Identification of a Leader

Nelson Mandela

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A leader that I believe to be effective and successful and someone I would like to emulate is Nelson Mandela. Nelson Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, philanthropist, and an influential political leader. Mandela served as South Africa’s President between 1994 and 1999. Also, He was the first black president and the first person elected in a completely democratic South Africa. He is globally celebrated for his leadership and vision in ending apartheid, bringing democracy and equality in South Africa after years of black oppression.

I would choose Nelson Mandela as my invisible mentor because of his various excellent leadership qualities. Mandela was a visionary and revolutionary leader who led his followers and the whole nation in the fight against the apartheid government which treated the majority black South Africans as second-class citizens. Through his vision and leadership, he rallied South Africans to pursue equality and the abolition of apartheid to ensure a free and just society. Mandela led a campaign of civil disobedience to stop apartheid. He had a clear vision of a new, just and equal South Africa. After being released in 1990 from prison and being elected the first black president, he committed to making his vision a reality (Stengel, 2008). As a result, he was able to unite the whole nation towards peace, justice, and prosperity. In this regard, he was a visionary leader who was able to see a bigger picture, a character that I find outstanding and worth emulating.

Additionally, I admire Mandela’s strength of spirit and an unprecedented level of endurance. Because of his opposition to the apartheid government and quest for a just and fair South Africa, he was sentenced to in 1964 and remained in prison for 27 years until his release in 1990. Mandela’s ability to endure and the strength of spirit energized him and encouraged him to endure nearly three decades of confinement. While in prison, Mandela never comprised his beliefs for justice and a better South Africa. Even after being offered freedom in 1985 by the apartheid government, Mandela refused to abandon the cause until all of his people were free (Stengel, 2008). Also, his ability to remain loyal to his noble cause in the face of suffering demonstrated his willingness to not surrender the fight despite severe personal loss such as being separated from his family and friends. I truly admire Mandela’s strength of spirit as a leader as well as his willingness to sacrifice his life for the good of others.

Besides, I admire Mandela’s servant leadership. Throughout his life, Mandela committed to serving the others. His self-sacrifice in the quest for justice and end to apartheid at great personal loss demonstrated that he was a servant. While most leaders in African and around the world were committed to amassing wealth and expanding their power, Mandela committed to serving the poor and the illiterate people. Rather than focusing on pursuing his law career and self-interests, Mandela committed himself to a noble cause for the benefit of the whole of South Africa. I would like to emulate Mandela’s selflessness as a leader in my personal and professional life.

In sum, I would like to emulate Nelson Mandela as an effective and successful leader because of his vision, strength of spirit and endurance, and selflessness.

**Reference**

Stengel, R. (2008). Mandela: His 8 lessons of leadership. *Time Magazine*, *9*.