old man. Periodically, he **ventured** down into the local village to entertain the villagers with his special knowledge and talents. One of his skills was to "psychically" tell the villagers the contents in their pockets, boxes, or minds.

A few young boys from the village decided to play a joke on the wise old man and **discredit** his special abilities. One boy came up with the idea to capture a bird and hide it in his hands. He knew of course, the wise old man would know the object in his hands was a bird. The boy **devised** a plan.

Knowing the wise old man would correctly state the object in his hands was a bird, the boy would ask the old man if the bird was dead or alive. If the wise man said the bird was alive, the boy would crush the bird in his hands, so that when he opened his hands the bird would be dead; if the wise man said the bird was dead, the boy would open his hands and let the bird fly free. So not matter what the old man said, the boy would prove the old man a fraud.

The following week, the wise old man came down from the mountain into the village. The boy quickly caught a bird and cupping it out of sight in his hands, walked up to the wise old man and asked, " Old man, old man, what is it that I have in my hands?"

The wise old man said, "You have a bird." and he was right.

The boy then asked, "Old man, old man tell me, is the bird alive or is it dead?"

The wise old man looked at the boy and said, "The bird is as you choose it."

And so it is with your life.

*Author unknown*

[C.R.O.S.S.ROADS Simplified Decision-making Process Worksheet](#)

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### Step 1: Question Focus: “Goal Setting”

[Question Focus Technique Resource](#)

### Step 2: Produce Questions.

#### Rules for producing questions:

1. Ask as many questions as you can.
2. Change any statements into questions.
3. Write down every question exactly as stated.
4. Do not stop to discuss, judge, or answer the questions.

### Step 3: Improve the Questions.

1. Identify open and closed-ended questions.
2. Change questions: select one question to change from open to closed-ended and one closed question to open-ended.

Example: *Closed to open*

*Closed: What was the goal of the two boys?*

*Open: What goals were evident in the story?*

