

## LEADERSHIP IS A STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

Leadership is no longer about telling people what to do. It is about understanding how to support them in doing what needs to be done.

Leadership is no longer about command and control, top-down models, and methods. It is about communication, collaboration, and facilitation.

Leadership is no longer about talking and telling. It is about connecting and listening.

Leadership is no longer about managing by org charts. It is about engaging and empowering tribes.

*Leadership simply can no longer be dominated by paternalistic masculine energies. It must be equally balanced with maternalistic feminine energies.*

*Power without nurturing breeds weakness.*

**“We aren’t in Kansas anymore, Toto.”**

**1.**

## THE FIRST STEP ON THE PATH TO CONSCIOUS LEADERSHIP IS AN INWARD ONE.

And so are all the rest.

To grow our consciousness, we must grow spiritually. There is no way to separate the two. Spirituality is the helium that expands and elevates our consciousness.

The spiritual path, or method, one chooses is their choice. To each their own. There are many paths, and if traveled with an open heart, curiosity, and an honest desire—they all lead to growth.

To grow our consciousness, we must want to simply because we want to. Don't make it another task on a long list of other "gotta dos" or it will drain you instead of replenish and refresh you.

Be careful not to let the head take over or the heart will be pushed out and no real growth will occur. Besides, we can't think our way to a higher consciousness.

Instead look for teachings, teachers, or create experiences that resonate with you. Look for something that you're drawn to.

It may take a while. It may happen with just one teaching or teacher, or a combination of several different ones. For instance, it could be western, eastern, Native American, or anything else. It could also be time in the woods, at the ocean, or literally anything else that opens your heart and settles your mind. Experiment and enjoy the journey.

There is no way to do this wrong.

**2.**

## **THE POWER OF THE “BIGGER KNOW”**

**There is a Bigger Know.**

**Everyone you will ever meet knows something you don't.**

**This means that everywhere you go there is a Bigger Know.**

**You know what you know.**

**They know what they know.**

**Together we have a Bigger Know.\***

*\*Principle 1 of The Bigger Know Principles of Leadership*

## LEADERSHIP OFTEN LEADS TO A SENSE OF LONELINESS.

Leadership is highly rewarding, however, expect to experience a sense of loneliness. Loneliness is dangerous to your standing as a leader because, if unchecked, loneliness leads to self-pity which leads to self-absorption and a feeling of being victimized. And victimization almost always leads to some form of retaliation. It also stands to reason that one can't be both a victim and a leader.

Expect to be misunderstood. Expect to make hard decisions without showing your emotions. Expect to hurt and to have others think you're cold. Expect to be unable to share all you know or to explain all your reasons. Expect to make many big decisions alone. Expect to have some people leave when it gets tough because they can. Expect to do the hardest tasks. Expect the pressure.

Then relish in it all. Use it to refine you, redefine you, teach you, and grow you. Turn everything into a lesson. You are paying one hell of a tuition, so ace the class.

When you're feeling alone ask yourself: "What am I being taught?" not: "Why is this happening to me?" Asking yourself what you are being taught is a far more powerful and productive question. It's the difference between being a leader or being a victim.

That was the question I asked when I was diagnosed with stage four cancer and it transformed everything.

**48.**

Expect it all. Embrace it all. Endure it all. And then do it all without losing your compassion or humanity. It will grow you as a leader. That is its purpose.

Then find other leaders who understand so you're not as lonely.