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a. Poor Stonecutter

b. Wizard of Oz

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a. The Poor Stonecutter

In life, we have our ups and downs and in Buddhism we do not reject ~~and~~ the bad and accept <sup>only</sup> the good. Everything is accepted both the "bad" and the good, because that is life, <sup>that is reality.</sup> ~~People of other religions~~ may pray for only good things and ~~cannot~~ <sup>find it difficult</sup> accept the bad. In Buddhism nothing is wasted. we look at reality just as it is. <sup>The Tibetan Buddhists have taught us that even something as dreadful as cancer should be seen as a friend. Illness is a teacher that helps us to change our direction.</sup> Some times we may feel that something is not right with us. And sometimes as little children do, we want to be someone else. We think we'll be happier if we are someone else.

children's  
There's a story that makes this point.

Once there was a poor stonecutter who lived in a small hut in the forest on the side of a mountain. Early every morning he would pick up his tools + climb up the mountain path to a big rock in the side of the mountain and he hammered and chipped and made building blocks with which he took to the mansion of a rich merchant to build walls. The work was hard and he saw the wealth and comfort of the rich man and he wanted that. So he prayed to the mountain spirit, "If only I were a rich merchant then I could be truly happy." When he opened his eyes he was dressed in beautiful clothes riding a camel and leading a caravan, i.e., other camels carrying things to sell. As the caravan passed by the royal party <sup>of the king having a picnic on a hillside.</sup> he could see the king, how powerful he looked with his soldiers and servants. He smirched <sup>under his breath</sup> "A merchant is nothing compared to a king. If only I were a king I could be truly happy." Like magic the stonecutter became a king. And the servants were at his beck + call + they served him delicious foods + sherbets + pink ices. His every desire was fulfilled. But, the sun was shining brightly and the stonecutter began feeling hot + his skin blistered and itched. He looked up at the sky and the blazing sun was powerful and brilliant, too great for even a king to gaze upon. So he moaned "I was wrong."

\* The Stonecutter Pam Newton (main fabric) alt

Judy Sierra & Robert Kaminski  
Multicultural Folk tales: stories to tell young children

if only I were the sun, then I could be truly happy. The stonecutter at once became the scorching sun, flashing his heat and light to the people and trees and animals below. Just then a cloud drifted across the sky and covered the sun making it <sup>seem</sup> powerless. "I was wrong," groaned the stonecutter, "The sun is nothing compared to a cloud. If only I were a cloud then I could be truly happy. So the stonecutter was changed into a cloud and he felt the power <sup>and pride</sup> of blocking out the sun. But as quickly as the cloud covered the sun the wind arrived and swept the cloud away. As the icy breath of the wind scattered the cloud away, the stonecutter said, "A cloud is nothing compared to the wind. If only I were <sup>the</sup> wind, then I could be truly happy." At once the stonecutter became the wind pushing the clouds across the sky, making waves on the ocean, bending flowers and grasses, snapping the branches of the trees. But when he met a mountain, he could not move it even though he blustered <sup>and</sup> raged. So he said, "If only I were a mountain, then I could be truly happy." And quick as a wink he turned into a great big mountain and he boasted <sup>that</sup> nothing on earth is as powerful as I am. But as he spoke a man climbed up the side of the mountain and began to pound <sup>pound</sup> chip, chip, making building blocks. <sup>The mountain could feel part of itself being taken away.</sup> And the stonecutter cried, "I was wrong again."

If only I were a stonecutter I would be truly happy. And again he was a stonecutter. He offered a prayer of thanks to the mountain spirit. He felt contented and truly happy to be a stonecutter at last.

The moral of the story is we should accept ourselves just as we are. <sup>This is the only self we have.</sup>

<sup>It does not mean we should not try to improve ourselves.</sup>  
<sup>just as we are we are just right.</sup>  
<sup>But we should not try to be someone we are not. There is a reason for us to be who we are.</sup>  
<sup>we are blessed by the Light of Infinite wisdom and compassion.</sup>  
We should live our lives the best we can.

b. The Wizard of Oz: There are those who say that life does not go the way we want, because we lack something. We are missing something, so that's why we can't succeed.

well, I would like to tell you the story of Dorothy and her search for something <sup>that she lacked.</sup>

I think you all know the story. She lived on a farm in Kansas / and one day a strong <sup>tornado</sup> cyclone, a twister, carried her house, with Dorothy in it, <sup>way up into the sky</sup> over the rainbow and dropped it <sup>on</sup> in the city of Munchkins in the County of Oz. Thus began the adventure of Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz. She was surprised and fascinated with the Munchkins / the little people and their bright and beautiful country. <sup>so you remember? the house had fallen on the wicked witch of the west + so Dorothy was given the ruby red shoes.</sup> but she quickly became home sick and was ready to return to her home in Kansas, but didn't know how. Glinda, the good witch of the North told Dorothy to go to see the Wizard of Oz at Emerald City to find the answer. <sup>so she goes on her journey</sup> She was told to follow the Yellow Brick Road to get to Emerald City. Along the way she rescued the scarecrow, who was stuck on a pole in a cornfield and found out that he wanted to have a brain. <sup>He was full of straw</sup> Further down the yellow brick road Dorothy and the scarecrow met the tin man, who had been caught in the rain and had become all rusty and couldn't move at all. They oiled him and got him to move his arms and legs and he joined them on their journey. <sup>He wanted a heart.</sup> Finally the three of them met up with a fierce lion who at first frightened them but they soon

learned that he was a cowardly lion who was not happy about that..  
So the four of them decided that they would all go to see the  
Wizard of Oz because the scarecrow wanted a brain, the Tinman  
wanted heart, the lion wanted courage and Dorothy wanted to go home.

After some more adventures, they finally were able to meet the  
Wizard. <sup>Do you know what the Wizard told them?</sup> His message to them was that they already had with them  
what they were looking for, and they only had to believe in  
themselves and <sup>be who they were.</sup> ~~use what they had.~~ The Wizard gave them awards to  
<sup>affirm</sup> ~~confirm~~ that they ~~had~~ <sup>have</sup> already ~~got~~ what they wanted. He gave the  
scarecrow a diploma with a ThD degree, doctor of thinkology. He  
gave the lion a triple cross medal of courage and to the tinman he  
gave a ~~ruby~~ red heart-shaped clock. Dorothy was told that in order <sup>for her</sup>  
to return to Kansas all she had to do was to click the heels of the  
ruby red shoes she had been wearing <sup>all the time.</sup> since the beginning of the  
journey. And before you know it, she was back in Kansas with Aunty  
Em and Uncle Henry. <sup>And she found out that.</sup> ~~The journey to see the Wizard of Oz was all a~~  
~~dream.~~

From this story we learn that we do not need to travel to  
Emerald City and meet the Wizard of Oz to receive the important  
things we need. We all already have a heart, a brain, courage and  
a way to return to <sup>our</sup> ~~one's~~ home which <sup>is Amida Buddha's Pure Land.</sup> ~~we dearly love.~~ We only need  
to use what we already have. The Golden Chain of Love tells us  
what we need to do. <sup>so to remind our selves</sup> Will you repeat with me, The Golden Chain of

Love. I am a link, in Amida Buddha's Golden Chain of Love that  
stretches around the world. I must keep my link bright and strong.  
I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect

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all who are weaker than myself. I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, say pure and beautiful words and do pure and beautiful deeds knowing that on what I do now depends not only my happiness or unhappiness, but those of others. May every link in Amida Buddha's golden Chain of Love become bright and strong and may we all attain perfect peace. Namu Amida Butsu.

In the Golden Chain of Love, it tells us what to do how to use what we have. To use the heart means that "we will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than ourselves". To use the brain means "that we will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, say pure and beautiful words, and <sup>to have courage means to do</sup> pure and beautiful deeds." <sup>To be a complete person means</sup>

~~I will keep my link bright and strong.~~ It means not to be afraid when you know that what you are doing is good and right, and that you are going to be just who I am and keep my link bright and strong.

Finally, to go home like what Dorothy did can be compared to going home to Amida Buddha's <sup>land</sup>. <sup>Pure we already have within us the Buddha nature which is our presence</sup> So to attain perfect peace means to trust and depend on Amida Buddha, who supports us, protects us, and <sup>loves</sup> us. <sup>Where is Amida Buddha? He is right here within our hearts, forever embracing us.</sup> We do not have to visit the Wizard of Oz to have a heart, brain, courage and <sup>the</sup> love of Amida Buddha. We have them already so let us polish our Golden Chain of Love and become good Buddhists. Namu Amida Butsu.

The Poor Stonecutter - (lists sources)  
(like my bk. Magic Fish)  
The Wizard of Oz  
hints brain, heart + courage + Golden Chain of Love