One Starfish At A Time

Rivers spring up & flow to the sea.
We don't know how the story ends.

Feeding the hungry, teaching the children.
Bearing witness and not knowing—

Plunging tongs into cold ashes & finding an ember!
Putting potatoes in root cellars in case there are survivors.

Toss a beached starfish in the sea & someone will say—
There are too many of them to make any difference.

Yes! and, someone with wise hope will reply—
It made a difference to that one starfish.

A mitzvah isn't something difficult, exotic or special—
It's what a human being does to express what being human is.

One starfish at a time.

Deborah C. Segal

Deborah C. Segal is a 2024 Pushcart Prize nominated poet gratefully living on unceded Ohlone land. Her most recent poetry chapbooks include *Fool's Apprentice,* Keeping the Flame Alive, 2025 and *In the Time of the Cloud,* Another Seagull Productions, 2024. Visit Deborah on the web at https://anotherseagull.wordpress.com/

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