THE TRAMPOLINE GIRL

by Dr. Darren Ong
There was once a little girl who adored the moon. She would gaze at the moon every night, and she was amazed by how it changed its shape and travelled across the sky. There was nothing the little girl wanted more than to visit the moon one day, but she did not know how to get there.
The little girl noticed that birds could fly really close to the moon. So she asked the owl if he could help her to reach the moon. "Well," the owl replied, "you are too heavy for any bird to carry, but perhaps you could learn how to fly yourself."
"Why don't you try jumping and flapping your arms?" the owl suggested. The little girl jumped and flapped her arms, but nothing happened. The owl taught the little girl everything he knew about flying. The little girl tried very hard and practiced flapping her arms over and over again, but she still was not able to fly.
The owl had an idea. "I saw some acrobats at a circus once who could jump really high. They were bouncing on a trampoline. Perhaps if we build a trampoline, you will be able to reach the moon."
The little girl and the owl spent the next week building a trampoline. The little girl could jump very high using the trampoline, but she was still very far away from the moon. “Perhaps we just need to build a bigger, better trampoline.” she told the owl.
The little girl read many books about building trampolines. Every trampoline she built was bigger and better than the last one. Every week, with the owl's help, she was able to jump higher than she could jump before. But no matter how high she jumped, she was still very far away from the moon.

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The owl was very proud of the little girl's hard work. But he realized she was never going to reach the moon. The owl also saw that the little girl was getting tired and frustrated. Finally, the owl spoke to the little girl and told her it was time to give up.
“No, I cannot give up!” The little girl protested. “I have always dreamed of going to the moon.”

“You have already done your best.” The owl replied, as he turned to fly away. “But humans are not birds. You cannot fly to the moon, no matter how hard you try.”
"Please," sobbed the little girl. "I don't want my dream to die."

As he flew away, the owl looked back at the little girl and felt sad for her. "Dreams never die," said the owl. "But sometimes they change. Go and find your new dream."
The little girl cried herself to sleep.
She had wanted so badly to reach the moon,
and now she knew she would never get there.
A porcupine woke her up the next morning and asked to buy a trampoline.

"Oh, alright." said the little girl grumpily.

The porcupine gave her some money.

"Maybe you should build more." the porcupine said. "A lot of my friends would love to own a trampoline like this."
The little girl had learned a lot about trampolines, and she had a lot of practice building them. All her trampolines were very good and sturdy. The other animals soon found out about the little girl's excellent trampolines.
The little girl sold all the trampolines she had. Even after she ran out, the animals were still asking for more. The little girl had to keep building new ones, and soon she had to open a trampoline factory to build all the trampolines the animals wanted to buy.
The little girl's trampoline company was very successful, and she loved how her trampolines were bringing joy to all her animal friends. But she was still sad about not being able to visit the moon.
One day, an elephant came and paid her a visit. "I want to thank you," the elephant said.

"What for?" asked the little girl.
The elephant explained, "I have always wanted to be a gymnast, ever since I was a calf. But everyone said I was too fat, and that I was not graceful enough."
"But then I bought one of your trampolines. They were the only trampolines strong enough for an elephant's weight. I could use your trampoline to jump, twist and dance in the air."
“I practiced until I became an excellent trampoline gymnast, and I was invited to compete in the Animal Olympics.” The elephant smiled at the little girl. “Thank you for letting me achieve my dream.”
The little girl replied, “No, thank you, elephant! Now I see that the owl was right. Even though I did not manage to reach the moon, the time and effort I spent trying was not wasted. My dream did not die. It just changed into something different. And by pursuing my new dream, I have helped others to reach their dreams too."