

Make Use of the Talents you Have

A water bearer in India had two large pots hung on each end of a pole that he carried across his neck to the stream every day for water. One of the pots had a crack in it. The other pot always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream, but the cracked pot always leaked, arriving at the house only half full.

Ashamed of its imperfection, the pot with the crack spoke to the water bearer one day. "I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer.

"I can deliver only half my load because of this crack in my side. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts."

The water bearer said, "As we return from the stream today, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

After leaving the stream that day, the pot with the crack took notice of the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still had leaked out half its load, and once again felt itself a failure.

The bearer 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? I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day as we walk back from the stream, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my table. Without you being just the way you are, I would not have this beauty to grace my house."

The lesson: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all pots with cracks. But when we learn how to accept who we are and harness the talents we already possess, nothing goes to waste.