

# A story about noticing

## The mechanic of the ocean liner

This story highlights the immense power of living a life which is rooted in noticing the details. It underlines that there is no short cut to attaining this sort of knowledge. It also emphasises the immense power of practising this art and skill.

It can take an enormous, paralysed, stranded hulk of a ship and turn it into something which can surge across oceans. It just takes a small act of skilful noticing.

A giant ship engine failed. The ship's owners tried one expert after another, but none of them could figure out how to fix the engine.

Then they brought in an old man who had been fixing ships since he was a young boy. He carried a large bag of tools with him and, when he arrived, he immediately went to work. He inspected the engine very carefully, top to bottom.

Two of the ship's owners were there, watching this man, hoping he would know what to do. After looking things over, the old man reached into his bag and pulled out a small hammer. He gently tapped something. Instantly, the engine

lurched into life. He carefully put his hammer away. The engine was fixed!

A week later, the owners received a bill from the old man for ten thousand pounds.

"What?!" the owners exclaimed. "He hardly did anything!"

So, they wrote to the old man a note saying, "Please send us an itemised bill. The man sent a bill that read:

Tapping with a hammer.....£1.00

Knowing where to tap .....£ 9,999.00