



“Never Underestimate Your Adversaries”
Short True story by Michael K. Primavera

“Conviction makes the small one mighty.”

As a quality assurance technician, I monitored the second shift of a manufacturing plant. Compared to day shift, nights were cool and less demanding.

Frequently, I would walk along and contemplate life. One night, while making my rounds, I saw a spider on the floor. It was larger than average, about two inches long. We were heading in the same direction, so I introduced myself, nudging it with my shoe.

The spider stopped abruptly. After a few seconds it resumed course. Again, I nudged and the spider repeated its response to my badgering. The spider intrigued me with its tolerant demeanor. On the other hand, I thought, what else it could do? Confidently I nudged again. The spider now gave a defiant reply.

It jumped straight up, flipped around and landed facing me! Shockingly, its eyes appeared to be looking up into mine! I humbly conceded to the spider, which had stung me with my own self-guilt; I was obviously in the wrong.

I ended this peculiar standoff by doing a 180 turnaround myself. The spider had reminded me, “Never underestimate your adversaries.”