



April 28, 2018

Dear Oona-

Why does my two legged mom freak out when I quench my thirst from the porcelain bowl in the grooming room? I don't understand why it is forbidden water.

Finn

Dear Finn,

As you well know, humans are crazy. They're completely out of touch.

They understand *nothing*. But we love them so we keep them around. They're good for car rides. If we ever learn to drive, we may have to let them go.

One of the things they're blind to is our water bowl. Wolfhounds drink a *lot* of water. But mine can be bone dry for *minutes* before my humans notice. You have to bang the bowl against the wall like a gong before they snap out of it.

They say they love us but then they leave us a bowl of old water lying around. All the little bubbles go away. It goes flat. It gets dirty. If you have a nasty little nephew like I do, it gets dirty like a cow pond. Oisin has a big beard. He drags

it through his food. Then he soaks it in the water bowl. The thing gets murky enough to raise koi in it. And the human do nothing.

And then we discover they have a magic spring in the house. They keep it hidden in a little room. Clean, fresh, water just keeps appearing in that big white porcelain bowl. It's bubbly. It tastes good. It's always full. So of course they go ga-ga when we drink out of it. Human thinking. Baugh.

That's okay. I just go drink out of dad's mug instead Water. Tea. Beer. It's worth it just to see him make those faces.

So what *is* it about the magic spring that makes it forbidden? They go to the bathroom in it. So what? Some dogs eat poop, too. *Some* dogs snack out of of the kitty litter box. But that's another story. The thing is, everything gets flushed away. And there's that nice, cool, clean water in the magic spring again. Completely off limits.

Get this. They think we're too stupid to know if there's something bad in the water. Humans forget that dogs' original day job was scavenging. We pick through heaps of garbage and find the good stuff. We have these noses, see? They're like super sensors. We have 300 million olfactory sensors compared to their 6 million. The part of our brains devoted to scent analysis is 40 times bigger than theirs. So, yeah, if there's something hurtful in the water, we're going to smell it.

And if we do suck up a speck of something bad, our

digestive systems are a lot less finicky than theirs. I knew a dog once who ate disposable razors. Chewed ‘em up. Spat out twisted piece of metal. Lived until he was 12. And they worry about us drinking out of the *toilet bowl*?

Sometimes humans put weird, nasty chemicals in the magic spring. To make it smell better. And they think we don’t have enough sense not to drink water if it’s *blue*?

Here’s what I do, Finn. I flip up the lid and drink out of the toilet. Loudly. So even humans know it. When they start flapping their arms and using that colorful language, I come out and give them a big wet kiss. Just to say thanks for taking such good care of us.

Bottoms up,

Oona

Got a question? Send it to bob@thewildstare.com and Oona will get back to you as soon as she gets her nails done or she can prod the old guy to take dictation.