

FOLLOWING ARE LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS FROM JAI HO

Raghu ;

A leader leads by example. A good leader seems hardly present but inspires and gives the idea to others to be leader.

Once a leader is democratically elected he should have good room to act and not be stopped in the process by any tom, dick or harry....

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Gayatri ;

My experience is that most people want a leader who makes decisions for them, but this is not my idea of a good leader.

I believe a good leader instead inspires others to take responsibility and become involved!

They should be there to guide people, not rule them, and they should not have an invested interest in outcomes so much as process.

A good leader must be a good listener also, and be flexible enough to change their minds when a better solution becomes apparent.

Most of all, to quote Muniraj, "The best leader is someone who doesn't want to be the leader!"

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Ramloti;

At that time we talked about leadership and really felt that leadership by example was the most effective way. If everyone at the ashram goes to Aarati each morning and evening because they value this time together, than little needs to be said to a newcomer, they just also go to Aarati. It is the same with all the karma yoga, if we are all willing to sweep, mop, clean, wash dishes, and cook, than it is natural for all visitors to do the same. Yes, we have a schedule posted that says all staying at the ashram are asked to follow it, but we rarely even need to point this out. We became more a team of leaders that valued the involvement and support of all participants.

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MayaRam ;

Democracy should be used only for general discussions and voting for leader - president and his consultants.

After president is voted for desired period of time, decisions are not divided any more and here democracy stops and start service and support.

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Uday

I believe as Babaji has said often that the times ahead are going to be very disruptive. We can already see that happening. We have to be thought leaders and think how we can turn our Ashrams as a sanctuaries for many devotees who are displaced and dislocated and yet build a sustainable economic model around the ashrams by using modern permaculture, solar power ,have small scale industries to sustain our flock. Its an ambitious big picture but unless we dream big we are not going to be relevant. All this can be done if we can find ten young leaders and groom them.

I think one of the long term objectives of Jai Ho and elders of the Samaj should be to look out for such dedicated Leaders of tomorrow and induct them in our various Ashrams.

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Kharku

A leader is someone dedicates their life to achieving the goal who can inspire and involve others on the journey, with faith and integrity. Seeing the big picture while focusing on the goal, a person who knows what one doesn't know and will find the people who do, who has the ability to listen and learn, and be able to see from the others perspective. Inspired by faith while remaining pragmatic, feet firmly on the earth. A leader is a team builder and understands success is team work. Who does not personalize the mistakes and emotions of others but manages them and see's each person as a part of the whole. A person who can read the character of others inspiring them to become more than they imagined themselves to be, broadening their perception, empowering them to be independent, inspiring them to greatness. A leader sees problems as a challenge, remaining upbeat and looks for the positive solution. Has the ability to accept set backs and mistakes and apologize when appropriate. Be a mentor and sometimes a parent. A leader can not always lead by example but must be an example of the qualities of the organization. Must be flexible and fluid while mindful, this way good decisions can be made. A leader can not always be right, but strives to be.

Babaji taught simple principles because truth is simple, Unyielding Faith!

Truth Simplicity and Love

Not to wait for miracles but to create miracles

Not to trust people because of what they say, but what they do.

Let the doers do, talkers only talk,

Pay everyone for their work.. in other words recognize everyone

The ability to actually listen and see from the others perspective

Take nothing personal . With Love

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Sundar Baba:

What to share about Leadership? What has been given so far was very interesting. Thank you.

Generally speaking I think leadership is something very natural. Some have it, some don't. Those who have it are either positive leaders = for the benefit of All or in sync with Dharma or negative leaders = for the benefit of themselves or a small elite group/family/caste, not dharmic or mixed quality leadership (most) = trying the good, doing a lot of wrong/mistakes/ignorance, or trying the bad and still doing good or not living their leadership and having the consequences of this and some people are not by nature leaders and will learn it through the need they meet in life, it is then a real sacrifice.

The ways to reach the leadership:

in some instances in free structures again very natural or through the structures of democracy, tribal rules or protectionism or taking the leadership with force or accepting leadership which is asked and nobody else can fulfill it.

There are many facets to positive leadership, but leadership is certainly and before all **service**, a **responsibility** towards the CREATOR, the Sadguru, the true leader, and to society, for the benefit of all.

Right now leadership has for me two foreground connotations:

One is coordinating all the efforts and parts of a task or collective undertaking in the interest and to the interest of all involved with LOVE, wisdom and strategic insight and giving a feeling of clear direction, rhythm and shelter. Also the adequate Feedback to all those involved so that all know where a project is on its way and can do their best at their place of duty and involvement.

Leadership can be an individual with council or a small group itself. There can but needn't be a first among equals.

Leadership can also mean going ahead, trying out new Land, experimenting with the unknown, being a visionary and communicating sharing about this with the others involved or interested.

At Schweibenalp, the main field of experimentation in my life of the last 35 years, we have been changing the forms of leadership many times in 33 years of our active life as centre and Ashram, as it depends on the people who are there, available, their needs to be and grow and the needs of the project itself.

One question always is the leader function of the board versus the role of the community living here. There we follow the lines that the board is supervising the vision of the place, when the community is visionary itself and can lead, it may lead. When the community is weaker, what has happened in many instances over phases, the board takes over leadership and hold more responsibilities.

In the last year we again changed our structures from basic democratic, where everyone and nobody was leading – and then some had to lead in a non-transparent way, as otherwise things would go haywire, which they also went in some ways – to a core community, which has leadership and delegates certain responsibilities to a coordination team with one managing director towards the outside for representation. To belong to the core community we have some conditions of commitment.

What I always and always forget again although it is paramount is that it really doesn't mean so much what we do, but how we do it and there I feel the connection, with what Ram Loti was writing about: Tolerance, aware, that we don't know, why people come or don't, participate or don't, willingness to share and to listen, to be vulnerable ourselves and curious for the new as well as faithful to the accustomed. It's a long list of inter-human exercise for the Leader to not reign but lead and as Ram Loti puts it lead by example.

A main aspect of leadership is always empowering others!! Handing leadership over to others, sharing leadership.

The very big question for any organism is hierarchy or holarchy and how flat or how steep they are. As in the question with freedom and commitment as two extremes, we are always in paradox with to flat hierarchy or too steep hierarchy and what it brings with itself.

In the cosmic world and in nature we have both. Like in the life organism there is flat hierarchy. In social organisms of animals mostly very steep hierarchy. Always according to the needs of survival and success.

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