



## THE POTTER AND HIS POTS

October 2013

*Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker,  
those who are nothing but potsherds  
among the potsherds on the ground.  
Does the clay say to the potter,  
‘What are you making?’  
Does your work say,  
‘The potter has no hands’?  
Woe to the one who says to a father,  
‘What have you begotten?’  
or to a mother,  
‘What have you brought to birth?’*

Isaiah 45:9-10

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I took a pottery class once and found that working the clay was a lot harder than I realized it would be. Getting the walls of the pot to the right thickness and making it look attractive required a lot of work. I often found myself returning the clay to a lump and starting over again. Making truly good pots that will be functional and attractive as well takes a lot of skill.

Being the novice potter I was, my pots did not turn out well. They were clumsy, heavy little items that did not look good at all. And yet I felt attached to them. I still have a small one on my bedside table holding pens and manicure scissors. Years after making it, I remember the thrill of shaping it, the thrill of creating something out of a lump of wet nondescript material.

God, the Master Potter, has no such problems. He makes us exactly into what he intends us to be. Sometimes we get angry with God for having made us the way he did. We feel like we're defective goods—a mistake. We lose hope, wondering if we'll ever be useful for anything.

But the Bible tells us not to argue with God or question the way he made us. God is a skilful creator. He knows what He's doing. Besides, he's not finished yet. As long as we live on this earth, he will continue forming us, helping us become better and better, until we are the best we can be, ready to continue our forever life with him.

If we could only accept ourselves the way God made us, thankful for the unique gifts he has bestowed on us. If we could only allow ourselves to be soft clay in his hands, obedient to his molding. Throughout our lives he will continue to work with us, helping each of us become unique. All of us are special pieces of handiwork for him.

Being soft clay in the Master Potter's loving and skilful hands will make sure we will be shaped exactly into the kind of person he wants us to be.

God doesn't make rejects.

marja