

Making a Difference...

One day a man was walking along the seashore.
He noticed that during the night many seashells and starfish
had washed up on the shore.

Thoroughly enjoying the morning sun and cool sea air,
the man strolled for miles along the sand.

Far off in the distance, he saw a small figure dancing.
The man was joyous that someone was celebrating life
in such a grand and uninhibited manner.

As he drew closer, however, it became apparent
that perhaps the figure was not dancing,
but was repeatedly performing some ritual.

Approaching the small figure,
the man noticed that it was a child.

The girl was methodically picking up starfish from the shore
and tossing them back into the surf.

The man paused for a moment, puzzled and asked...

"Why are you throwing those starfish?"

"If I leave these starfish on the beach," she replied,
"the sun will dry them, and they will die."

"So I'm throwing them back into the ocean,
because I want them to live."

The man was silent for a moment,
impressed with the child's thoughtfulness.

Then he motioned up and down
the miles and miles of beach and said,

"There must be millions of starfish along here!

How can you possibly expect to make a difference?"

The young girl pondered the man's words for a moment,
then she slowly leaned over, reached down,
and carefully picked up another starfish from the sand.

Pulling back, she arched the starfish gently into the surf.

She turned to the man, smiled and said. "You may be right,"

"But I Made A Difference For That One!"

