

Design Thinking A Primer
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Solve Tea Cup Story

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Hello folks, it is story time again, this time it is one of my favourite stories I must have said this a million times, I do not know where I heard it but it is a beautiful story. The story about a scholar and a tea cup like the one you see in front of me, so this particular scholar's main job was to learn new things, new skills, new languages but he had one problem he just could not learn anything new even that his profession is to learn new stuff this was a big obstacle for him it is an annoyance that he cannot learn new things, new skills, new languages.

So his friends concealed him and said why do not you visit this Zen Master who seems to know at all, why do not you approach him? So he approached the scholar approached the Zen Master and there was a lovely tea cup on a beautiful table and a lovely carpet right underneath that and right next to it was a tea pot much bigger than my little tea pot here but it was a bigger tea pot.

So Zen Master asked the scholar to start pouring tea and with the only condition that you should stop pouring only when I ask you to, till then do not stop pouring. So he took the tea pot and started pouring tea I have milk here but in my story there was tea and he started filling it up with tea, the tea cup was slowly filling up little by little and it reached the end and the scholar thought that the Zen Master would asked him to stop but he did not, he let him pour even more than my level, I do not want to ruin my tea but you get the idea.

So he kept pouring in, kept pouring in, and guess what happened to that tea that he was pouring after it was full? All the tea started spilling all around on the table, started messing up the table. Scholar started getting nervous and jittery he was not comfortable with that idea and the tea started pouring on the lovely carpet and that got ruined also, scholar was all upset, Zen Master finally took pity on scholar and said now you may stop, scholar was all frustrated and said oh my God I spoiled your carpet and I spoiled your table, it is bad, so what do we do now?

So Zen Master said it is okay I will get one of my students to fix the carpet and the table do not worry about it, I want you to tell me what happened to the new tea that you were pouring once the cup was full the scholar thought and said well the all the tea spilled out all around. So tell me one thing if you want tea fresh tea to be filled one even after the tea cup is full what do you do?

And the scholar answered well empty the tea cup, transfer it somewhere or just throw it out and start pouring it again that is how you get new tea into the tea cup, Zen Master said exactly what is happening with you, you are already full up to the brim with knowledge and is no way on earth you are going to get new information, new skills, new language, what do you have to do then? You have to throw away empty (your tea pot) your tea cup sorry tea cup and that is the way you can get new knowledge, get rid of your old habits, get rid of your whatever you are cleaning onto and that is how you learn new skills that folks is why I made empty your head, do you get it? Thank you.