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The Art of Possibility Reflection

After viewing the Art of Possibility movie I was enlightened and struck to see how the definition of leadership is changing. Before watching this I thought leadership was defined by strong traits the leader would have coupled with a positive attitude and the ability to direct a collective group under any and all circumstances. Instead, to have excellent leadership one must enroll others to bring out their strength to gain strength themselves. After thinking about it more I actually agree with this. To give an example of why I see this to be true is because I am raid leader and guild leader in the popular MMORPG, World of Warcraft. In World of Warcraft I can't play the other person's character but I can incite them to a point of bringing out their strengths when playing that role and character. This can be done, from my experience, through encouraging them and giving constructive criticism about their playstyle and decisions they made during an encounter. Because of this, I am able to relate leadership within an engineering setting to something I enjoy doing which helps me understand what it takes to be a leader in any and all types of environments. However, the one thing that really got me thinking was to stop taking yourself so seriously.

This had me questioning my view on leadership because after somewhat believing in Ayn Rand's philosophy of objectivism and individualism in Anthem. It contradicts this philosophy of what defines a leader because objectivism puts all priority on the self in finding one's happiness as the main goal in life. If that is the case, then how can I not take myself seriously? When I think of not taking myself seriously in order to lead seems a little counterproductive. However, I maybe taking this too seriously. Most people I have seen work better and perform better under a more comfortable environment and poking fun at yourself helps create that environment. However, I do take myself less seriously when raiding in World of Warcraft because I am open to constructive criticism that can help my personal decisions be more effective and precise or to create a better raid environment for others to succeed in. Even though I am not quite on board of the whole stop taking yourself seriously I completely believe in leadership isn't a competition.

I don't always see it this way but leadership isn't a competition. Like in the Art of Possibility movie, leadership is there to gain strength from others by bringing out their strength, not trying to prove who is right and who is wrong. It was mentioned that this is known as the downward spiral. If one continues to compete with someone else instead of being open to ideas, their view on the world will never change and one must understand others to bring out their strengths. Every person is different and one might not think the way you do. In order to bring out their strengths you need to be open in order to relate to them. In doing so, they will be more open to giving it their all and truly bringing out their strength.