



NUGGET

Crackpots

An ancient story taken from Indian & Chinese Folklore

Summary: A philosophical tale from India with relevance to Freemasonry.

A water bearer had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which he carried across his neck and back. One of the pots had a crack and leaked. The other was perfect and never lost a drop. At the end of a long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked-pot mostly arrived half-full.

This went on day-after-day, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water to his house. The 'perfect-pot' was proud of its accomplishments, being 'perfect' for its task. Whilst the poor 'cracked-pot', knowing it was not perfect, was ashamed and miserable that it was able to carry only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream.

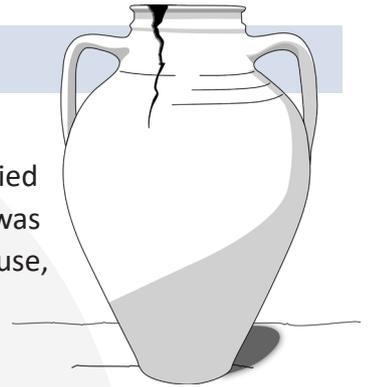
The pot said, *'I am ashamed of myself and I want to apologise. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. You do all of this work, but because of my flaws, you don't get full value for your efforts'*.

But the bearer replied, *'Have you never noticed the flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day, as we walk, you've watered them. For two years, I have been able to pick beautiful flowers to decorate my table. Without you being just what you are, this beauty would not be there to grace my home'*.

Brethren, each of us has our flaws. We're all cracked-pots, but it is the cracks and flaws we each have that make our time together so interesting and rewarding. When, as an Entered Apprentice, we embark on our Masonic journey, we start to chip away at our imperfections. As we pass through the degrees, we polish away our faults a little at a time. Until hopefully, when we eventually arrive at the chair of King Solomon, we have attained the perfection that we need to lead our Lodge with wisdom and impartiality.

As Masons we should accept people for what they are, look for the good in them, and value their qualities. As Brothers we need to show tolerance and to lend support to fellow members. Few of us are good at everything, but if we endeavour to do our best, each of us are able to make a valuable contribution to the beauty of our Order; working together in harmony and fellowship. Thereby making our Lodge flourish and grow strong and be a thing of beauty admired by others.

So, remember to appreciate all the different people in your life, and in your Lodge, especially your crackpot friends.





Recommended use of Nuggets

Nuggets offer a short, simple and readily absorbed means of progressing Masonic knowledge and an easy way to introduce learning to Lodges and Chapters. It is hoped that they will become a regular feature of Lodge and Chapter meetings as well as a source for private-study.

Nuggets can be included as an item in the summons and read at most Lodge/Chapter meetings. They can be:

Read by either a new or an experienced Mason with the minimum of preparation and practice; though ideally, they need to be read a few times beforehand.

Themed with the meeting or activity.

Used to initiate a discussion within a Lodge/Chapter, LOI/COI, or group.

Read at home and shared as a topic for a future discussion.

Used as a focus for an unplanned, informal discussion.

*Note: All biblical passages are taken from the Authorized King James version and any reference to ritual will be from Emulation unless otherwise specified.

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