

# UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS OF GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

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Effective leadership takes on two forms: one is to teach people to eventually lead themselves. The second form of good leadership simply realizes its motivations and goals. Leadership is a product of the times in which we live. Unfortunately, too often today, today's global leadership is severely lacking due to the narrow-mindedness and inability to understand the dynamics that shapes today's world. Global leadership today requires one to push the agenda and mandates that have shaped the present world that we live in, with its ills and complexity.

## WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?

Leadership is as good as the behavior patterns of those who would consider themselves leaders. Most global leadership as practiced today is a vehicle to perpetuate the results of a highly symbolic civilization that glorifies the unreal as reality. The danger in today's leadership is that it has taken the lead to perpetuate and globalize the most destructive forces that have become prevalent in today's world. These destructive forces are, by unanimous decision, racism and religion.

Racism and religion have been the cause of most if not all of the conflicts that we now experience globally. After religion and race, the two other forces that are understood to be destructive, are the quest for power and for economic superiority. Each country and each group selects leadership that they feel will best promote and propagate their

agenda. The key to that leadership is the ability to create an environment where the people can eventually lead themselves to perpetuate the agenda mandated to their particular leadership. To be sure, one can have effective leadership without that leadership being a force that would enhance civilization as a whole. In other words, an effective leader can perpetuate destruction, if that is the agenda; just as an effective leadership can perpetuate good. Said another way, effective leadership can promote justice and enhance civilization; or effective leadership can promote evils such as racism, religious discord and confusion around the world.

So be clear: effective leadership can promote issues and agendas good and bad. A case can be made that both Adolf Hitler and Nelson Mandela provided good leadership for their constituencies. As a matter of fact, Hitler, it has been said, created such magic for the people he persecuted, that they often saluted and cheered him as fervently as did his followers. Conversely, Nelson Mandela's leadership and personality were so effective that even his most ardent opponents were touched by his charisma. Leadership is merely providing and taking on the agenda of the people that appointed it.

## HOW SYMBOL SYSTEMS DICTATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LEADERSHIP

One cannot discuss the dynamics of leadership without understanding the effect

that symbol systems have on human behavior. Because we live in a universe that is governed by symbol systems and their resulting mythologies, rituals and superstitions, leadership is really at the mercy of how one uses and interprets these symbol systems in their individual scenarios and environment. Symbols have an extraordinary effect on human behavior. If you understand that myths and symbols are synonymous, then you understand that mythology has governed history and justified it at the same time. Man's attitude is basically a symbolizing attitude. This symbolizing attitude has led to a penchant for never-ending mythmaking. Unfortunately, most people do not understand how symbolism is used to mythologize history, manipulate behavior, and set in motion a way of thinking that creates the phenomena of racism, greed, neurosis and other forms of mental illness.

The leadership we experience in today's world is a guidance that spreads the results of a symbolizing attitude that affects every area of human existence. This leadership has made possible the distribution of ideologies and concepts that are the engine for the conflict and discord that we see operating in all areas of human activity. In other words, because we live in a mythological universe, the goals that are perpetuated and realized are often destructive and harmful to the universe as a whole. This is easily verified by the conflicts that we are experiencing throughout the world.