

Reflection Friday Week 6 – 2022

A water-bearer carried two large pots. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot always arrived only half full. For two years this went on daily. The water-bearer delivered only one and a half pots of water to his master's house. While the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its imperfection and miserable because it was unable to accomplish what it had been made to do.

After two years of bitter shame, the cracked pot said to the water-bearer: *"I am ashamed of myself and I apologize to you."* "Why?" asked the bearer. *"What are you ashamed of?"* *"For these past two years, I have only delivered half my load because half the water leaked out. 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 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 sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and was cheered somewhat. But at the end of the trail, it still felt the old shame because it had leaked out half its load, and so again the pot apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, *"Did you not notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, and not on the other pot's side? That's because I 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've walked 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."*