



Imagine a child going for the first time to his father's desk. The exciting pens, the pencils, eraser, letter-opener, etc. are all neatly arranged on one side. He begins to explore and investigate the use of each item. In a few minutes the entire place is in a mess. He also turns the inkpot upside down and the ink runs on his fingers, onto the papers, the desk and the carpet. The child obviously had no idea of the consequence of his innocent explorations. Gripped with fear, the child now starts wiping the ink off his fingers on the front of his clothes and he hastily starts wiping the ink off other items using whatever pieces of paper available to him.

Now, what should your reaction be, to this child? Should you scream at him for his innocence? You judge for yourself. Would punishing such a child not be unfair to him? His curiosity got the better of him. He made a mistake. He did not know the reality of what he was doing. Would it not be better to sit with him and explain to him the wrong he has done, the mess he has made and the danger of exploring things on his own?