DEALING WITH IMPERFECTION
Based on a tale from India

There once was a water porter who had two large pots. Each hung on each end of a pole, which he carried across his shoulders. Every day he walked down the long path to the river fetching water from the stream bringing it back to his master’s house.

One pot was in perfect shape and always delivered a full portion of water. But the other pot had a crack and at the end of the long walk from the river to the master’s house it was only half full. Two years long the porter brought only one and a half pots full of water to his master’s house.

The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments and happy it fulfilled its purpose. But the cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to achieve only half of its intended potential. One day, as they were down by the river, the pot spoke to the water porter.

“I am ashamed of myself and I want to apologize.”
“Why?” asked the porter, “what are you ashamed of?”
“For these past two years I was only able to deliver half of my load because the crack in my side caused water to leak out all the way back to your master’s house.”

The porter smiled: “No need to apologize.”
“Why not?” the cracked pot asked.
“Have you ever noticed the beautiful flowers on the path to the river?” the porter said.
“Yes”, the cracked pot answered, “what about them?”
“There aren’t any flowers on the side of the other pot, are they?”
“No”, the cracked pot replied.

“I’ve always known about your crack. So I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day while we were coming back, you watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master’s table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have had this beauty to grace his house.” For the first time in a long while the cracked pot smiled.

“Each of us has his own unique shortcomings”, the porter said. “We’re all cracked pots. That makes us so special, and the world so rich and colorful. To be open is important. Even if we feel bad about our weaknesses and failures, others might value them as diversity or even find new purpose or happiness because of them. Isn’t it great?”

How much do you embrace your own flaws?
How much beauty can you find in the shortcomings of others? We hope a lot.

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For 2016 we wish you and your beloved ones a year full of enriching, beneficial and lovable failures… 😊

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