A Leader That Inspires Me

Oftentimes, there are no set characteristics that make a person a good leader. However, the best leader’s tend to stand apart from the rest due to their ability to make calculated decisions for a cause. These leaders take the risks and push the boundaries of what can happen in the world. In my opinion, a good leader should exhibit strategic intelligence, selflessness, and dedication. These characteristics are hard to come by but the best leaders tend to display these traits. A leader who embodies these particular traits is Susan B. Anthony, a feminist leader in the women’s suffrage movement.

Anthony started her activism journey by fighting for the ending of slavery. Soon enough she had met Cady Stanton and together the women did everything in their power to advocate for women’s rights by making speeches at various conventions around the country. “Anthony was good at strategy. Her discipline, energy, and ability to organize made her a strong and successful leader”(Hayward). Anthony’s strategic intelligence helped her realize the ways in which she could spread women’s rights ideals and she co founded the American Equal Rights Association as a result. This association was responsible for the spread of ideas surrounding equality among genders. I would want to emulate this trait of strategic intelligence as it forces the person to think out of the box making them a more effective leader. Just like Anthony found innovative ways to spread those ideals, a good leader must be proactive in finding ways of solving a problem. It’s clear that a good strategy can be the difference between success and failure.

In addition, to strategic intelligence, Anthony also displayed selflessness as a leader in many instances. She endured many injustices in the process of fighting for the women’s suffrage movement. The level of care she had for the people she was fighting for was so large that she even went to jail in the process of fighting for these women. After getting bailed out, while waiting for her trial she did not back down. “She took her message to all 21 post office districts in Ontario County, too, giving her last speech on the evening of June 16, the eve of trial. It was hard work, but she never relented”(DeMarco). Anthony did everything she could possibly do to get the word out that women should be able to vote. Regardless of her own situation she did not let anyone stop her. This trait of selflessness needs to be emulated as it makes a leader stand out. So many women looked up to Anthony as she put her own life at risk in the process of fighting. These women also realized how big and important the movement is and made more of an effort to fight as well. It’s clear that selflessness separates good leaders from great ones.

Another important characteristic that Anthony demonstrated is dedication. While dedication can be shown in different ways to different extents, a certain amount of dedication is required for being a good leader. “Susan B. Anthony never married, and devoted her life to the cause of women’s equality”(Sullivan et. al). While it is not a requirement to go as far as to not be married, Anthony’s dedication to the cause was so much that she did not think to live a normal lifestyle. Her entire personality was always focused on the movement and the ways she could spread the importance of equality between genders for all aspects of life. Dedication is a trait I deeply value as most people get inspired when they see the dedication someone has for a cause. Anthony was such a successful leader as she was able to inspire others with her dedication. I would like to inspire others as well with my dedication to help people live better lives.

Overall, Susan B. Anthony was an exceptional leader in the women’s suffrage movement, without whom many of us would probably not have the rights we have today. While gender equality is an ongoing fight, her leadership allowed for necessary advancement in the ideology that women should be treated equally to men. Her strategic intelligence, selflessness, and dedication definitely made her the leader she was and these traits are the ones I would emulate in my journey to becoming a good leader.

Work Cited

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