

Leadership, Success, and Integrity

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"On the road of integrity, you will find yourself often alone, but never lonely. On the road of mediocrity, you will find yourself never alone, but often lonely. The world, more than ever, awaits you who choose to travel the road least traveled, ready to travel alone but always with arms open in joy."

--From "Awakening to the Highest Reaches of Integrity" by Yasuhiko Genku Kimura

The Japanese word "*toku*" (*teh* in Chinese), which is usually translated as "virtue," also means "power" or "integrity." *Toku* is the consciousness of the whole that makes your life coherent, consistent, and integral. Therefore, *toku* is integrity, and *toku* is also power because through *toku* your vision, action, and result become coherent and consistent. Success in life and business requires power to make your vision realized through action. Success thus requires integrity in the sense of *toku*.

The English term "integrity" is defined on three levels: (1) being true to your principles; (2) being true to your word or commitment; and (3) being true to your self. Integrity means being true to your principle, your word, and your self, and total integrity involves a total accord between these three levels of being true.

Men and women of integrity who have the power to sustain their commitment through to the end and achieve their objectives, sometime against all odds, are those in whom their principle, commitment, and self are all in accord. For we can sustain our commitment only when it is one that is in accord with our authentic self and with our deepest values and principles.

Therefore, unless it is an authentic expression of our self and unless it is consistent with our principles, our commitment is bound to be inauthentic. If our commitment is inauthentic, regardless of how much willpower we may have, we will probably be unable to sustain it. Thus, the essence of integrity is "to thine own self be true."

We cannot be true to our own self without knowing our own self. That is, authentic self-knowledge is the requisite of integrity. In terms of our career, business, and personal development, the most effective way of attaining self-knowledge is to know our true passion and vision.

Passion arises through the realization of our authentic self as a creative vision. Vision is the call of our own evolutionary possibility that beckons us to be from the future. Vision is that which we envisage as the fulfillment of our evolutionary thrust for optimization. When we become awoken to our passion and vision, we have a definitive standard with which we can be in integrity. When we live from our passion and vision, we achieve authentic freedom and responsibility, because now our life becomes truly our own making.

For you who have a vision and live a life of integrity, your passion is your life's mission. Your knowledge of your passion and vision and your commitment to living a life of integrity, responsibility, and freedom make you a true leader of your organization and of humanity. Leaders lead. Now it is your time to lead. Be ready to travel the road less traveled. Be ready to travel alone but always with arms open in gratitude to receive others as co-travelers in your visionary journey.