The Lucky Charm

By Asaya Singh Mortman

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Once, a man was walking along the beach, drinking some sparkling water in a glass bottle. When he finished it, he threw it deep into the water, not knowing that in a few weeks, the glass would turn from his trash into someone else's treasure. On that one day, a baseball player in the worst slump of his career was walking along that same beach, trying to clear his mind. He sat down to let some water hit his feet, when he saw something wash up on the shore. Curious, he went over and picked it up. When he picked it up, he saw that it was a piece of sea glass that was square but with a round point at the end. When he saw that his childhood nickname, Selt, and his favorite animal, a snake, were on the sea glass, he knew he had found his good luck charm. The snake was also his zodiac sign, something his parents had spent years teaching him about.

Months later, he was healing from an injury, when he began a ritual of touching the lucky sea glass four times and then putting it deep in his pocket. With the sea glass, he had also gotten a lot better at hitting and fielding. When he didn't get a hit for a few games, he got worried and thought his good luck charm wasn't lucky anymore. When he looked at the sea glass again, he saw that it was a little dirty and not shining like before. So, he went back to the beach where he had found the sea glass, and he washed it off in the water. It turned out that the sea glass just needed a good wash, because he got four hits the next game. When he did that four games in a row, reporters asked him, "You've improved so much since the start of the season. How did you do it?" He always replied, "Hard work, believing in myself, and my lucky piece of sea glass." They always asked, "Sea glass?" He always replied, "My piece of sea glass right here, it has my

nickname, Selt, engraved on it. It also has a faded picture of my favorite animal, and my zodiac sign, a snake, right here on the bottom."

Two weeks later, he was about to touch his sea glass before a game, when he saw that it wasn't there. "That's strange," he said. "I left it right here yesterday." He didn't have time to look for it, and so he had to play the game without the sea glass. He didn't even make contact with a single pitch. He couldn't find it the day after that, or the day after that. Eventually, after going 6 for 52 in his next 17 games, which is a .115 average, he got cut. He decided to take a break from baseball and start looking for something else to use as a good luck charm. He found a bottle cap, but he wasn't hitting good in the batting cage. He found a smooth rock, but it was the same story. He even found another piece of sea glass, but even that wasn't enough to play good again. People started coming up to him, asking, "You were so good, how did you just fall like that?" He responded, "I guess I'm just not lucky."

A few months later, while packing to leave a hotel, something shiny caught his eye. He ran his fingers over it, hoping it was what he thought it was. When he finally picked it up, there was his piece of lucky sea glass. It turned out, it was in a pocket of his suitcase the whole time. When he saw that the right fielder on a team called the Blitzers had injured himself and they needed a new right fielder to finish the season, the player jumped at the chance to play again. He showed up at a tryout for the Blitzers, and he made the team. For the rest of the season, he played great. Whenever he needed to do something for the team, he did it. Once he made that team, he never looked back. It was during this time he realized that something that seems like trash can be life-changing, not because of luck, but because of believing in something bigger.