

The Cracked Pot

Once upon a time there was a water-bearer who had two large pots. One had a crack in it while the other was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water from the stream to the master's house. The cracked pot arrived only half full. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of what it did. But the poor cracked pot felt miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

One day the cracked pot spoke to the water-bearer by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you." "Why?" asked the bearer, "What are you ashamed of?" "For these past two years, I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said. The water-bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the beautiful flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. The bearer then said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because you have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. You've just got to take each-person for what they are and look for the good in them.