

MY WAY OR THE HIGHWAY!

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The best leaders are committed to a cause.

Oftentimes their cause is their people whether it be their customers or their staff. They are committed to creating a new day every day in the organization. Paraphrasing George Washington Carver as he spoke about life in general, "I would say that the better leaders can be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic to the striving, and tolerant of the weak." They should improve the work life of their colleagues, provide the framework from which colleagues can grow, provide a shoulder upon which colleagues can lean and provide a sanctuary where colleagues can be re-energized.

Good leaders know when to strategically "ride the horse in the direction it is going or not."

Whether you are new in an organization or you have been in an organization for a number of years, leaders must constantly assess and reassess their organizational environment. The core variables in the organizational environment are the personalities that exist. What are the new personalities like? Have the old personalities changed in one way or another? How can you best take advantage of the strengths of each person? What gaps in skill set do you have to fill?

In leadership your light shines everywhere whether you want it to or not. Take advantage of the individual strengths of your team. Leaders do not have to always demand their own way. The best leaders do not control every aspect of the organization all the time. The best leaders guide more often than control. Being versatile is a strength not a weakness.

As a leader you are being watched all the time. It is not always whether you succeed or not that is important. Sometimes it is how you succeed that is important. It is not always how you handle success that is important, it is how you handle the losses, the grief, the disappointments and the failures. All good leaders have them. In leadership your light shines everywhere, often in places for which you are not aware.

My way or the highway is necessary sometimes, but more often than not it is not the right decision.

Sometimes our own leadership ability is over-rated.