

Recently I received a lovely poem written by a friend of mine, which I am attaching at the bottom of this meditation. She was inspired by learning about the Japanese art of Kintsugi.

Kintsugi is a pottery reparation method that began being used in Japan around the 15th century. It did not rely on the idea, commonly used today, of making the damage disappear as much as possible. Instead, the idea was to beautify the very signs of damage, to make the cracks and chips stand out in a new and stunning way. Instead of erasing the flaws, it acknowledged and highlighted them. It made beauty out of the broken. This method became known as kintsugi, a term that means, “golden rejoining”

I find this a lovely picture of how God works in our lives. God is in control. We have flaws, we make mistakes, we live in a broken world, but ultimately God is working things in our lives.

I am reminded of those places in the Bible where we are told that we are the clay in God’s hands. He is the Master potter.

*Isaiah 64:8 “ Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”*

This thought, that we are being created and recreated by God, is echoed by Paul:

*“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago”*  
*Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)*

*“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”* *II Cor. 4:16-18*

The poem below reminds us that despite, or even because of, the brokenness, mistakes and flaws, God creates a thing of beauty, it is not hopeless! I find this thought gives hope and encourages me. I hope it encourages you.

## The Art of Kintsugi

In the Japanese art of Kintsugi an artist remakes a shattered pot with gold resin to bring great beauty out of brokenness. A Christian Japanese artist once described God as the Master kintsugi artist. The poem was inspired by this.

Shattered shards  
Lie scattered  
On the hard floor.  
A family joy,  
Lovely to behold  
Lost -  
Its place  
Empty  
On the shelf.

Momentary madness  
Leaves  
Sad regrets  
Gnawing at the mind.  
And, if only:  
Longings for what  
Might have been,  
Give way to  
Dull hopelessness.

—Yet, reckoning without the Artist is  
a fault—

Invited, he comes  
Examining each part;  
Turns them over  
In his hand.  
Considering;  
Forming his plan,  
“There is beauty, yet”  
He says.

By what  
Strange art  
He wields his skill?  
Lovingly moulding;  
Recreating

a masterpiece  
With gold.

Each tiny crack,  
Weakness,  
Fault-line,  
Is shot through  
With shining grace;  
Evidence of  
Expert skill,  
And mastery.

Thus,  
How patiently,  
Our Master  
Gently takes  
Our shattered lives,  
And crafts them;  
Transforming  
Shape and line  
Beyond recognition.

Knowing  
Just how each piece  
Fits together,  
He makes  
Miracles of mercy  
Creation-new;  
Radiant  
With  
His loveliness.

Carolyn Ash  
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Lakeside Pottery

4-1/2 x 2-1/2"