TORONTO DURHAM
REAL ESTATE

HOME SCENE

The Emperor's Seed

Once upon a time, in an ancient and prosperous kingdom, an aging emperor realized he had no children to inherit his throne. Desperate to find a successor of true character rather than royal blood, he devised an unusual test.

He summoned all the children of the realm to the palace. To each child, the emperor handed a single, ordinary-looking flower seed.

"Take this seed home, plant it, and water it with care," the emperor commanded. "Return here in one year with what has grown. The child who brings the most magnificent bloom shall be my heir."

Among the children was a boy named Ping. Ping was hardworking, honest, and possessed a deep love for gardening. Back home, he filled a clay pot with rich, dark earth, carefully planted the seed, and patted the soil down. Every single day, he watered it, watched over it, and made sure it caught the warm afternoon sun.

Weeks passed, but nothing happened. Ping inspected the soil, added fresh fertilizer, and even transferred the seed to a larger pot, hoping for a sign of life. Still, the pot remained stubbornly empty.

Spring arrived, bringing a sea of green shoots and vibrant blossoms across the kingdom. Other children talked excitedly about their towering stalks and colourful petals. Ping's pot, however, held only barren dirt. Day after day, he felt a knot of shame tighten in his stomach.

When the year finally came to an end, the children marched back to the imperial palace, carrying pots overflowing with breathtaking roses, lilies, and exotic orchids. Ping tried to stay home,



ashamed to appear empty-handed, but his wise mother gently encouraged him. "Go just as you are," she told him. "Always be honest about what you have done."

With a heavy heart, Ping walked into the grand courtyard, holding his empty brown pot. He tried to hide behind the other children, hoping the emperor wouldn't notice him.

The emperor, dressed in magnificent robes, walked slowly down the rows of brilliant flowers. He stopped to admire a sparkling red blossom, then a radiant purple one. But as he walked, his face remained stern and unsmiling.

Continued on Page 3

By Referral Only™ means…

Our business is designed to provide you with the highest possible level of service and attention. Unlike most Realtors, who spend most of their time searching for new customers from the general public, over 95% of our business comes from our clients' endorsements. As a result, you benefit by getting more of our undivided attention, education, predictability and dedication.

Our promise is to give you sound real estate advice and help you understand the future implications of the decisions you make.

Our goal is to build a relationship with you based on mutual trust and respect.

Our vision is to make a positive difference in your transaction, in your life, and in the world.

The Art of Stillness: Cultivating Tolerance and Patience



We live in a culture built on instant gratification. With a tap of a finger, we summon food, stream entertainment, and expect answers in milliseconds. Modern life has trained our brains to crave speed, making the virtues of patience and tolerance feel increasingly difficult to practice.

Yet, inner peace and healthy relationships rely entirely on our ability to tolerate discomfort. When we lack these traits, everyday frustrations—a delayed flight, a slow queue, or a differing opinion—spark disproportionate stress and burnout. Developing patience isn't about becoming a doormat; it is about building emotional strength. Here is how to cultivate it.

1. Shift Your Perspective on "Wait Time"

We often view waiting as dead time—an annoying pause between where we are and where we want to be.

- **Catch the impulse:** Notice when frustration sets in because things aren't moving fast enough.
- **Reframe the narrative:** Instead of thinking, "*This is wasting my time,*" tell yourself, "*This is a pause to breathe and reset.*"
- **Embrace micro-moments:** Use unexpected delays to take three deep breaths rather than frantically checking your phone.

2. Practice Cognitive Flexibility

Tolerance begins when we accept that the world does not revolve around our preferences and that others may have valid perspectives.

- **Assume positive intent:** When someone cuts you off or misses a deadline, avoid assuming that they don't care. They may be dealing with personal stress.
- **Get curious instead of furious:** When faced with an opposing viewpoint, replace judgment with curiosity. Ask, "*What experiences led them to see the world this way?"*

3. Build Your "Discomfort Muscle"

Patience is emotional endurance. Just as you build physical strength by lifting weights, you build patience by tolerating small doses of daily discomfort.

- **Pause before reacting:** Give yourself a mandatory buffer before sending a frustrated text or snapping at a loved one.
- **Sit with ambiguity:** Not every problem can be resolved today. Learn to say, "*I am not in complete control of my circumstances. I can only do what I can do."*

Conclusion

Patience and tolerance are daily practices, not permanent destinations. Some days will test you, and you will occasionally lose your temper. When that happens, practice grace with others and *yourself*. By slowing down and accepting life's unpredictability. Trade the exhausting rush of urgency for a deep, unshakable inner calm.

Guard Your Home: Fall Maintenance Steps Before Winter Arrives

As the crisp autumn air settles in and leaves begin to turn, it is time to shift your focus to seasonal home care. Autumn maintenance is not just about keeping your property looking neat; it is a vital investment strategy. Taking proactive steps now protects your home from the harsh winter elements, prevents costly emergency repairs, and preserves your property value over time. Plan ahead to avoid headaches once the temperature plummets.



Key Fall Maintenance Priorities

- **Defend Your Roof and Gutters:** Falling leaves can quickly clog gutters, leading to trapped moisture, ice dams, and roof damage. Clear all debris from your gutters and downspouts, ensuring water drains at least three to four feet away from your foundation. Inspect your roof for missing, cracked, or curling shingles and seal any minor vulnerabilities.
- **Seal Out Drafts and Moisture:** As temperatures drop, energy efficiency becomes a priority. Check the weather stripping around all exterior doors and windows. Reapply fresh caulk where window frames meet exterior walls to block cold drafts and prevent moisture seepage, which can rot framing and invite pests.
- **Prepare Heating and Plumbing Systems:** Schedule a professional tune-up for your furnace or heat pump to ensure it operates safely and efficiently all winter. Change your HVAC air filters. Outdoors, disconnect garden hoses, shut off exterior water spigots, and drain exterior lines to prevent frozen and burst pipes.
- **Winterize Your Yard and Foundation:** Trim tree branches that hang dangerously close to your roof or power lines. Rake leaves away from your foundation to prevent dampness and mold growth. Finally, inspect your foundation for cracks, sealing small gaps with masonry concrete patch to keep freezing water from expanding them.

By dedicating a weekend or two to these essential chores, you safeguard your home against the expensive consequences of water infiltration, structural wear, and heating inefficiencies. Proactive fall maintenance gives us some peace of mind all winter long and protects the long-term value of one of your most significant assets.

Continued from page 1 ***The Emperor's Seed***

Suddenly, the emperor stopped. He stood right in front of Ping.

The boy trembled, looking down at his empty pot. "What is your name, child?" the emperor asked gently.

"My name is Ping," the boy whispered.

The emperor smiled. He turned to the gathered crowd and made a stunning announcement: "Here is your next emperor! I welcome the only honest person among you."

The crowd murmured in confusion. The emperor raised his hand and explained the truth.

"A year ago, I gave every child a seed. But before I handed them out, I boiled every single seed in water. It was scientifically impossible for them to sprout. Yet, almost all of you brought me massive, beautiful flowers. Where did they come from? Only Ping had the courage, the integrity, and the honesty to bring me an empty pot."'

With that, Ping was named the rightful heir to the throne, proving that true character shines brighter than any manufactured success.

Autumn Fun for Kids of All Ages!

Keep the fall fun rolling with some giggles and light up your room with a an autumn coloured lantern!

Q: What did the baby corn say to the mama corn?
A: Where is popcorn?

Q: How do you fix a broken pumpkin?
A: With a pumpkin patch!

Q: What kind of treats do scarecrows love?
A: Straw-berries!

Activity: Glow-in-the-Dark Lanterns

1. Cut up some autumn coloured tissue paper into your favourite shapes.
2. Take an empty, clear plastic or glass jar and paint the outside with a layer of washable school glue.
3. Press the tissue paper shapes onto the jar in a thin layer.
4. Let it dry, and then drop a battery-operated tea light inside to watch your jar glow!



Welcome New Clients

By Referral Only™ Really Does Work. Here are some of the new clients who were referred to our "RE Family" this past quarter:

Paula T, referred by Nick S
Nathan and Rita, referred by Walter K and Jim G
Lillian M, referred by William T
Alvaro B, referred by Manuel and Elisa M

Welcome new clients to our "RE family":

Walter K
Jim G
Tony P
Eva A

These former clients are once again putting their trust in us:

Matt S
Peter M
Andrea T
Farid J
David B

TORONTO DURHAM
REAL ESTATE

Contact
Jonathan Amantea
Sales Representative
RE/MAX Ultimate Realty Inc.
Mobile: 416-879-7323
Office: 416-656-3500

The Toronto Durham Real Estate Team



Gwen & Jonathan Amantea
Sales representatives

Catherine Grace
Admin Assistant

www.TorontoDurhamRealEstate.com