

## SUCCESS AND SELF-ESTEEM

### THE BROKEN JAR

An Indian water carrier had two large jars, hanging from the two ends of a piece of wood that hugged his shoulders. One of the jars had a splinter, and while the other jar kept all of its spring water perfectly until it reached the master's house, the other jar lost almost half of its precious cargo on the way. This went on for two years, during which time the water carrier delivered only one and a half jars of water on each of his trips. Of course, the perfect jar was proud of itself, as it managed to from beginning to end without a hitch. But the damaged jar was ashamed of its imperfection and felt depressed because it could only accomplish half of what it was supposed to be capable of. After two years of what she considered a permanent failure, the damaged jar turned to the water carrier as he was filling it at the spring. "I feel guilty, and I beg your pardon." "Why?" asked the water carrier. "What are you ashamed of?" "I have only managed to carry half my load of water to our master, during these two years, because of this shard that leaks water. Because of my fault, you make all these efforts, and in the end, you only deliver half the water to our master. You don't get full recognition for your efforts," the damaged jar said to him. The water carrier was touched by this confession, and, full of compassion, replied: "While we are going back to the master's house, I want you to look at the beautiful flowers by the side of the road". As they walked up the hill, the old jar saw beautiful flowers bathed in sunlight on the side of the path, and this put a smile on her face. But at the end of the path, she was still feeling bad because she had lost half of her water again. The water carrier said to the jar Did you realize that there were only beautiful flowers on your side, and almost none on the side of the perfect jar? That's because I always knew you were losing water, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day you watered them along the way. For two years I was able to pick beautiful flowers thanks to you, which decorated the master's table. Without you, I could never have found such fresh and graceful flowers.

## **SHARK BAIT**

During a research experiment, a marine biologist placed a shark into a large holding tank and then released several small bait fish into the tank. As you would expect, the shark quickly swam around the tank, attacked and ate the smaller fish. The marine biologist then inserted a strong piece of clear fiberglass into the tank, creating two separate partitions. She then put the shark on one side of the fiberglass and a new set of bait fish on the other. Again, the shark quickly attacked. This time, however, the shark slammed into the fiberglass divider and bounced off. Undeterred, the shark kept repeating this behavior every few minutes to no avail. Meanwhile, the bait fish swam around unharmed in the second partition. Eventually, about an hour into the experiment, the shark gave up. This experiment was repeated several dozen times over the next few weeks. Each time, the shark got less aggressive and made fewer attempts to attack the bait fish, until eventually, the shark got tired of hitting the fiberglass divider and simply stopped attacking altogether. The marine biologist then removed the fiberglass divider, but the shark did not attack. The shark was trained to believe a barrier existed between it and the bait fish, so the bait fish swam wherever they wished, free from harm.