

The

Cracked

Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots was perfectly made and never leaked. The other pot had a crack in it. By the time the water bearer reached his master's house, it had leaked much of its water and was only half full.

For a full two years, this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection. It felt miserable because it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.



After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. **"I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologise to you."** **"Why?"** asked the bearer, **"What are you ashamed of?"**

"For these past two years, I have only been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side 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. 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 cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wildflowers on the side of the path.

At the end of the trail, the pot apologised again to the bearer for its failure. The bearer said to the pot, **"Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaws, and I took advantage of them. 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."**

#embraceallof who you are