

Look for good quality in every person

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots. Each pot hangs on the ends of a pole which she carried across her 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 house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and half pots of water. Obviously the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure. It spoke to the woman one day, "I am ashamed of myself, because the crack on my side causes water leak out all the way back to your home." The old woman smiled and said, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of path but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw. So I planted flower seeds on your side of the path and every day while way back you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Management Lesson: Each of us has our own unique flaw but it is the cracks and flaws that we have which make our lives interesting and rewarding. You just got to take each person for what they are and look for good in them.