

“The Star Thrower”

by Loren Eiseley

ONE DAY
A MAN WAS WALKING
ALONG THE BEACH WHEN HE NOTICED
A BOY PICKING SOMETHING UP AND
GENTLY THROWING IT INTO THE OCEAN
APPROACHING THE BOY, HE ASKED,
“WHAT ARE YOU DOING”

THE YOUTH REPLIED, “THROWING STARFISH
BACK INTO THE OCEAN. THE SURF IS UP
AND THE TIDE IS GOING OUT.
IF I DON’T THROW THEM BACK, THEY’LL DIE.”

“SON,” THE MAN SAID, “DON’T YOU REALIZE
THERE ARE MILES AND MILES OF BEACH
AND HUNDREDS OF STARFISH?
YOU CAN’T POSSIBLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE!”

AFTER LISTENING POLITELY, THE BOY
BENT DOWN, PICKED UP ANOTHER STARFISH,
AND THREW IS BACK INTO THE SURF, THEN,
SMILING AT THE MAN, HE SAID....

“I MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR THAT ONE.”