

Struggle of a Butterfly

Spring has made her entrance, and evidences of it are unfolding all around us. It is exciting to watch the creative genius of God at work in nature.

A student found a cocoon one day, and brought it to his biology teacher. She put it in a glass box with a warming lamp. About a week later, the students saw a small opening appear on the cocoon. Then, the cocoon began to shake. Suddenly, tiny antennae emerged, followed by a head and tiny front feet

The students watched the progress of the emerging insect throughout the day. By noon, it had freed its listless wings, the colors revealing it to be a monarch butterfly. It wiggled and shook, but try as it might, it could not seem to force its body through the small opening.

One student decided to snip off the end of the cocoon to help the insect. Out it plopped. Only the top half of it looked like a butterfly, however. The bottom half was large and swollen. The insect crawled about, dragging its listless wings, and a short time later, it died.

The next day, the biology teacher explained that the butterfly's struggle to get through the tiny opening is necessary in order to force fluids from its swollen body into the wings so they will be strong enough to fly. Without the struggle, the wings never develop.

Struggles come our way, too, and they cause numerous things in our lives to develop. Rather than struggle *against* struggle, we need to struggle *through* our struggles.

You can easily determine the caliber of a person by the amount of opposition it takes to discourage him or her.

--Beecher Hunter