

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Adapted from the *Star Thrower* by Loren Eiseley (1907-1977)



Once upon a time, there was a wise man, who had the habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day, he was walking along the shore, after a big storm had passed. He found the vast beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions.

He looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance there, so he walked faster to catch up. As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all.

The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up the starfishes, and throwing them into the ocean. He came closer still and called out 'Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?' The young man paused, looked up, and replied 'Throwing starfish into the ocean.'

'I have to ask you, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?' the somewhat startled wise man inquired further. 'The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die.' the young man replied,

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, 'But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? There must be tens of thousands on this beach. I am afraid you won't be able to make much of a difference!'

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it as far as he could into the ocean. As it met the water, he turned, smiled at the wise man and said, 'It made a difference for that one!'

Even if our tasks are huge and complex and our influence seems to be little,
we can always make a difference...

For 2018 we wish you purpose, passion and persistency
to keep making this difference.

