

12 Secrets of Visionary Leaders

Dr. Ani Kalayjian

Leadership is the highest spiritual calling. As leaders, the starting point is with you, with me, with us; it's managing our whole self—mind, body, and eco-spirit, by utilizing the spirit that lies within.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader, a great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves." Of course, becoming a great visionary leader isn't easy. Successfully maneuvering the community to raise consciousness is a challenging task. While visionary leaders demonstrate numerous attributes, allow me to highlight the **seven Cs: Confidence, competence, courage, compassion, creativity, curiosity, and commitment.**

The following is a list of 12 tips drawn from the secrets of successful visionary leaders.

- 1. Gather a circle of dedicated individuals.** You must be able to identify, attract, and retain visionary people who are mindful and have similar values that are aligned with your vision.
- 2. Communicate effectively with team members and other like-minded leaders.** Open and transparent communication is very important. At ATOP Meaningfulworld, we send one another our weekly SMART goals on Thursdays, before the week begins.
- 3. Don't take things personally.** Stay focused on the vision, and don't take negative outcomes or attitudes from others personally (*The Four Agreements*, Don Miguel Ruiz, 1997). Remember the words of philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer: "All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. And third, the truth is accepted as being self-evident" (*The World As Will and Representation*, 1818). By exercising detachment and practicing forgiveness, visionary leaders can keep their eyes (focused) on the vision, discover lessons, and establish new meanings (*Forgiveness & Reconciliation*, Kalayjian & Paloutzian, 2010).
- 4. Be authentic and mindful.** Visionary leaders instill their visions, dreams, and passion into the fabric of their organization, and succeed beyond your goals.
- 5. Know your obstacles.** Take the time to understand our obstacles. The best solution is to be proactive and engage in full alignment: head, heart, and hand (Kalayjian, 2011).
- 6. Create a "team charter."** Too many new teams race down the road before they even figure out who they are, where they're going, and what will guide their journey. The charter provides an agreement and can be revised as the team grows and the team's needs change.
- 7. Believe in your team and empower them.** Visionary leaders must help their people develop confidence, especially during crises situations. As Napoleon Bonaparte said, "Leaders are dealers in hope." But just believing in people isn't enough. We must empower, guide, and mentor them.
- 8. Give positive reinforcements and constructive criticisms.** "Many entrepreneurs are too in love with their own ideas and don't know how to express gratitude. Giving acknowledgments, validation, and positive reinforcements can motivate people, especially during challenging times.
- 9. Keep your team engaged.** Great leaders give their team challenges and get them excited about those challenges. As Martin Luther King said, "*Keep your eyes on the prize.*"
- 10. Practice calmness and meditation for inner peace.** A visionary leader must prevent the team from overreacting to challenges.
- 11. Prioritize and perceive.** Know what is important and communicate it to your team and beyond. Be perceptive. Be proactive rather than reactive. Be still to receive guidance from unseen sources. Help your fellow human beings be, instead of focusing on doing and having.
- 12. Be a positive role model to navigate chaos peacefully.** Crises can create danger as well as opportunity. Danger is present when one repeats the mistakes of the past, and opportunity presents itself when we learn the positive lessons from our past mistakes. Activate a network of grace & gratitude.

DrKalayjian@Meaningfulworld.com, www.Meaningfulworld.com