

## " Reflections for Thanksgiving "

November 2014



Recently the Laugh Factory of Chicago sponsored their annual competition for "The Funniest Cop", with all proceeds benefiting the 100 Club. Thanks to all Police, Fire and Law enforcement personnel who attended to show their support to this most worthwhile organization. The group which I believe deserves the biggest pat on the back, are those brave hearts that got on stage to perform. Fr. Dan Brandt was sitting next to me and he said "Isn't this what life is all about? Not being embarrassed, no you might not be perfect, get up there and just be yourself".

"These are not professional entertainers, just big healed, giving souls, overcoming stage fright, to share a laugh for a good cause, they do us proud". I sat there, watched, laughed and thought, none of us are perfect, we all have our flaws but the challenge is to do the best with what you got. It reminded me of the parable called "The Cracked Pot". A Story For Anyone Who's Not Quite Perfect.

A water bearer in India had two large pots, one hung on each end of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it. While the other pot 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 arrived 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. The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. The poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that 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 apologize to you". Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of? I have been able, for these past two years, 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, and 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 old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. At the end of the trail, the pot still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its 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? "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 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. If you were not just the way you are, he would not have the beauty of these flowers to grace his house".

The moral of the story is that each of us have our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots, we all have our flaws, some more, some less. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. We've just got to take each person for who they are, and make an effort to look for the good in everyone. There's a lot of good out there in each of us, take the time to look, you will be pleasantly surprised. As the kid told his mom, "I know (I'm special, cause G-d don't make no junk". Be proud who you are, just the way you are. Listed below are a few bits and pieces about life to really make you think:

- *The best kind of friend, is the kind you can sit on a porch and swing with, \_never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.*
- *It's true that we don't know what we've got until we lose it, but it's also true that we don't know what we've been missing until it arrives.*
- *Giving someone all your love, is never an assurance that they'll love you back! Don't expect love in return; just wait for it to grow in their heart but if it doesn't, be content it grew in yours.*
- *It takes only a minute to get a crush on someone, an hour to like someone, and a day to love someone, but it takes a lifetime to forget someone. Don't go for looks; they can deceive, don't go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile, because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright, find the one that makes your heart smile. Always put yourself in others' shoes, If you feel that it hurts you, it probably hurts the other person too.*
- *When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling, live your life so that when you die, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.*
- *The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.*

Thanks so much for the Holy and noble work that you do. Even though you might not be perfect, you still do make a difference,

and for that our city is grateful. On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe, and always keep you in His loving care. Amen! Should you need a shoulder to lean on or should you have some good humor to share, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Wolf,

773-463-4780 or E-mail [moshewolf@hotmail.com](mailto:moshewolf@hotmail.com)