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SYNERGISTIC EMERGENCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

PNE Inspirations

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The Willingness to Fail (Going for It!)



Our spotlight this issue shines on the *willingness* to fail and the **freedom** that comes with it which allows for **real living**.

Have you ever noticed that when you read someone's bio what's listed are their achievements and wins? You never read about their challenges or failures. Why is this when in fact you can discover more about a person's character by how they met their challenges than by their list of wins? It takes a big person to acknowledge where they have failed. Don't we all just want to work with people who are honest with themselves and others? Could it be that our modern success-driven global society has bred a race that lacks magnanimity of character? We keep painting only half the story by trying to display only our achievements and hiding our failures. This approach isn't healthy, let alone the way life really works. It's amazing how important *looking good* with our achievements is. In doing this we've lost the real value inherent in our failures.

History is full of very cool people who failed miserably and repeatedly, yet were willing to *continue to go for it*. They obviously were not consumed with the notion of looking

good. Take the Wright Brothers or Thomas Edison, for example. Yes, they were inventors and were used to more failures than wins. However, they will tell you, along with any honest artist, athlete, scientist or entrepreneur, that failure is welcome feedback and is a natural part of the process they're engaged in, not something to be avoided at all costs.

Did you know that Abraham Lincoln's life was strewn with failures amid great success: In 1832 he lost his job and was defeated for state legislature, 1833-failed in business, 1835-sweetheart died, 1836-had nervous breakdown, 1838-defeated for Speaker, 1843-defeated for nomination to Congress, 1848-lost renomination to Congress, 1849-rejected for land officer, 1854-defeated for U.S. Senate, 1856-defeated for nomination for Vice President, 1858-again defeated for U. S. Senate, but in 1860 was elected President of the United States, and led the country through its darkest hour, the civil war. Then in 1865 he was assassinated, and yet he is considered around the world to be a great man.

I know in this day and age it's intense to go against the overwhelming expectations to succeed and look good, whether you're a public personality and/or a member of a family. It's become part of the very fabric of daily life in the 21st century. The focus has been only on one half, the successful half, which creates a deep imbalance in our very nature, and as a result keeps us from living life fully.

To **really live** means to be willing to experience failures and successes equally, to have the courage to look bad and go for it anyway. If you were not concerned with failing, what would you do that you haven't done because of the fear of failure? Now... **go for it!**

“How can you hesitate? Risk! Risk anything! Care no more for the opinions of others, those voices. Do the hardest thing on earth for you. Act for yourself. Face the truth.”

-Katherine Mansfield