

SOME THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP IN FAIRFIELD

Fairfield has a new mayor. Soon, two talented councilmen will share the catbirds' seat. The Daily Republic has a new publisher and managing editor. The chief of police is presently under siege. All are leaders. Seems like a helluva good time for a little chicken soup for those who are, or would be, king.

Leaders may have a rather lonely existence at times. At times, those are the best of times.

Climbing mountains may improve the view. It's a perspective so many never can or will get. From that mountaintop, a leader may see far and wide. The relationship of everything – the big picture, is potentially clear. Mountain air is thin and pure. That air can be invigorating, dazzling and yet dizzying and cause for delusion. Perched on the pinnacle, you're not an easy target from below, but it's a short campaign if the heavens rage against you. Sitting up high, you are removed from the maddening crowd, but you are also alone. Peak dwellers bask in the sun, which may burn as well as warm their soul. It's a hard road up to the summit; it is easy to tumble down. It is always, for the right ones, worth the climb. Aloft, you can be a lookout for trouble long before others see it – but they may never hear your warnings. Above it all, your vision is not clouded by the smog in lower altitudes of aptitude. However, your focus may not be one of everyday reality.

You got here on pluck and luck. Now, you have an obligation to the gifts you were given, the opportunities you did and did not create. The flames of opportunity burn bright inside – so don't pee on the fire.

You are a leader, a citizen and willingly or not, a mentor. You know what to do and you can do it. Frankly, you will fail miserably at backing, scooting, dancing or flat out running away from your own creativity and the irrepressible call of duty. Trying to pull that escape chord now would be both pathetic and humorous.

Remember, you may be an individual, but you are not alone. You may be complex, but you neither have, nor ever will create a genuinely new emotion or fundamentally original idea. No one does, they uncover, not discover. Don't buy it? Ponder this. Gravity was already there; its birth not contingent on Newton declaring its existence; the power of words did not depend on Shakespeare's birth, and bravery in battle was not invented by Alexander the Great. Thus, in the sense that counts the most of all, you are not alone. That is comforting. That can sow the seeds of understanding and being understood.

So, as the immortal wit Walk Kelley muttered through his hero par excellence, Pogo, "We have met the enemy and it is us."

Besides, you're probably a nice guy and well on the way to growing up to become the person your dog thinks you are; a noble goal indeed. So, lead.

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