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Leadership is the ability to get results

Dear Penfabricans,

Many of us aspire to be leaders. All of us admire heroes. However, not everyone can become or even wish to be a leader or a hero. Of course, heroes and leaders are made of different qualities and sterner stuff. Sometimes, they tend to be one and the same person. Perhaps, to be a hero, the prerequisite is to be a great leader. Would you aspire to be a leader? What are the ingredients of a good leader?

When we look at outstanding leaders of the world, be it in industry or country, we conjure up a towering stature and an image of a magnificent person. A leader is someone we look up to, turn to and rely on when we run into problems. He commands respect and a following. We think that the leader holds a position that is over and above the rest of us. There are actually some misunderstanding about the stature, role and power of leaders. What a leader ought to be has often been misconstrued. Let's explore the major characteristics, real roles and responsibilities of a great leader, as below:

1. First and foremost, leadership is about action, not position per se. It is defined by what you do or what you potentially can do. It is not just the big title on your business card alone.
2. Leaders are made not just born. They are trained and nurtured into great leaders. This signifies that anyone can be a leader provided he or she puts in time and great effort to become one. Thus, leadership training and nurturing is important.
3. Leaders know who they are. When called upon or when circumstances arise, they will step up and present themselves to lead the team.
4. Leaders know what they want. They know their roles and go out of their way to achieve what they aspire to do. Goal setting is an important attribute of a good leader.
5. Leaders are committed to winning. It is not just about going around

performing tasks. They are focused and honed in on winning battles and achieving targets. They are willing to make sacrifices on their own accord in order to be winners.

6. Leaders are courageous. They do not hold back in times of crisis, danger or difficulties. They find ways to resolve problems and overcome the challenges. Come hell or high water, a good leader is always there to lead and tackle the task at hand.

7. Leaders are results oriented. They go all out to perform and get the desired results. They possess a positive mindset to turn defeats into victories.

8. Leaders inspire others. Leaders give others the wow factor, inspiring awe in their capability and ability to achieve results by overcoming any and all hurdles along the way. No ifs, ands or buts.

9. Leaders are role models. People like to emulate their good results and performances.

10. In a nutshell, leadership is the ability to influence people, solve problems, overcome hurdles and deliver the desired or even better results.

These are snapshots of leadership and the ingredients of a good leader. In conclusion, do heroes make circumstances or circumstances create heroes? Both could be right.

Dear Penfabricans, let us tune our mental outlook to be in positive mode to make ourselves leaders.

Have a wonderful weekend while mulling over how and why some of us are good leaders while others are just followers. Make plans and take concrete actions to transform into successful leaders.

Thank you.

With kind regards,

HSTeh.