



# Your Failures Could Be Your Superpower

Today, I want to begin by reading a poem from Antonio Machado called, Honey of My Failures.

"Last night, as I was sleeping, I dreamt -- marvelous error! -- that I had a beehive here inside my heart. And the golden bees were making white combs and sweet honey from my old failures."

That poem really resonated with me because I have led a very complicated and messy life. I just turned 60 and decades were spent just trying to find my way, making all manner of mistakes and failures innocently in many cases and in some cases, knowing that I was making a mess but just not being able to find my way. And what I know now is that those failures and mistakes were my path to mastery. They were what brought me to where I am today able to have this amazing job of guiding and mentoring my clients. It led me to a deep wisdom that I get to share now, an imperfect wisdom I might say. I haven't arrived and I'm still on this messy nuanced complex rich journey, like all of you.

It's our failures and mistakes that enables us to connect with each other. There's a line from a song I love from the music group Over the Rhine, this particular line is "Pain is our mother, and she helps us recognize one another". I really resonate with that and in this culture of extreme polarization and social media where we get to present our perfect selves, our perfect lives, which of course we know is not true, but it's not reality.

We're all in broken in certain ways. As Leonard Cohen says, that's how the light gets in. So I want to encourage you today that it's okay, it's okay to have your imperfect life. It's okay to have your powerful brilliant life. It's okay to be this brilliant divine self in this tiny form of the human body that's so limited and heavy. It's okay to be all of that: divine and human, messy and neat. Bright and brilliant, dark and rich. All of it is okay. And we can hold a place of gentleness for ourselves in that. And as we are gentle and accepting of ourselves then we can hold that with others. That gentleness. That love. We're all just trying to find our way.

As we connect with ourselves fully in acceptance of our dark messy parts, then we're able to do that for others. As we do that, we can allow for people to be innocently wrong in innocently misunderstanding, because I know that I, too, misunderstand. I know that I, too, am wrong in some ways because I can only see what I can see. And you could only see what you can see, but as we connect with one another and hold one another with love, then we can invite one another to a fuller experience of this one brilliant life that we have. We can reach across the void, across the gap to connect with one another. When we can accept our own brokenness, our own fragilities, and our own divinity, light, and brilliance, then we can hold all of that. It



doesn't have to be either or. And when we can hold all of that, then, deep connection across the divide is possible.

So I want to invite you to create that for yourself to hold yourself and all of your nuanced messiness. And as you do, as you come to acceptance of yourself, you'll be able to do that with your neighbor across the street who is voting from for someone different than you are. It's not to say that we don't stand up for the things that we believe, of course we do, but if we can do that from a place of love, a place of connection, we are going to be so much more powerful and empowered in a way that allows for healing.

Today, I invite you to open to the possibility of accepting your own failures and mistakes and imperfections and seeing the beauty in the diversity that lives within you. And as you do that, you're going to open to the beauty of diversity outside of you and around you.