

## CATERPILLAR TO BUTTERFLY



A man is walking along when he comes across a caterpillar nestled in its cocoon. Curious, he picks it up and brings it to his home so that he can watch it emerge into a beautiful butterfly.

Days later a small opening appears, and for several hours the caterpillar struggles but can't seem to force its body past a certain point. Deciding that something was wrong, the man takes out a pair of scissors and snips the

remaining bit of cocoon. Moments later the butterfly emerges easily, its body large and swollen. Its tiny wings are small and shriveled.

The man sits close by expecting that in a few hours the wings will spread out in their natural beauty, but they do not. Instead of developing into a creature free to fly, the butterfly spends its life dragging around a swollen body and shriveled wings.

The butterfly's struggle to escape the constricting cocoon and pass through the tiny opening is God's way of forcing fluid from its body into its wings. The man's "merciful" snip was, in reality, cruel.

When we are suffering and trying to move through our pain, we wish that someone could come along and save us, but in truth it is this struggle that gives us what we need to develop into the magnificent creatures we were born to be.