You Can Make a Difference

In a gun factory in the United States, an unusual experiment was once conducted. A bottle cork, weighing less than four grams, was suspended by an almost invisible silk thread alongside a very heavy steel bar, itself hung vertically from a beam by a slender metal chain.

The cork, set in motion, began to swing gently against the steel bar. For a long time there was nothing to be seen but its rhythmic, noiseless swaying back and forth, back and forth, while the bar remained motionless.

More minutes went by...two...five...ten...half hour. Then suddenly under the relentless barrage, and so seemingly as to almost appear as an illusion, the steel bar was seen to tremble. A few moments later it shuddered as if seized with a nervous tremor, hung quiet again, and then shuddered again.

There was no deviation in the motion of the cork. Steadily, without haste, it continued its noiseless assault. And now the movements of the great steel bar became less tremulous as it settled into the beginning of an orderly pattern of motion, gradually picking up the rhythm of the swinging cork.

In another half hour the cork, its work finished, had been cut down and the heavy bar was swinging back and forth as steadily and as rhythmically as a pendulum.

What's the moral of the story here? Well, I'm going to let you decide. It can have many meanings, depending on what's going on in your life at this particular time. However, no matter what conclusion you draw from this story, you must understand that YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Not only in the lives of others, but also in your own. Start today to consider how you can affect others in a positive way and remember not to give up. BE A CORK!!

Tim Woodward