

The Fisherman and the Businessman

Emily and Yukiko

There was once a fisherman, a fisherman who lived with his wife.
Every day the fisherman would go down to the sea.
He would throw out his net. He would catch one fish.
He would bring the fish back to his wife and his wife would cook it for their dinner.
They were happy.

One day as the fisherman was fishing, a businessman came and sat down beside him.
The businessman watched the fisherman as he was fishing.
He watched as he caught only one fish and the businessman said,
“Why don’t you catch more fish?”

And the fisherman said “Well, why would I do that?”

The businessman said,
“Because then you take the extra fish you have to the market and you sell them.
You’ll get money.”

“Why would I do that?” asked the fisherman.

The businessman smiled. He said
“Ah, when you have more money you can buy more nets, bigger nets.
you can catch even more fish.”

“Why would I do that?”

“What! Then with even more money you can buy yourself a boat.
You can buy yourself a beautiful looking fishing boat to sail across the seas and catch the finest
fish in the ocean.”

“Why would I do that?” asked the fisherman.

The businessman laughed and he said
“Isn’t it obvious? Then you sell all these fish and you’ll have even more money.
And with that money you can buy yourself a whole fleet of boats and catch even more fish,
make even more money. You’ll be rich.”

“Why would I do that?” asked the fisherman.

“Don’ t you see?” said the businessman.

“Then with all of this money you can employ people.

You pay people to go out on the boats.

You pay people to catch the fish for you.”

“Why would I do that?”

“Then you can spend all your days sitting around doing whatever you like.”

And it was the fisherman’s turn to smile.

“Don’ t you see? That’ s exactly what I am doing already.”