

# *Broken Things*

M.R. De Haan  
(1891-1965)

**B**efore a thing can be made useful, something must be broken. Before the house is built, the tree must be broken down. Before the foundation can be laid, the rocks must be blasted from their quarry bed where they have long lain in peace and quiet. Before the ripe grain can cover the fields, the soil must be completely broken down ...

Before there can be life, there must be death. Before there can be joy, there must be weeping ...

This is the law of life in the natural realm, and it is the law of life in the spiritual sphere also. There is no making without breaking ...

We are living in a broken world today. As never before, all that seemed permanent and enduring is being broken down; the history of the world is but the breaking of governments, systems, ideals and programs. The history of every human life, too, is the history of breaking.

To the child of God, however, every broken thing is but the assurance that God is making something useful. How needful it is for you who today are sorrowing over bitter losses and repining on beds of illness, you whose bodies are broken, to remember that He has said:

*“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).*

If you are being broken by disappointment or bereavement, by loss or pain, by weakness or sickness, remember that although to us broken things are tragedies; to God they are opportunities to be used for His glory. We cast the *broken* things aside and call them ‘junk,’ but our God casts the *unbroken* things aside as useless.

How we need to be broken. How often we bewail and bemoan the sad fact of broken lives, but find later that only broken things are used by the Lord and that only after we are broken are we our very best for God.

If you are being broken, God is working with you. He is making something – something that will someday astound you with its wisdom and beauty.

The things we thought were the greatest trials and tragedies, later we find to be God's way of bringing us something better. We think broken things are a loss, but God turns them to gain. In nature, broken things are cast aside; but in grace, God will never use a man until he is broken.

*Broken Things – Why We Suffer*  
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