

Recognizing That There Are No Mistakes

A water bearer in Nepal had two large pots that he would carry to the river to fill with water every day. Each water pot hung on the end of a pole, which balanced across his shoulders. One of the pots was perfect and always delivered a full measure of water at the end of the long walk from the river to the water bearer's house. The other one had a crack and would arrive only half-full.

One day, the leaking pot spoke to the water bearer, saying, "I feel that I should apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the gentle man.

The leaky pot explained, "During these past two years, I have only been able to deliver half my load because this crack in my side causes the water to leak out all the way back to the house. Because of my flaw, you do all this work without receiving the full value from your efforts."

The water bearer felt compassion for the old cracked pot and told it, "As we return to my house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the faulty pot took notice of the beautiful wild flowers on one side of the path. When they arrived at his house, the man asked the leaky 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 I've always known your flaw and put it to good use. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day as we walk back from the river, you water them. For two years I've been able to enjoy these beautiful flowers. Without your being just the way you are, there would have been so much less beauty in my life. Thank you, my friend."

Consider

Sometimes making a mistake ends up being the perfect thing for your spiritual evolution. In some cases, you may have to make a big mistake before you can truly grow and become free from whatever incorrect ideas had been motivating many other mistaken thoughts and actions.

When you make mistakes or lose yourself in anger, fear, or whatever contracted emotions push you out of your equanimity and self-control, there is always a new opportunity for growth. It may hurt oh so bad! You may not want to make the shift to see the lessons behind a painful event. Sometimes it is easier to complain, blame someone, or put yourself down than to do the real work of respectful self-examination.

Yet, the opportunity is there, waiting for you to make the leap — waiting for you to see your weakness and make internal (and, if need be, external) changes. What's important in any situation is your own growth. How can you learn humility, detachment, love, and faith? How can you use this breakdown to open up into another great breakthrough?