

# "The Caterpillar and the Butterfly"



(Unknown origin)

**The moral of the story: Overcoming challenges is essential for Independence and growth.**

One day, a boy visited his grandfather and saw him holding something in his hand. "Grandpa, what do you have in your hand?", he asked.

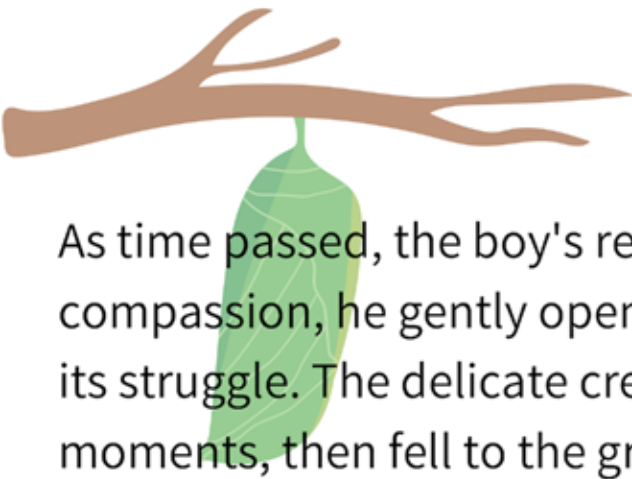
"A cocoon," replied the grandfather, "and soon, a beautiful butterfly will emerge from it."

The boy's eyes sparkled with curiosity. "Can I have it?" he asked eagerly.

"Yes," said his grandfather, "but promise me that when the butterfly struggles to break free, you won't interfere. Let it emerge on its own."

The boy solemnly vowed and took the cocoon home, his heart filled with anticipation. He watched it day and night, fascinated by the subtle movements within. One day, a small opening appeared, and a delicate, damp butterfly began to push its way out.

The boy's heart ached as he watched the butterfly struggle, its wings desperately beating against the confines of the cocoon. He longed to help, but he remembered his promise and resisted the urge.



As time passed, the boy's resolve wavered. Overwhelmed with compassion, he gently opened the cocoon, freeing the butterfly from its struggle. The delicate creature fluttered its wings for a few brief moments, then fell to the ground, lifeless.

The boy's heart sank, and tears welled up in his eyes. He rushed back to his grandfather, clutching the lifeless butterfly in his small hands.

The grandfather looked at his grandson with understanding eyes. "You helped it out, didn't you?" he asked gently.

The boy nodded, tears streaming down his face.

"My child," the grandfather said, "the struggle to break free from the cocoon is what strengthens the butterfly's wings. It's through this struggle that it develops the strength to fly. By helping it, you deprived it of the very process it needed to survive."

### **Food for Thought:**

**Who currently does things for me, that I am capable of doing myself and thereby hindering my progress and independence?**

**What would I like to start doing independently?**