

Here's the story - from the book «Don't Worry, be Grumpy» by Ajahn Brahm.

The next winter

In a well-known monastery, located in the mountains of northern India and famous above all for its wise monks, a new abbot and spiritual leader had recently been elected. As the cool season approached, the young monks asked their new teacher whether the winter would be cold or mild. The abbot's meditation practice had not yet progressed to the point where he could predict the weather. But to be on the safe side and also to impress his students, he said that the winter would certainly be cold and that they should collect as much firewood as possible. A few days later, he had the idea of calling the head of the local weather station, a professor of meteorology who held the highest honours in his field at Oxford University. «Professor,» the caller wanted to know without introducing himself, «what kind of winter do you think we'll get this year?» «Well, there are signs that it will be quite cold,» the professor replied. The next morning, the abbot asked his monks to haul every piece of wood they could find from the forest, for he foresaw that the coming winter would be one of the coldest ever seen here in the

mountains. But because he feared he had overdone it a bit and was also a little worried about his reputation, the abbot called the head of the weather station again. «Professor, are you also absolutely sure that there are signs indicating that this winter will be very cold?» «Absolutely!» replied the professor. «In fact, they are becoming more conclusive with each passing day. Everything points to the coming winter being extremely cold.» «And why can you be so sure of that?» the caller, who again did not reveal himself, inquired. «Because,» answered the learned professor of meteorology, «the holy monks of the local monastery are collecting firewood like crazy».

