

The book "The Little Prince" from Antoine de Saint-Exupery tells us the history of a man who met a little prince from another planet in the desert. It is a beautiful story teaching us not to forget the little things of life.

However, from the book you can learn 6 lessons about lack of leadership and 5 little lessons to bring into leadership.



The little prince meets a king, a conceited man, a tippler, a businessman, a lamplighter, and a geographer.

In the book, the little prince leaves his planet and goes around to other planets. The first planet he visited was a planet with a king.

*"Approach, so that I may see you better," said the king, who felt consumingly proud of being at last a king over somebody.*

The king sees himself as an absolute monarch and does not tolerate any kind of disobedience and he has pride in being a king over somebody. And there are leaders, or people aiming to be leaders, because they love having authority. The reason for them to be a ruler, or a leader is the power to give orders. They like to see people obeying them and doing what they say. The kind of people like the king often lack explanations for their actions; if you ask why, they don't teach you, but they say, we are doing this because I am saying to do it. Of course there are people who learn very, very slowly and you don't have all the time to teach, but from the king leader will never come a reason. And king-people aiming to be a leader don't ask "why to learn", but they try to undermine the authority of their superiors to be the king themselves.

On the second planet, the little prince met a conceited man.

*"Ah! Ah! I am about to receive a visit from an admirer!" he exclaimed from afar, when he first saw the little prince coming.*

This man loves to hear and asks for compliments. And there are these kinds of people, who does something not because it is good or right, but because they want compliments. The main reason they do something is to hear: "Wow, that was good", "Amazing", "You are a great man". Their leadership is based on how people see them. A good compliment can give someone strength and confirmation about going in the right direction. But it can not be the main reason for your actions.

*But the conceited man did not hear him. Conceited people never hear anything but praise.*

On the third planet, the little prince met a tippler -- a drunkard. This man is drunk because he is ashamed of his own drunkenness. He needs to drink to forget. And there are these kind of people who are ashamed of failure. The drunk man keeps his *status quo* and doesn't dare to change the problem. Similarly, some leaders keep doing the same thing and don't improve or try new things because of the fear of failure and shame. They hide themselves behind the curtain of leadership, too ashamed of their mistakes.

On the fourth planet, the little prince met a businessman. This man is counting stars, because he owns them.

*"And what good does it do you to own the stars?"*

*"It does me the good of making me rich."*

He feels very important to own the stars. And there are these kinds of people who seek leadership for the sake of ownership. They take pleasure in having and possessing. It is very important for them to keep acquiring more, simply for the intrinsic value of possessing.

On the fifth planet, the little prince met a lamplighter. The little prince finds it funny, because the planet is so small that the lamplighter works without a break: soon the lamp is done, and he needs to turn it off, because the day is coming, then just as soon the night is coming, and he turns it on again. And there are these kinds of people who do things without knowing why. They don't stop to think, but because of tradition or because someone told them to do it, so they keep the same process forever.

On the sixth planet he met a geographer. This man knew everything about his area of expertise. He knew every river, every mountain, but he had never even been there. And there are these kinds of people, who in theory know all things, which they themselves never tried. They like their position and know-how, but they don't dare to go out and do it themselves.

The seventh planet is the earth. He had five encounters here: with a snake and a flower, a mountain, a garden of roses and finally, with a fox.

The first thing he saw here was a snake. He talked with the snake and through riddles the snake says to him that it could kill him. And the little prince understood it. He could not understand the king, the vain man, the drunkard, the businessman, the lamplighter and the geographer, but he understood when someone wanted to be evil. The lesson here is not to be naive; you can be a simple and very kind person, but keep your eyes open to evil.

After that he met a flower. He was looking for the humans and he asked the flower, where to meet them. She said there could only be 6 or 7 human beings on the earth, because she only saw a few. This flower that the little prince met was a wrong source. How many times did you look first at the wrong source? Don't be satisfied with the first source you meet, when you don't know the subject.

On the mountain he called out and the only thing he could hear was the echo of only his voice. Many leaders stop being good leaders when they climb the mountain of success and begin to hear only themselves.

After that, the little prince finds a garden full of roses. Before he left his country, a rose came to him and said that she is unique in the universe. And now he is there in a garden full of roses. Disappointments come to everyone. Don't expect much of people and yourself.

What we can learn from the little prince?

The little prince then met the fox. And the fox teaches him how to establish ties. You cannot be a leader alone. Leadership exists because people have problems and you can solve their problems. But without ties, you can fall into the mistakes of the king, of the conceited man, of the businessman, of the drunkard, of the lamplighter, and of the geographer. Remember: they all were alone on their planets. Go ahead, don't be naive, observe, keep learning, learn to forgive and don't forget the ties.

