

## HOW TO BE A LEADER? LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

by:

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When we were young, we lived our life believing in the happily-ever-after-type of story. We grew up with fantasies that we are supernatural beings just like the marvel heroes. At some point of our childhood, we dreamt of having some mystical power to help those who are in need. It is pretty sure that most of us, if not all, look up at someone we idolize. Henceforth, (Goleman, 2000) elaborated in his article that a leader's drive is pointless unless he can inspire others. A leader who lacks empathy might just as well lack it altogether. Social intelligence empowers leaders to use emotional intelligence. But as we grow older, we realize that real-life heroes are embodied by great leaders of society. Those who live for greater cause. But are we all capable of being a leader? If so, how can we be an effective leader?

Well, I personally believe that a leader possess the following traits:

**Skills** – to be an effective leader we must possess the technical knowledge or skill to lead our subordinates. As a leader, we are expected to exemplify nothing but the best we could. We are the epitome of greatness. While it is true that there is no perfect leader, our people expect nothing but excellence.

**Integrity** – A person of integrity is worthy of emulation and inspiration. To be a leader, one must realize the importance of integrity. One who is never afraid to stand for the truth and one who is never afraid to speak that truth to power. A leader of integrity cannot be easily persuaded by money, title, position, or any other material things in exchange of his or her life principles.

Subsidiarity – Leaders understand that power never emanates from them. It is important for a leader to share his or her knowledge, skills, and learnings to his or her subordinates. A leader does not own the spotlight. He or she always considers giving everyone the moment of their life. A leader enables his subordinates to grow by giving them opportunity to showcase what they are capable of.

Compassion – I think the most important trait of a leader is compassion. We are already surrounded by intelligent people but only few of them really understand the essence of leadership. Leadership is not about one's self. It is about the people regardless of economic status, gender, race, color, or religion who bring positive impact to other people. A true leader goes beyond the idea of being a leader. He or she dives in the deepest part of someone's heart and extend a helping hand whenever one needs it.

According to (Toegel & Barsoux, 2012) at all levels of leadership, there is intense demand to accelerate. Executives may struggle in these settings to control their innate psychological characteristics. And when they advance in a company, their behaviors are reviewed more closely. In the end, we realize that we need not to have special powers to be able to help others. As a normal citizen we can be of greater service to others by having the abovementioned traits.

#### *References:*

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