

The Fable of the Ocean Sunset

By Darren Shell

A young boy lived overseas in a poverty-stricken village. He attended a make-shift school with a teacher that he adored. During one of their lessons, the ocean was mentioned. The teacher, being from this area and being quite poor, had never had the opportunity to see the ocean, despite her discontent. It was a two-day walk to the ocean over a blistering dessert, but she someday hoped to make the journey. The young boy seemed to hang on her every word. "I long to watch the sun.....setting over the ocean, while I run my fingers through the sand.....someday.....maybe."

The boy was absent the next day.....and the day after. On the fourth day, the teacher was quite worried. On the fifth, the young boy entered the classroom carrying a small pail. "*I have brought for you a gift,*" he said. The lad handed her the pail. Its contents were nothing more than sand. "*I don't understand.....a pail of sand?*" asked the teacher.

"I have been to the ocean," the boy said. *"I have seen the sunset.....I have brought to you this pail of sand to run your fingers through...while I describe to you the sunset!"*

The teacher was clearly moved. "But, the ocean is a two day walk.....both to and from! *You* have made this journey?"

"Yes," the boy replied with a humble smile. "The journey...was part of the gift."

The End