

Situation Statement 1

I always find it interesting that some students assume failure is bad, and directly related to a level of performance not wished for. Or, alternatively, that failure is somehow an opportunity to learn. I thought to myself ... sometimes, failure stinks; sometimes there isn't much to learn. In the Batman Begins movie, there is that great question - *why do we fall down, Bruce?* and answer - *so we can learn to pick ourselves up again.*

Then I started to think about a comment in our conversation as to what is a failure? Could it be that by and large our failures are mostly socially constructed outcomes that we come in some deluded way to be a prisoner of? Could it be that life is nothing more than a constant process of falling and getting up, that 'failing' is the only beneficial pathway available to us to advance our lot in life? Could it be that not failing is not moving forward in life?

Could it be that our capacity to cope with outcomes determined by ourselves and others to be less than desirable is what sets us apart from those that cannot? Could it be that the only true 'failures' are those that indeed accept they are a failure? Could it be that our eventual success in all aspects of life is determined by our ability to continuously accommodate outcomes less than we had hoped for?

Personally, I want my students to fail in some aspect of their learning. I want their potential transformation as a person to be driven by their capacity to resist both the forces internal and external to their existence; forces that forever test their adaptive abilities. I want to know my students are alive and kicking, not sheltered from the reality the live within.