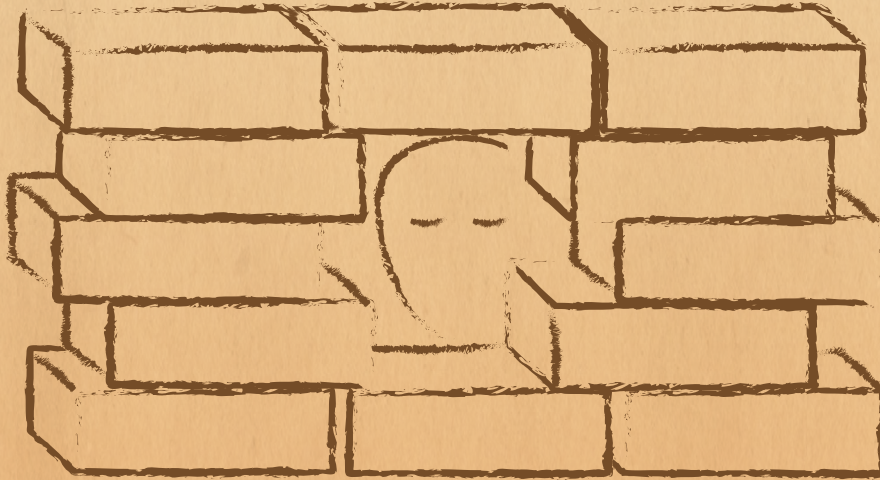


The Master Builder



The Trap

On the second day, as he continued laying and moving along on his path, he encountered a large pile of bricks. "Hello", he called out, sensing that these bricks must belong to someone. "Hello", came another man's reply from deep inside the pile. "How are you?" asked the first man, now aware that this was a most important question.

"How am I?" the second man muttered to himself as if he had never in his life considered how he was. This query sparked his own awareness, just as it had in the first man, and after a moments observation of himself and his surroundings, he replied, "I'm stuck". "I've been static, doing nothing meaningful with my life for quite some time". "As I sat here procrastinating, the bricks I've been gifted each moment have piled up all around me and now I fear I'm trapped."

"I understand", said the first man, "I too have been wasteful of my precious moments but I have changed". "I'm building a path, perhaps you would like to join me?". The second man thought that he would like to help the first and in doing so he might help himself. "I would, but it's dark here and I cannot see a way out" came the second man's reply.

The first, who could see clearly, instantly met his concern with a solution, "Together, we will build a tunnel and set you free. Follow my voice and I'll meet you halfway".

The first man spoke with encouragement and so the second was inspired to take action. They talked as they built, shared their stories and learned they were not so different. Either one could have ended up in the shoes of the other.

Slowly but surely, they got closer until there was a breakthrough and their hands met in the darkness of the tunnel. Guided by the first man, the second stepped into the light for the first time in a very long while. He was energised by the warmth of the sun and his newfound friendship.

Side by side, they continued laying the path, moving faster now as they combined their efforts.