



LEADERSHIP-A QUALITY ABOVE ALL

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A very broad and multi-faceted term is what embodies leadership per se. Can we also say that it is tantamount to being successful? It is a very distinct quality that is innate in every human being. It is an inherent ability that every individual possess, whether it be good or bad. It has many aspects yet it agrees that a leader is one whose magnetic personality galvanizes people for some cause. They have not only this aura but charisma that arouses the awareness of their followers. Great leaders influence their followers not by words but by their actions. They walk what they preach and serve as catalyst, for their presence is enough to motivate and influence the people. In my opinion, I do not think that we can single out a definition for leadership.

As William Shakespeare said, "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them." Yes, we can agree on this fact that some people are born leaders as God has designated a person to be. Take the example of the Bible characters like Moses, Joseph and David, who very well describes that they were chosen by God to be a leader of His people. If you will delve into each of their characters, nobody's life was exemplary but they were made commendable by God. Thus, one can say that born leaders have that inner compulsion or urge which drive them to accomplish great tasks. Some achieve greatness is groomed in a discipline to acquire leadership qualities. Then, towards this specific purpose or goal, some have imbued a kind of discipline to acquire leadership qualities. As the Scripture says in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way that it should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Apart from the innate qualities of leadership, these things should be inculcated in one's mind, courage, initiative, drive, a sense of responsibility and impartiality, not only having that special skill but also having that wisdom, intelligence and be conscientious.

A good leader avoids procrastination and always displays their abilities and intelligence to make apt and appropriate decisions for that matter. He is able to withstand and face tough challenges and complex situations in life. Some leaders become perverted when they acquire fame and power. They become so obsessed with their power that they tend to forget their humble beginnings and virtually become a dictator. Hitler was a living example of a dictator who was tyrannical and self-possessed. True leadership then is not allowing oneself to be overwhelmed by his status. A leader should be prepared to sacrifice his personal interests for the good of others; therefore a good leader lives for others. Great deeds make great men. A living testimony to this can be found in the person of Mahatma Gandhi, whom others try to emulate because he lived a life of self-denial and hardship. Trust, confidence and being optimistic are the attributes of a good leader.

The bottom line is to be a good leader; you should be a good follower and is always willing and able to learn from his mistakes. Therefore, we in our own right can be good leaders because we have the courage to take challenges and go where no one has gone before. We only have one life to live so we might as well live it to the fullest.

Questions for discussion:

1. What are the qualities of being a good leader?
2. Can you qualify yourself as a leader? In what aspect are you one?
3. What are the attributes of good leadership?
4. Can we consider all the prominent people to be good leaders? Explain your answer.
5. Leaders should be capable of taking risks, so how can you explain the saying, "The higher the risk, the higher is the gain"?