

LEADERSHIP CAN BE LEARNED

A common belief is that leaders are born, not made and yet how many people who have shown little interest or desire in leading as young people, turn out to be reluctant but great leaders as adults? If you have the desire to lead, the will to persevere and to be of service, then leadership *can* be learned. You can develop and nurture personal leadership qualities.

I believe we *all* have these abilities within us, they are innate, lying dormant, waiting for the need or desire to ignite, they come to the surface. I believe all of us, at some time in our lives are given an opportunity to lead, whether it is in our families, in business or in our communities. Like Andy Wahold prediction that each one of us gets one minute of fame, everyone in their lifetime will have the opportunity to learn to lead.

Everything you'll ever need to know is within you; the secrets of the Universe are imprinted on the cells of your body.

Dan Millman

So the opportunity for leadership is in each of us, it just needs to be exercised, to be used for it to spark, to be activated. This creative process is activated by becoming consciously aware, curious and committed to the best possible outcome.

In most of us there is something that wants to follow or at least explore the latest idea, the latest trend. While the pursuit of new frontiers is healthy, there has been a tendency to completely abandon previous valuable ideas rather than to merge them with the new and this can be an addictive process. The 1980's produced many 'seminar junkies', many were leaders. They attended seminars to find the 'answers'. Not finding what they were looking for, or failing to put into action anything that they had learned, they would require another uplifting or motivational seminar to encourage them.

If we look with balance and maturity at new systems and techniques and take on those which resonate within us, we can

personalise and incorporate those of value into the complexity of your own leadership style.

Look at these key elements of leadership and integrate those which resonate with you.

- Create an exciting vision for your future. Have a clear, firm vision of what you want for the future. Then set strategy, goals and action to achieve this vision.
- Match your behaviour to your vision and goals.
- Lead by example. “Walk your talk”, do what you say you will do. Speak to and treat others with the dignity and respect you yourself desire. This provides consistency and stability for those around you.
- Be able to reduce the complex to simple.
- Become curious.
- Keep open to new ideas and different view points; this is the enabler to being flexible, interesting and charismatic.
- Recognise the achievements of others and tell them every day.

Lastly, have courage and use brave behaviour. Be willing to make tough decisions that may not be popular with others. Be clear and confident about your ability and direction. Access and act on your intuition, this will give you the keys to allow your unique style to shine through.

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