

Weekly Column
Korean Newspaper



Melvin University
and Me

One thing - fox and hedgehog

I have read the essay "The Hedgehog and the Fox" by philosopher Isaiah Berlin. Of course, it was said to have taken the idea from Tolstoy's view of history.

There are two kinds of people in the world, Philosopher Isaiah Berlin has written the book, kind of essay, "Fox and Hedgehog," he mentioned there the above concept. I think he has researched many successful people and failure in the world. He concluded those who focused on the only one thing succeed than who tried to do many things and knows many things.

He illustrated Fox and Hedgehog which are fighting each other. In the end, hedgehog won that game, the battle, because hedgehog knows only one big thing, means how to attack the fox, and when to attack, he got every energy at one point, one moment, so finally defeat the fox.

All of us know about Domino Theory, Domino Effect. What it is? If one object falls down to the other, it falls down by the effect of previous energy. After all, the sum of energy falls to the others in succession, which means one after another, and we couldn't imagine how much power, energy they make it. It says to us that if we try one thing many days, many times, we can make it, and we can reach where we want to reach.

Of course, it depends on the person or situations, but generally to do one big thing is much better than to do many things at one time. And historically, he had listed such as Plato, Dante, Pascal, Hegel and Frost.

In today's case, as there's a saying "to dig a single well," sometimes when we see people doing only one thing for many days, many years, but still no fruit, no product, then we may blame them why you still stuck at there, and we accuse them of, "Why is he still there?" And they say, "I don't think that's your job."

But I think it's a temptation for all of us. This is of course my personal opinion, but we cannot do many things in a given life. No, it's not all achievable. I think it's wiser to focus on one thing you can do best and two things in your life.