

Importance of Failure

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One type of post I've noticed come up every once in a while is a post where some person is informing me that if I don't have everything figured out, I shouldn't post.

Another of the same variety, informs me that I should have every detail worked out formally before I dare to put something out in public.

However, in real research failure is part of work, and public failure is not as important as wasting time with flawed ideas.

I still like the sports analogy of baseball, and I think a LOT of people in intellectual circles just don't get how important lessons are in sports, like how even the best players mostly fail—and VERY PUBLICLY FAIL.

Many of you could not handle it. You'd pee in your pants at the very thought of being in front of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even millions of people to try something where you knew going in that more than likely you would fail—though I doubt ballplayers actually think of that going in—as you believe that the way the world works is that the top people, the best people, make it their business to never publicly fail.

That's just totally wrong.

The top people, the best people, fail quite publicly, and in quite grand ways, over and over again, but other people in considering the fantasy of being at the top of their game, believe that the reality is perfection, or near perfection, where failure is avoided at all costs.

The best way for a ballplayer to avoid failure at all costs is to quit the game.

Some in looking at my many failures over the years have gone on to give me more advice, like I should just quit.

Yet that was years ago. I think telling me to quit is a silly way to publicly fail, especially when I can talk about my accomplishments

sci.math: Importance of Failure

since the first people told me, ordered me, to quit.

For over five years I toiled without a major result, and now I have four.

These results have a real world impact, though many try to deny them, and that impact grows with each passing day.

Now the people who are looking at public failure are the people who spend so much time trying to control me and what I do.

I'm more or less, to use another football analogy, like a massive linebacker who just keeps pushing forward, with lots of little people dragging at me in various ways, fighting to hold me back—and failing.

MASSIVE FAILURE is often just a way to move forward, as you look at what went wrong, where your mistakes were, and try to see where to go next.

But I don't pretend that it's some magnificent thing that I do keep going—in spite of the orders to stop—as I basically do what I enjoy.

If you learn nothing else in this life, you should learn that you will always fail at trying to convince someone that they do not enjoy something they do enjoy.

I enjoy what I do. I don't like the failures, but I accept that they are part of doing what I enjoy.

Some of you will make posts that basically boil down to trying to convince me that I don't enjoy what I enjoy, and you will stupidly fail, as I do enjoy what I enjoy.

But then again, failure is part of life. Maybe some of you, in failing to convince me, can learn from your errors.

I will keep doing what I clearly enjoy, and take the failures with it, just like a professional ballplayer.

James Harris