

Visionary Leadership – What is needed now!

In the midst of the economic crisis which the world is finding itself in right now the question of leadership around the world is becoming increasingly important. We see this in the focus on the new US President Obama and we also see this as large financial institutions, companies and organizations are shifting and looking to evolve into different entities to adapt to the current world situation.

Over the last few years the business, political, social and environmental world have been evolving to a different paradigm which no longer supports the same kind of leadership which has been existing up until now. So what is Visionary Leadership?

Authentic

Visionary leaders are individuals who truly embody the word authentic in everything they do. They are true to their beliefs, to their words and to their actions. They are uninhibited and risktakers. They are not afraid to admit their mistakes but are willing to rejoice in the learnings they have gained. They are respected for their knowledge but also for their integrity and willingness to be strong but also vulnerable.

Collaborative

They are leaders who are willing to work with others and find mutual connections and benefits of working together. They need to bring people and entities together in easy ways to make things happen and create the changes needed in this world. Leaders need to see the potential that exists in their people and the possibilities that exist as opposed to problems that need to be solved. For years leaders have worked from the paradigm of problem solving and this needs to shift to a paradigm of possibilities in order to access and liberate the potential that is waiting to emerge.

Conscious

Leaders need to be aware of the connections that exist in this world. We are all physically and energetically linked to the planet and to our future and if we continue to work, live and act in silos then the outcome will also be disconnected, weak and unable to create and harness the real opportunities that exist. We see this in organizations where different divisions are working independently from each other, only doing what benefits their immediate situation without realizing the greater company goals. For our future survival on this planet, no country or individual can ignore the environment. Every effort is interlinked to the greater picture of creating sustainability.

Creative

What worked yesterday will not work today for leaders to bring the world forward. Visionary Leaders are willing to look at new ideas, create environments where fresh and new thoughts are free flowing and encouraged. Gone are the days of pure hierarchy and top down management. Leaders need to think beyond themselves and be bigger than their egos. These leaders will be working for the greater good and be able to see beyond the 'self' and beyond the boundaries that organizations have put in place in the past. These leaders will be looking to create new paradigms of working together, new 'language' to communicate and new visions for the future.

Dynamic and Adventurous

These leaders will have the pure energy to move people, organizations and nations forward. They will be engaged, exploratory, energetic, empowering, with a philosophy of abundance and seeing the glass half full instead of half empty. The Visionary leader has a positive energy that ignites the potential in people and allows the space necessary for people to achieve great things. They are confident in who they are as human beings yet always willing to learn and develop themselves further. They are open to feedback and suggestions and their 'being' is motivational in itself because it is authentic, real and represents their alivening sense of abundance and they are able to access the innate abilities of others.

Inspirational

A visionary leaders is someone who is able to inspire others to action. They are inspirational because of who they are as people, what they represent and the messages that they consistently communicate. They are people focused and intentional with their behaviours. They uphold the values of the organization or nation and authentically live by them.

Active and Focused on *How*

Much of *what* we know is needed to lead today is not new to us. Many desired leadership principles have been written about in the leadership literature for many years. Vibrantly living these principles every day, everywhere IS new and can help to evolve new paradigm leadership.

New paradigm leaders are not only a voice for what is needed for leadership today, they model it and create movement around *how* we can live this *all* the time.

They identify and amplify what works within organizations to support people being purposeful, visionary, creative and collaborative and they make this part of “how we do things here”, part of organizational culture. In a nutshell, visionary leaders create the space for *living* vision.

They catch and amplify existing energy and enthusiasm and start wherever there are customers for change trusting that resulting ripples of movement will draw in others and in doing so build momentum. They dare to stay flexible and agile allowing strategy to emerge step by step toward the preferred future.

And they focus on the external as well as the internal, exploring what is wanted by each stakeholder group, for organizational growth and vibrancy, for the industry, the region, the world and the planet.

These are the characteristics that are needed to bring our world forward.

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