

IT'S ALL IN THE WAY YOU LOOK AT THINGS

We nearly suffered what my wife called a disaster the other day at our Nazareth House situated on our ranch in Batangas. We have a lot of Japanese kois in the water around the grotto of Our Lady. Well, that morning the residents found a whole lot of them barely alive and floating belly up. They rushed most of them to aquariums that had clean water and applied medicine. Most were saved, but eight died.

My wife felt so bad. It was a tragedy according to her because the dead ones were quite big. I felt differently about the happening. I told her we were lucky not to lose all of them. Something in the water must have gotten to them. Anyway, now we have the survivors in aquariums on our veranda where we can enjoy them. And after cleaning the pool, we have decided to put tilapia there. That is something I have always wanted to do but never got around to it. Okay, we lost eight, a small enough price to pay for added benefits. Emmy kept focusing on the eight dead ones while I kept talking about the advantages of the new situation brought about by the near disaster.

Somebody wrote that, "Failure is the opportunity to start over more intelligently." It's all in the way you look at things. So you lost your car to thieves, but you could have lost your life in the process. You're alive but car-less. Better than being car-less and dead.

There are those who get crushed by setbacks. They cannot get over failure. They dwell on it until they cannot move forward anymore. Instead of learning from it and going on, they retreat into their shell and are too traumatized to try it again.

Vernon Sanders said, "Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards".

John Mason wrote: "No one has ever achieved genuine success who did not at one time or another, teeter on the edge of disaster. If you have tried to do something and failed, you are vastly better off than if you had tried to do nothing and succeeded.

"The person who never makes a mistake must get awfully tired of doing nothing. If you're not making mistakes, you're not risking enough... the only way to make a comeback is to go on. If the truth were known, 99 percent of success is built on former failure.

"A mistake usually proves that somebody stopped talking long enough to do something. You're like a tea bag: not worth much until you've been through some hot water."

So don't be afraid of hot water. It's amazing how you can turn a crisis into something of value, that is, if you believe.

