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Leadership

Leadership has been described as the process of social influence in which one person can enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task. I believe that leadership in itself can vary on a gigantic amount of different subjects. While leadership is in fact something that someone must be skilled at to have, the morals and values behind leadership can greatly vary, as shown all through history.

A leader with vision has a clear, vivid picture of where to go, as well as a firm grasp on what success looks like and how to achieve it. A leader must be able to communicate his or her vision in terms that cause followers to buy into it. He or she must communicate clearly and passionately, as passion is contagious. A good leader must have the discipline to work toward his or her vision single-mindedly, as well as to direct his or her actions and those of the team toward the goal. Action is the mark of a leader; a leader speaks through his actions. Famous leaders through time include social figures such as Gandhi, who was the pre-eminent political and ideological leader of India during the Indian independence movement and even figures of evil such as Adolf Hitler who by his hand caused the death of millions of Jewish people during his Nazi reign and invasion of Poland and other countries during the time of World War II.

I believe that there are certain traits one must have to be a leader, and I feel that they are integrity, dedication, magnanimity, humility, openness, creativity, fairness, and last of all, assertiveness. Integrity is the integration of outward actions and inner values. A person of integrity is the same on the outside and on the inside, this basically meaning that this person can be trusted. Dedication means spending whatever time or energy is necessary to accomplish the task at hand. Magnanimity means giving credit where it is due. A magnanimous leader ensures that credit for successes is spread as widely as possible throughout the company. Leaders with humility recognize that they are no better or worse than other members of the team. A humble leader is not self-effacing but rather tries to elevate everyone. Openness means being able to listen to new ideas, even if they do not conform to the usual way of thinking. Good leaders are able to suspend judgment while listening to others' ideas, as well as accept new ways of doing things that someone else thought of. Creativity is the ability to think differently, to get outside of the box that constrains solutions. Fairness means dealing with others consistently and justly. A leader must check all the facts and hear everyone out before passing judgment. Assertiveness is not the same as aggressiveness. Rather, it is the ability to clearly state what one expects so that there will be no misunderstandings. A leader must be assertive to get the desired results.

With these traits combined, a person is certain to become a worthy leader, leadership is a rare skill within people, and people with leadership drive others to achieve.