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Leading by Example

Great leaders often embody the principles and behaviors they wish to instill in their people. Rather than simply issuing instructions, they demonstrate the desired qualities through their own actions. This "leading by example" approach can be highly effective.

For instance, instead of simply demanding that colleagues publish research, a great leader would work alongside them and highlight the fulfillment that comes from sharing one's scholarly work with the broader community. They would provide mentorship and guidelines based on their own experiences to support and empower their team members.

The same principle applies across various domains - in teaching, community engagement, administrative tasks, and so on. The most impactful leaders do not merely tell people what to do, but show them how it is done through their own diligent efforts.

Some individuals may possess a natural talent for leadership, while others may be more comfortable in supportive, follower roles. Effective leaders recognize and accommodate these differences. Their duty is to uplift and guide the followers by modeling the behaviors and mindsets they wish to cultivate. They must walk the walk and talk the talk.

Throughout history, the greatest leaders - whether in business, academia, or elsewhere - have been those who led by personal example. By learning from their approach and emulating their style of leadership, we can aspire to have a similarly transformative impact on those we aim to guide and inspire.

"The three most important ways to lead people are:... by example... by example... by example." Albert Schweitzer

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