

# LEADERSHIP

The road to leadership is danger-laden. No easy task, this. Leaders must be willing to take the risk, the blame, the truth, and the storm. Never the easy way. Never safety first. There is a zeal for adventure. A willingness to endure. A devotion to work. A passion to win.

Leaders have low tolerance for idleness. No regular office hours for them. They recognize that to stay on top is more difficult than the journey to get there. They do not understand that forty hour week. What they seek is the forty hour day. There is a sacrificial willingness to pay the price. Laboriously, painstakingly, they extend new frontiers. There is a driving, ceaseless, commitment to the task. An indomitable persistence. An immense sustained urge to succeed. They thrive on the discipline and struggle of adversity.

An uncommon individual, the leader. He or she is a nonconformist, a dissenter, a malcontent, and will do anything to escape the tyranny of mediocrity. They understand that the difference between failure and success is often the difference in doing something nearly right and doing it exactly right. They have the power to persuade and inspire others to heights they thought unreachable.

They are energy and enthusiasm in motion. Willing to try anything once. They know that no great plan is ever achieved without meeting obstacles others thought impossible.

In every field of human endeavor, those that are first must perpetually live the white light of publicity. Whether the leadership be vested in a person or in a manufactured product, emulation and envy are ever at work. In art, in literature, in music, industry, the reward and the punishment are always the same. The reward is widespread recognition; the punishment, fierce denial and detraction.

When a person's work becomes a standard for the whole world. It also becomes a target for the shafts of the envious few. If the work be merely mediocre, he or she will be left severely alone. If he or she achieves a masterpiece, it will set a million tongues a wagging. Jealousy does not protrude its forked tongue at the artist who produces a commonplace painting.

Leaders are assailed because they are leaders, and the effort to equal them is merely added proof of that leadership. The follower seeks to depreciate and to destroy. There is nothing new in this, and it all avails nothing.

If the leader truly leads, he or she remains the leader, master poet, master painter, master workman. That which is good or great makes itself known. That which deserves to live, lives.