

The Cracked Pot

(An Indian Folktale)

Moral of the story: Pay attention to the journey and grow from your mistakes.

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung from a yoke balanced on his shoulders. One pot was perfect and always delivered a full load of water at the end of the long trail from the stream to the house. However, the other pot had a crack, causing half of its contents to spill out by the time it reached its destination.

For a long time, the cracked pot felt ashamed and miserable due to its imperfection and inability to fulfill its purpose as well as its perfect counterpart. One day, the cracked pot mustered its courage and spoke to the water bearer. "I am ashamed of myself and apologize for my flaws. You carry me every day, and I disappoint you every time," it said.

The water bearer looked at the cracked pot, smiled, and said, "Dear pot, I want to show you something. As we make our way back from the stream to the house, I want you to look at the beautiful flowers blooming on your side of the path. Have you ever noticed that these flowers only grow on your side?"

I have always known about your crack, and because of it, I planted flower seeds on your side. So, every day as we walk back from the stream, you water them. If it weren't for your crack, these wonderful flowers wouldn't be blooming here, and I wouldn't be able to pick them and delight myself and my family with their beauty."



The cracked pot listened very attentively to his master's words and for the first time in its cracked life felt an overwhelming sense of belonging and acceptance.

The cracked pot's reality did not change throughout the story. it remained as cracked as it was. What changed was that its story now had a different meaning, through which the cracked pot could reassess the meaning of its existence. The crack, which it was accustomed to seeing as a weakness, was revealed to be a strength, from which abundance was bestowed upon the world. A change in perspective led to growth and blossoming.

Food for thought:

What flaw in your life can you turn into an advantage?

What type of environment helps me feel valued and appreciated?

