



By Rabbi Moshe Wolf

"The Cracked Pot"

So how many times have you heard people say "I wish I was born with better qualities?" I wish I was smarter, better looking, faster on my feet, bigger, stronger, and the list goes on and on. We are always envious when we see someone with qualities that make us say "I wish I could be like him or her". The answer lies within our hearts and peace of mind within our souls. Sometimes we need to realize that we are all a bit different and no we are not perfect and that's what makes this world so beautiful. Let me explain with a short parable....."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 family farm 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 farm house.

The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But 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 farm 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 farm 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.

But at the end of the trail, it 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 family dinner table. Without you being just the way you are, we would not have this beauty to grace our house."

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots.

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 what they are, and look for the good in them. There's a lot of good out there some may be perfect and others like some of us a bit cracked...some points to ponder..

So the question is how do you want people to remember you when you move on?

Ready or not, someday it will all come to an end.

It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.

It won't matter where you came from, or on which side of the city you lived.

It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant,  
even your gender and background will be irrelevant.

So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built; not what you got, but what you gave.

What will matter, included with what you learnt, is how much you have taught others.

Not what you gave in to, but what you stood up for.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, love  
or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many people will remember you when you're gone.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance, but of choice.

You have chosen a profession of serving others and helping G-d's children, and that's what makes you so special. You have earned the privilege to feel proud, **BECAUSE YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

On behalf of All your Chaplains (Unit phone # 312-746-8458), may G-d bless you, and keep you safe. Should you ever need a shoulder to lean on or wish some company for a ride along, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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