

Potatoes, eggs, and coffee



A daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed. Her father took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on the stove.

Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter.

After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup.

Turning to her, he asked. "What do you see?" "Potatoes, eggs and coffee," she replied.

"Look closer," he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft.

He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling

off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"I'm not sure I understand the point," she said.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity-the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently.

The potato went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its interior until it was put in the boiling water and the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

"Which one are you?" he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

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