



INDIAN MYTHOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP- A CONTEMPORARY VIEW

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ABSTRACT

If Your Action Inspire Others to Dream More, Learn More,

Do More And Become More, You Are A Leader.

-John Quincy Adams

Leadership is the seedling to influence others behavior towards the realization of goals. Through leadership an executive can guide, direct and persuade the performance and effort of others towards achievement of precise goals in a particular situation. It is considered as a manager's ability to encourage his subordinates to work with full zeal and confidence.

If we turn around thousands of years back we will find that some true leadership qualities were being followed by our Indian Kings which have its healthy existence in today's business world. Here the relevance of those old leadership styles has been shown. Leadership is not just to lead a team but to lead the team with trust, faith, confidence and coordination. The manuscript focuses on the applicability of leadership traits from mythologies for today's business tycoons.

KEYWORDS: Mythology, Leadership qualities, Cream of the crop

INTRODUCTION

It's very easy to state that the leadership stem's are from Vedic times. We all know that a leader is needed by all the followers at some point of time. Hence when we talk of leadership, it means that we are talking about two separate entities- one which is carried on between the leader and the led and the leadership aspect whose end state is towards victory. Thus, a skillful balancing is required by the leader to overcome this conflicting situation involving human needs on one side and needing callousness of execution on the other.

Mythological roots that evolved from classical Hinduism came from Vedic civilization. Once being crowned as king he should try to keep his men happy as per the teaching of Dharma," says Madalsa to her son. Madalsa was one of the great daughters of Aaryavart (Bharat, India). When a prince of Manu dynasty offered her for marriage, in the ashram of a Rishi she accepted the proposal on the condition that she will be teaching her children till the age of five years and if the king will break his promise, she will leave her body within twelve years from that time. She was the kind of lady, who taught her three sons to be away from worldly attractions and to be close to the God and humanism and taught one son

"Alark" about being a king and taught him the qualities and traits of being a kind and wise king/leader. It is from this sermon/ preachings of "Madalsa" to her son "Alark" that the present study finds its concept.

Firstly she preached that while moving on the path of Dharma the king (leader) should stay away from seven bad habits.

- a) Harsh words
- b) Hard punishments.
- c) Abuse of money
- d) Alcohol
- e) Persecution of women
- f) Excess of hunting
- g) Gambling

If the secrets of kingdom (organization) are revealed then the enemies (rivals/ competitors) get freedom to attack, therefore, the king (leader) should work in a fashion that secrets are not leaked. As the movements of chariot go haywire it can be attacked from all eight directions, similarly with the leaking of secrets all eight facets of kingdom (organization) are destroyed.

- a) Progress of agriculture (Production)
- b) Increase in trade (Trading)
- C) Construction of Forts (Infrastructure)
- d) Bridge construction (Economic Growth)
- e) Bringing elephants from forests (Team-mates)

f) Rights of mining (Increase in revenues and luxuries)

g) Collecting tax from kings under him (Taxes)

h) Civilizing the uncivilized areas (Trust)

The king (leader) should also inquire that which of his ministers is under the influence of vices spread by his enemies. The king (leader) should continue to know and differentiate amongst his foes and friends. He should appoint intelligent spies to keep an eye on his enemies and their supporters. The king (leader) should also not have blind trust on his friends and relatives. Sometimes even the enemies (rivals/ competitors) can be trusted depending upon the situations and circumstances. The king (leader) should also have knowledge of when to attack and when not to attack the enemy (rivals/ competitors); he should also know with which work will give profit and which work will bear losses. The king (leader) should learn the six qualities and should be able to take best out of these qualities and should not be influenced by nefarious sex activities also.

1) TREATY (संधि) - having pacts and accords with enemies.

2) WAR (विग्रह) - Conflict with enemies

3) YAAN (यान) - To attack

4) AASAN (आसन) - To sit and wait for attack

5) DVEDHI BHAAY (द्वेधि भाव) - Double policy

6) SAMASHRAY (संश्रयः) - Taking shelter from more powerful

The king (leader) should first win over self and then win over his ministers (team). After it he should conquer the hearts of his dependents and servants (employees). It is only after it that by his own qualities he should win over people of his kingdom (organization). It is only after all this that he starts opposing his enemies (rivals). One who does not act as per the prescribed path is doomed.

First of all, we need to understand that the leadership qualities are not inborn but can be learnt with the passage of time. As per Rustom S. Davar, “The great men” theory or an old mistaken belief that leaders are born is now being replaced by the study of the process of leadership which states that a task oriented approach can give better results.” He is also of the opinion that to know and understand people, a leader should motivate them and bring in limelight the question of people orientation. A leader is concerned more towards being loved instead of being followed because the person, who will love him, can die for him selflessly and the persons who follow him may leave him alone at any stage of life in the lust of

money, family, luxury or life etc. Leadership does not require any fixed abilities but it requires leader's philosophy or his own value system.

NEED OF THE STUDY

“Leadership is lifting a personal vision to higher sights, raising a person's performance to a higher standard, building a personality beyond its normal limitations.”

Research has its special significance in highlighting the qualities of yesterday's as well as today's leaders with the help of Indian Mythology. Research, along with motivational research, are business decisions, research is the investigation of the structure and development of the organization for the purpose of formulating efficient leadership for running it smoothly.

OBJECTIVES

To understand the magnitude of mythological leadership traits still used for reshaping today's cream of the crop.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A research design is the arrangement of conditions for collecting and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in the procedure. As this was an historical research, the researchers adopted the

secondary source of data for the collection of data. Therefore, the researchers adopted the descriptive analysis approach of the secondary data. Researcher collected the data from the secondary sources (i.e. Holy Granths, journals, books, magazines and newspapers) and processed them to reach at a conclusion and to answer the research questions. All the findings and conclusion are drawn from the secondary data analysis.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

From the period of Vedic Era, leadership traits have a strong case with that of forming of contemporary leadership styles. The Vedic period extends from the origin of Vedas to the time of Bhagwad Gita, which inherited the greater wisdom of dharmyudh of Mahabharata which can be seen today also in the form of selfless sacrifice by the soldiers as the greatest virtue of all.

It has never been too late to stress the linkage between leadership and services offered. We have now entered a new era of service dominated economy. Major part of the economy is occupied by this sector which indirectly proves to occupy a larger area of job provider as well as the key producer of wealth and also the only hope for unrelenting monetary growth.

Indulgence in Sex, anger, greed and ego are the destroyers of a kind. If you win over

them you are sure to conquer your enemies. The king (leader) should also learn from traits of Crow, quail, deer, Bumblebee, snake, peacock, Gooses cock and Iron meaning that:

- The king (leader) should be considerate and free from sluggishness like a crow.
- The king (leader) akin to a bumble bee should be able to clutch sweet and good things.
- The king (leader) should be able to take and haul out work from others as does the quail by laying here eggs in the nests of others.
- Like a snake, king (leader) should be able to mellow down his enemies and with abrupt gush of attacks should be able to devastate his enemies.
- The king (leader) should be ever conscientious like a deer.
- Like a goose can discriminate between milk and water similarly the king (leader) should be able to differentiate between good and bad.
- Like peacock spreads his wings sporadically likewise the king (leader) should show off his, militia, armor and supremacy as per needs of time.
- Like an iron the king (leader) should be stiff in doing his duties and invincible.

- Like the cocks the king (leader) should get up before dawn and ponder over his work.
- As owls behave with crows, in the same way the king (leader) should behave with his enemies.
- The king (leader) should be powerful like Sharabh (A partition part bird beast in Hindu mythology which is eight legged) more powerful than lion or elephant.
- The king (leader) should also learn from flames of fire and seeds of Samel (cotton tree)
- The king (leader) should also learn from the way the ants work-slowly and steadily collecting things for worse times.
- The king (leader) should also keep a policy of equality like the sun and moon.
- Like the small flames can burn the big forests and a small seed of Samel can turn into a large tree so can the small, tiny and innocuous enemies.
- Attract everyone like lotus.
- Should suddenly attack the enemy like thorn.
- Should be bold like sharabh.
- Like the milkmaid tries different recipes from milk the king (leader) should also learn and try different ideas.
- Should learn to save for future like the breasts of pregnant lady.

- Like Lord Indra by bringing rains for four months gives relief to humanity and mother earth so should the king (leader) by satisfying his masses by giving alms.
- While taking care of his kingdom (organization) the king (leader) should try to emulate Lord Indra, sun, Yam (Lord of death) Moon and Air.
- Like the Lord of death (Yama) ties everyone (Loving or not loving) to the knot of death so should the king (leader) treat his men with equality without prejudice towards one and all?
- Like on seeing the full moon people become happy and joyous so should they when they look upon their kind.
- Like the air by secret and silent means travels across all people so should the king (leader) inquire about the State of mind and condition of his people through his secret and spying agencies.
- Like Sun for eight months continues to soak water by his rays the king should also collect taxes by micro-techniques.

The leadership traits followed in the era:

- Avid reader – “Today a reader, tomorrow a leader”..... Peter Burwash
- Boosting – ‘I will have to ask my supervisor.’.....Dr. Markanday Ahuja
- Conscientious Note Taker – “Short pen better than long memory”..... Confucious
- Communication at all Levels – “Don’t just watch, but see. Don’t just hear but listen. Don’t just talk, but communicate.” Peter Burwash
- Committed – “I cannot imagine a person becoming a success who doesn’t give this game of life everything he’s got.”.... Walter Cronkite.
- Deadly concern For the Customer – “There’s only one boss, the customer. He can fire anybody by spending money elsewhere.”..... Sam Walton
- Emphatic – “Always walk in another man’s moccasins.”....Indian Proverb
- Exemplary – “What you do is so loud I can’t hear what you say.”.... Peter Burwash
- Flexibility – “All of life in the service industry is improvisation.’..... Peter Burwash
- Growing Horizons – “Ships in harbor are safe, but that’s not what ships are built for.”Peter Burwash
- Hiring the Attitude, then Training- “You are only as good as the people you hire.”..... Peter Burwash
- Have a Spiritual Foundation – “One truth stands firm. All that happens in world history rests on something spiritual. If the

spiritual is strong, it creates world history. If it is weak, it suffers world history.”... Peter Burwash

- Humble – “People with humility don’t think less of themselves, they just think of themselves less.”... Peter Burwash
- Incredible Adaptable – “To learn is to change”... Peter Burwash
- Just treat everyone with Equal Respect – “Anyone can be polite to a king, but it takes a gentleman to be polite to a beggar.”... Peter Burwash
- Kindness – “We are ladies and gentlemen serving ladies and gentleman.”.....Dr. Markanday Ahuja
- Loyalty: Sense of Family - “Every member of the orchestra has an instrument to play”...Dr. Markanday Ahuja
- Maximize Time – “God help me to maximize my time productivity.” Vietnam Pow, Jerry Coffee
- Make Lots of Mistakes, But Don’t Repeat Them – “If you are not making mistakes, you are not making decisions.”..... Peter Burwash
- Novelty: Great people do not do great things; they do novel things in a novel fashion.... Dr. Markanday Ahuja
- Opportunistic –“Become a possibilitarian. No matter how dark things seem to be or actually are, raise your sights and see

possibilities-always see them, for they’re always there.”... Norman Vincent Peale

- Positive – “Most people go through life stepping on flowers while pointing out the weeds.”... Peter Burwash
- Pressure Holding – “Pressure is a privilege. It only comes to those who have earned it.”.....Billie Jean King
- Preserving – “Get a good idea and stay with it. Dog it, and work at it until it’s done, aqnd done right.”... Walt Disney.
- Quality Teachers – “The best teachers give students an understanding and time to enjoy it.”... Peter Burwash
- Reliable and Trusting – “Trust is allowable vulnerability.”... Sir Oliver Wendell Holmes
- Secure – “Great leaders get people to think more of themselves, not more of the leader”... Peter Burwash
- Sense of urgency – “You cannot build a reputation on what you are Going To Do.”.....Henry Ford
- Steady in Moods – “One of the key ingredients of a great leader is consistency.”... Peter Burwash
- Thriving an Evaluation – “The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism.”..... Norman Vincent Peale

- Use Discipline Wisely – “Discipline is the act of teaching the things that are important in life.”..... Peter Burwash
- Visionary – “Good leadership is knowing how much of the future can be introduced into the present.”..... Peter Burwash
- Visible Leader- “In the best companies, employees see their leaders every day.”.....Dick Holtzman, Sr.
- Working on high Level of Appreciation of Employees – “If you don’t acknowledge efforts you ultimately get mediocre performances.”Peter Burwash
- X factor: Set High Communication Standards and Practice them – “Communication is the foundation of all relationships”.... Will rogers
- Yesman to Self Discipline – “Without self-discipline your life is chaos.”.... Peter Burwash
- Zealous – “Success is going from failure to failure without loss of Zeal”..... Dr. Markanday

CONCLUSION

Some of the roots of emerging concept of leadership are meagerly acknowledged in Vedic literature. In today’s globalized era leadership skills and traits will not be able to dole out the rationale unless they gush from value-based chaste wits. Along with the

clarity of intellect the organizer is capable to ponder and intercede to come up to vague situations with precision and theology. An individual has to cuddle the pious facet afar its societal, fiscal and corporal extent as it purifies the intellect of a leader and a verdict maker. Thus, we can say that the sermons of Mother Madalsa to her son Alark continue to be relevant for today’s leadership.

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