

WE, THE SERVANTS

An Oration

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Following a graduation ceremony at a Midwestern high school, I left thinking of the oration of the day. The graduates had been given the obligatory rundown of the traits built into them during their school days.

I'm certain that the graduates and their parents came away convinced that knowledge, strength, patriotism and a solid philosophical foundation had been laid.

Also, the graduates had been instilled with another quality which would be paramount to their success and to the future benefit to the world - LEADERSHIP. I wondered if any of these kids could define that word - leader.

In inquiring among, first the students, and then others. It became apparent that few of us can really explain the qualities that constitute leadership in our world. Most people answered with the types of people who must lead - or should I say are supposed to lead?

Politicians, employers, military commanders.... The list goes on. And, as I thought more about the question, it became apparent that all of us lead at one time or another.

Personally, I became discouraged when I thought of the qualities so many of our citizens have omitted from their leadership technique. But that hardly answered the question: What constitutes a leader?

The best answers I could present were not answers at all. Rather, I created a list of qualities I feel a leader must have whether it be in charge of youth, or up through the corporate or political strata.

First of all, the leader must be a servant, able to sublimate the always present egotistic drive. For, in reality, success will only come when the group knows that those who lead are serving them. Take away the leader's ability to defer to others and those who follow will become indifferent.

One of the greatest leaders of all time is quoted as having said: "Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant."

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