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## **A STALLIONS WAY TO LEAD**

### **Author's notes**

Leadership is hard to condense. There are so many ingredients that are incorporated that entail a 'good leader.' Through my experiences, there are about five main elements that you need in a leadership position. If you possess or acquire these components of leadership, I believe you will be a successful leader.

### **CHAPTER ONE: FIRE IN THE BELLY**

*"Passion. If your heart's not in it, get out. The sky's the limit if your heart's in it. You've got to have enthusiasm. If you haven't got enthusiasm you're buggered!" – Tom O'Toole.*

There is nothing in this world that anyone could successfully accomplish without their heart involved. One of your first steps as a leader will be discovering the fire in your belly. It has been said before that passion drives a leader and, passion is the fire in your belly itching to get out! Passion is the foundation to a successful goal.

This is an important aspect because it will sustain you more than any other influence. I have learned that passion is what drives people to go beyond the extra mile; it is what drives people to stay focus and motivated. Passion is the forefront of all leadership and all successful goals.

After months of working on a goal, your job may get tedious and boring. Therefore, if you are working on something you are passionate about, you can easily remember why you are working so hard and why you need to continue the job you are

doing. So many people get caught up in doing things they are unhappy with because they lose sight of what drives them. With a centered passion, you can accomplish wonderful things.

## **CHAPTER TWO: AS FAR AS YOU CAN SEE**

*“Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare.”*

*-Japanese Proverb*

Being able to see and combine the realistic world and the dream you wish to make real, is a talent and key leadership trait. Time is an important factor when dealing with vision. Be careful when choosing or assigning your goal. Make sure that it is achievable in the time limit you set. So easily do we get stressed or bogged down with the work that we should be willing to do. By giving yourself enough time to accomplish the little steps in place, you will then be better achieving your lasting goal.

In so many ways leaders get carried away by over extending their followers and not letting them see the light at the end of the tunnel. Almost as important as having a vision, is not letting the clouds block the sunlight. Many times you will encounter obstacles that will frustrate and discourage you. As you begin the process of accomplishment, you may begin to lose sight of why this is important to you due to frustrations from your obstacles. Through your vision and passion, you will learn to overcome these obstacles. With vision, it is the leader’s responsibility to keep it always lit so the followers can see the end of the tunnel.

Vision is a hard part of leadership. When working with a group be sure to find a consensus on your future goal. Make sure all are satisfied and challenged by your vision. Visions are not meant to be accomplished within a few steps. Having a vision should be

as creative, and as useful *as far as you can see*, otherwise it would be a glance and not a vision!

### **CHAPTER THREE: SELF DISCIPLINE**

*“Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you, you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe that your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to the end, requires some of the same courage which a soldier needs.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Leadership requires a certain level of maturity. You must be self confident, self reassuring and most importantly, you must be able to discipline yourself. There will be many obstacles that you must get over and keep pushing onward toward your vision. Because you are a leader, you will be setting an example for all of those around you.

There are several areas in which you need to be self disciplined in. One area is the ability to keep yourself focused, your followers focused and motivated. Sometimes your followers will be discouraged and you will too. But, what makes you the leader and NOT the follower is your ability to push yourself and continue doing the good work. You are an example and if you continue the work, your followers will as well.

Secondly, you must recognize within yourself what your strengths and weaknesses are. No one is good at everything and that is why teams are so effective. If everyone contributes, we can use all of their strengths to accomplish a great task. As a leader you need to do this as well. If you have a specific weakness that you have recognized, make sure there is someone on your team that can replace your weakness with their strength. It is important for you to utilize the assets your team brings to the table.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: ORGANIZATION, MAKE YOU OR BREAK YOU**

*“Long-term planning is not about making long-term decisions, it is about understanding the future consequences of today's decisions.” - Gary Ryan Blair*

Being organized is an essential part of carrying out your goal. The best way that I have found to stay on top of things is to set mini goals. Set smaller goals that led up to the accomplishment of the larger vision. This is a good way to keep your project rolling as well as getting everything done that needs to be completed.

If a vision is not fully accomplished, in some way it was due to the organization of the team. Team members need to have specific responsibilities to contribute to the entirety of the group instead of the whole group doing it all. When people are not assigned specific work, they may get lost, bored and ultimately they may not contribute very much at all to the group. Being organized means having a calendar and abiding by it, yes, but it also means keeping the team members on task.

Through organization, you can do the best you possibly can by also utilizing and collaborating with another team member. Collaboration only is triumphant when those who are working together are organized. Being organized only will help you and your team member work more efficiently and quicker. It is easy to lose sight of what you need to get done if you cannot even see the goal laid before you to accomplish.

Organization is a must for a successful goal. Leaders must be organized or the team will go astray. Many times, if the leader is unorganized the followers will get discouraged and unsatisfied. Being unorganized leads to the downfall of the team and failure to meet the goal. Organization will either make you into a better, more efficient team or it will break you completely.

## CHAPTER FIVE: MOTIVATING OTHERS FOR THE LONG RUN

*“In motivating people, you've got to engage their minds and their hearts. I motivate people, I hope, by example - and perhaps by excitement, by having productive ideas to make others feel involved.” -Rupert Murdoch*

Leading others is a huge task and not an easy one. Leaders are set apart from the rest of the followers by their actions, attitude and ability to influence others.

“Leading by example” is a common quote regarding leadership. As common as it is, it is also quite true! Leading by example means you must set a precedent for your followers to stand by. When motivating others as a leader, if you are excited about the project, your followers will be too! If you express how thrilled and passionate you are about the upcoming vision, so too will you followers be. Expressing yourself is a powerful and influential tool that can easily be rubbed off onto your followers. If they are as excited about their tasks as you are, they will be much easier to work with and more open to the ideas of the plan to accomplish your goal.

Another way to motivate your followers would be to remind them everyday that they are appreciated and are doing a great job. It is always nice to be encouraged by your leader. Being recognized for good work encourages the good work to continue and most likely it will!

A third way to keep your followers engaged is when the goal is completed, celebrate your team and their hard work. This is a great way to show appreciation and that you care about them personally. By celebrating, this shows that as a leader you recognize all the work they have done and you are proud to have been apart of the group. Your followers will remember how you have supported, appreciated and cared about

them the first time they experienced you as a leader. For the second time around, they will know how you will treat them and encourage them to reach their full potential.

I leave you with a quote that defines my ways of leadership. “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others,” quoted by Mahatma Gandhi. I found my leadership style after project after project working for others and realizing that I was very happy doing this. By serving others do I get my fill as a leader. Helping another hopefully in some way is what drives me and is what motivates me every time I set out to do something.