

Story #6b

Vulnerability

6. *Sometimes ... fall down on the job - then be picked up by your students - in other words, be vulnerable enough to put yourself in their hands.*
(The Teacher's Bill of Rights)

One day, at YTL (Youth Transformed for Life), Asheville, NC (Oct. 2021) I told the students the same thing I had told the incarcerated individuals - some of whom could have been relatives or friends of the youth. It is the same thing I told other students for the last half century, namely: *"sometimes it's good to fall - you can use it!"*

Is not Falling one of the things we do best?

Walking is **Falling**

We **Fall** in love

Planets are **Falling** in their orbits

And perhaps one of our best abilities is to **Fall** for a joke

.....

(By the way, have you ever thought of why so many human records of physical accomplishments are **Falling** so fast and so far at this very time?)

.....

In life, basically what goes around, comes around. So, you have to be vulnerable enough to fall.

One way to fall while teaching is to be vulnerable enough to see *the abundance of teachers in the room!* Who are these teachers? *The students!* Every student is a teacher who can show everyone else in the room something new and useful at any time.

And that also has to do with making mistakes. You have to be vulnerable enough to make mistakes in order to learn. In fact, you could say, "There are no mistakes." So, here's a fable from my third volume of *Bickart's Just-in-Time Fables* (Bickart, 2020, #118).



#118 *The First Mistake*



A young beaver was working at felling a tree. His father was watching, so as to instruct. "Father, I am afraid to make a mistake cutting the tree," said the youth. His father adjusted his technique and encouraged him not to be afraid. A second time the young one worried about his chopping and his father showed him the right way, reminding him that he is just learning. A third time, the son asked for alteration, for fear of dropping the tree in the wrong direction, and once again, his father gently obliged with advice, saying, "The only error you are making my son is that you are afraid to make an error." The little beaver chuckled, then looked up at his father with admiration and relief, asking his father how he knew so much. His father just laughed and

*said, "In my life, I have already tried all of the ways to fell a tree
that do not work."*

*DO NOT FEAR MISTAKES
THERE ARE NONE*

"They say ev'ry man needs protection
They say ev'ry man must fall
Yet I swear I see my reflection
Some place so high above this wall
I see my light come shining
From the west unto the east
Any day now, any day now
I shall be released"

- Bob Dylan (I Shall Be Released)

So that's it for today. I'll see you in one of those tomorrows.



References

Bickart, J. (2020). *Bickart's Just-in-Time Fables* (Vol. 3).
Asheville, NC: Red Shirt Interactive Group.