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As a common citizen my culture has raised me to know from the time I could walk that any adult is my leader. Whether that adult was an arbitrary stranger or a person I recognized, I was to put all my trust into this human. That they would show me the way, lead me in the right direction. Promoting that they had all of the answers, I was to fear nothing. It was around the age of early adolescence when I began to challenge the idea of being that follower, did my elders have all the answers? If they did why did I feel so uninformed about my strength's? No leader of mine showed me what I was capable of, where was the innovation to do something great if I was only holding the hands of my leaders and not leading myself. Where they rose showing me right from wrong, they fell in showing me that I was capable of doing so much on my own. It took some adjustment, but I found my feet under these lanky legs. To me the finding of these feet portrayed the ability to walk on my own leading my own path and fate. No one in front of me blazing that path, the only footprints on this path were the ones of my own being. Illuminated by my visions, I could say that I have a dream.

We are all born leaders. Yet, we have become so engrossed in the set ways of being followers that it is expected of us to not question any sort of higher authority. True leaders have questioned this authority; they question it with their visions and dreams. If they didn't, they wouldn't be a leader. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. did not concede to the orders of others above him. He had a vision for himself, and those that believed in that vision took their beliefs and found their own feet; beating down a path to walk tall, strong and proud. Knowing they had led themselves with their idea. For me this is what a true leader does, a leader leads with a passionate desirable dream. They ask questions; they stop the hand holding and walk alone.

The upcoming generation has been shown great leaders of the past. Now it is our turn to show the older and younger generations how we can improve the previous generation's standards on leadership. Being independent and separate from the status quo we can blaze a new trail of knowledge and strength; modeling to the ones we should be influencing that they can stand out and not sit in the back of the bus. Illuminate the eyes of peers and innovate the ability to spark the fire of one's opinions. This is not corruption; this is the voice that we have been given as Americans. Voice, is the most powerful tool a leader can have. The independent soul that shares a voice has the power to put forth new coming of ideas and have a profound impact to improve upon the older generations.

Leadership isn't just about encouraging others to take that leap into uncovering their own footprints; it is also enlightening the mind and voice to creatively inspire a new generation to come up with new ways to enhance the world we live by. We are the leaders of ourselves, if we do not break free of the monotonous following we will be stuck in the dark ages. Therefore, we illuminate ourselves with our lust to become greater individuals; to be improved leaders within our own self.