It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front when you celebrate victory and when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.

— Nelson Mandela (b. 1918), South African president.

The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office.


No institution can possibly survive if it needs geniuses or supermen to manage it. It must be organized in such a way as to be able to get along under a leadership composed of average human beings.

— Peter Drucker (1909-2005), US writer and management consultant.

If I have seen farther than others, it is because I was standing on the shoulder of giants.

— Isaac Newton (1642-1727), English scientist.

As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others.


I have three precious things which I hold fast and prize. The first is gentleness; the second is frugality; the third is humility, which keeps me from putting myself before others. Be gentle and you can be bold; be frugal and you can be liberal; avoid putting yourself before others and you can become a leader among men.

— Lao-Tzu (604-531 B.C.), founder of Taoism, in Tao Te Ching.

Leaders must be close enough to relate to others, but far enough ahead to motivate them.

— John Maxwell (b. 1947), Christian pastor and author of The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership.

If I have the belief that I can do it, I will surely acquire the capacity to do it, even if I may not have it at the beginning.

— Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948), prominent leader of the Indian independence movement.

Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you help them to become what they are capable of being.

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), German writer, artist and politician.

Find what scares you, and do it. And you can make a difference, if you choose to do so.


No man is good enough to govern another man without that other’s consent.

— Abraham Lincoln (1831-1881), US president.

There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle, or to be the mirror that reflects it.