“I AM CREDIBLE” AND OTHER MISGUIDED ACTIONS OF WANNA-BE LEADERS

FOR all that leaders plan and strategise, the effectiveness of a leader depends on several traits and competencies—Eric Lau focuses on the essentials of integrity and credibility.

In the same vein, we feature the book Credibility—How Leaders Gain and Lose It, Why People Demand It. How often have we seen leaders demand respect and loyalty, whilst knowing in our hearts that leaders must work hard to earn respect, loyalty and credibility?

My belief is that deep down, these leaders also know that demanding and enforcing respect is a hollow victory.

On a very personal level, Mitch Ditkoff shares his own struggles and internal conflicts on being honest to himself and to everyone he engages with—and the moment it dawned on him that he can make a difference in this world, only if he can speak to all with love and respect. Rather than just plodding along on survival mode, he urges us all to “speak the truth to elevate the conversation”.

Not too far away from the corporate jungle, we take a look at Aesop’s fables, stories that may have opened our minds and eyes as young readers—as we took our tentative first steps into the world of complex human relationships.

Going from a myriad of four-legged, two-legged (and at times no-legged!) protagonists, we take a moment to dwell on Iggy the iguana—who made a great impact on the life and personal development journey of our Lim Lay Huan.

Dinieh Dorai Raj asks the question “What makes a credible leader?” and walks us through five ways a leader might fall from grace. But do leaders only exist in the corporate sphere? While some may try to do more than one hat at a time, Joshua Yee does remind us that we are leaders at work, in families, in our communities—and offers some great insights on how to be effective leaders.

On the topic of leaders (as we most frequently are!), this week we bring you an instalment of The Leaderonomics Show—this time with Datuk Charon Wardini Mokhzani, managing director of The Leaderonomics Show.

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START THEM YOUNG

BY SARA YEE
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CREDIBILITY is a principle that should be harnessed from an early age; teaching a person that holding up specific values—honesty, integrity and timeliness—will ensure that one will go far in life.

No matter where you go or what you do, regardless if you are bound to an organisation or are a freelancer, having this quality in your life will get you far because you will be known to have strong principles that you abide by.

By being credible, not only will people respect you, you will be given more freedom in job execution and possibly an even better pay!

1 BE TIMELY

Remember when your parents drilled into you to never be late to school? It applies to the working world as well.

Being late gives the impression to people that you are not serious about the job and if you miss it completely, that you do not care about the job at all unless you have a valid reason and physical proof.

You should always strive to give yourself a buffer period in case something unexpected happens. If you are late, apologise. Most people are accommodating of one or two instances but too many times and they may come under the assumption that you do not take your job seriously.

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QUOTES

“The opinions expressed in this career guide are those of the writers or the people they quoted and not necessarily those of Leaderonomics.

01 “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”
— Maya Angelou

02 “Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him, and to let him know that you trust him.”
— Booker T. Washington

03 “Every action or perceived inaction shapes credibility.”
— Mindy Hall

04 “The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them.”
— Ernest Hemingway

05 “To have faith is to trust yourself to the water. When you swim you don’t grab hold of the water, because if you do you will sink and drown. Instead you relax, and float.”
— Alan Watts

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