## **ISSUE 455**

## The oyster's approach for Handling Irritants.

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Dear Penfabricans,

In life, so long as we are alive and kicking, there is almost always some matters which are not to our liking. These are the irritants in our lives. Some will go away with time or after our intervention. However, some remain for a long time or even for life as we are unable to shake loose of them. What then shall we do with such irritation? Such nuisance!

Nature has a great solution. We should learn from nature. When a little grain of sand gets into an oyster shell, I am sure that the oyster will find the rough intruder to be a nuisance, disturbing and annoying. What can the oyster do? It has no hand of its own to remove the irritant. Since the oyster has no other way to expel the little grain of sand under its skin, it simply let this irritant stay with it for life. The oyster probably regards it this way, "If there is no way for me to remove the sand, and I will have to live with it, then let me improve on it." Over the passage of time, the irritant is gradually smoothened and coated with secretion from the oyster to become a beautiful pearl - a precious friend of most ladies. Such is the natural response of the oyster to handle an irritant. It offers a lesson for us to turn an adversity to opportunity or blessing.

When the things we do go wrong and get under our skin, instead of pointing fingers, blaming all and sundry, let us ask ourselves "What can I do to improve the situation?". This is a Godsend opportunity for us to perform our best. Let us have the mental make-up of the oyster approach to transform an irritating situation into something beautiful and extraordinary. Think out of the box. Get out of our way to work on the irritant by polishing up the problem.

Dear Penfabricans, at the next opportune moment when we feel irritated by someone or some matters, recall the oyster approach to transform irritants into opportunities to come out winners. Meantime, do be very patient like the oyster.

Have a wonderful weekend. Take time to be rid of the irritants in our lives. In cases where it is impossible, live with our enemies to turn them into precious gems that we will come to love.

Thank you.

With kind regards, HSTeh.