Pedagogies of Hope- Hope is a choice

I nearly didn't make this image. I procrastinated, dithered, and wondered whether I had anything useful to contribute. Then, in one of those wonderfully synchronistic moments, I was listening to a poetry podcast and heard a Palestinian poet speaking about hope. It was the nudge I needed. When the universe slaps you in the face with poetry, I've learned it's best to listen!

My image stems from the idea that hope in higher education isn't about ignoring the difficult stuff. The noise, negativity and uncertainty are real. But hope is a choice, it's a path we can take.

For me, practising hope means consciously orienting ourselves towards purpose, connection and possibility, staying true to the kaupapa that got me into teaching in the first place. It means investing in relationship, in whanaungatanga, and continuing to see all the massive potential in our ākonga, our kaimahi and ourselves.

We cannot control all the threatening clouds around education, but we do have some agency in how we respond to them and where we put our energy.

Hope isn't passive optimism. It's a path we choose. And it's certainly a more rewarding and fun journey than sitting and admiring the problems!

Ngā mihi nui to the organisers of this symposium 😊, Thomas Johnson