

FAILURE PROVIDES DEEP ROOTS FOR GROWTH

After years of failure at everything he tried, a man sought advice from a wise monk in a nearby monastery. "Brother", he said, "I just don't have it in me to go on anymore. Can you think of any reason why I shouldn't just quit?"

The monk took him out to the garden. "Look at the fern and the bamboo. Look closely."

"What about them?"

"When I first planted them, I gave them both plenty of light and water. The fern grew quickly, and its green leaves covered the garden."

"But nothing came from the bamboo seed. Year after year the fern grew more beautiful, but the bamboo still didn't sprout."



"Five years later, the bamboo started sending up shoots. Then in just a few months, it was taller than the fern. Why? It had spent those five years growing roots strong enough to support a great height."

One year, the fern was flattened by a terrible windstorm, but the bamboo stood firm because of the deep, strong roots."

"Think about this." The monk finished. "While others have been growing high, you have been growing the roots that will sustain you when the strong winds come. You will be able now to grow taller and stronger because of your deep roots."

Success is built on adversity and challenge, not on easy wins.