The Tragic Sense of Life

*Life is not, nor ever has been, a straight line forward … Life is characterized much more by exception and disorder than by total or perfect order. Life, as the biblical tradition make clear, is both loss and renewal, death and resurrection, chaos and healing at the same time; life seems to be a collision of opposites.*

* Do you gravitate toward the “never broken, always-applicable rules and patterns” of life? Describe how you deal with things that do not fit “the universal mold.” By what methods have you been able to free yourself of the need to adhere to specific principles in every situation?
* Do you agree that even our sin/error has something to teach us? Could there be such a thing as “necessary transgressions” as we seen to see in the Adam & Eve story? Write a lesson you have learned through acknowledgement of a destructive pattern in your life.
* What does the term *necessary suffering* mean to you? Describe a time when the awareness of your connection to the big picture helped you cope with failure and loss. Does the context of your place within the larger whole help you absorb it?