**To be a Leader**

Did you know certain characteristics can make a person a leader. After all leaders are important figureheads of a society, they are the person how others look to for answers to a problem, guidance to help through the harsh times and looked up too and admired by  people. Beowulf is an example of a such a leader, although he will boast about his successes, he has some characteristics that people want to follow. We could use more leaders like Beowulf in reality. Relationships, Compassion, Commitment, Problem-Solving, and Courage.

   Relationships for a leader will be important  to form with other people around them. By forming a relationship with the people he spends the most time or know personally can help when he's in trouble or in times of need. According to a quote from President/CEO Henry Gruland in The 21 Indispensable Qualities of A Leader: "Being a leader is more than just wanting to lead. Leaders has empathy for others and a keen ability to find the best in people…". (chapter 107-108)  beowulf has a strong relationship with his people in his home county, as when he decides to help King Hrothgar and go fight Grendel, his councilman don't argue with him why he shouldn't go, they instead do: " They inspected omens and spurred his ambition to go".

His cavalry relationship with him is also strong as when he picks fifteen men to leave with him, no one finds a reason not to accompany him or to speak any doubt against his plans. When he goes and meet with King Hrothgar, how already know Beowulf as a child and helped his father after he killed Heatholaf and forced to leave his homeland by his people for fears of war. He repaid his debt: "acknowledged me with oaths of allegiance", and Beowulf uses the that to form a relationship with Hrothgar and come to him in his greatest time of need.

Returning to Beowulf and his relationship with his cavalry, they don't just agree to leave him but them also  look out for him as will. They are sure to keep themselves in reach of their King when he goes and meet Hrothgar, some by command stay with the weapons, the others as said in the poem: " The hero arose, surrounded closely by his powerful thanes" and Beowuluf in turn makes sure they have the best armor and are feed while they stayed at Heorot.  Beowulf would keep each of those relationships with his cavalry and Hrothgar close to his heart for many years until he died.

A leader will also show compassion for his follow man, or as Steven Bien in Compassion and Moral Guidance said : "In order to be compassionate one must have some means of detecting the suffering and satisfaction of others." (chapter 4) Beowulf shows he cares for the people around him.  The first time he showed compassion when he gets the news of how the trouble has affected King Hrothgar or as he puts it: " News of Grendel, difficult to ignore, reached me home: sailors brought stories of the plight you suffer… " and he could not just do nothing and let the king and people of Geatland any longer, so he helps in anyway he can.  After Beowulf wins his fight with Grendel and puts the monster arm and displays it for all in the hall of Heorot to see, more tragedy strikes when the night fell again. Grendel's Mother comes to revenge her son death and as she leaves, taking his arm with her , she kills one of Hrothgar most trusted men by the name of Aeshere, and fled into the night. Beowulf sees the Hrothgar suffering once more and said on to him: " Wise sir, do not grieve" and then  told how he can find Grendel's mother cave.

Beowulf knows full will he can die from fighting  Grendel's mother and shows his compassion for his chivalry  and asks Hrothgar to : " If this combat kills me, take care of my young company, my comrades in arms." and the he speaks of his people and again asks: " send Hygelac the treasure I received".  Many years would go pass and Beowulf, how has become a king himself, before another moment for him to show a physical act of compassion, when a dragon attacks his kingdom. He can't just sit and watch his people live in fear and pain and leaves help them even as he an old man himself. He enlist some men to help him defeat it, but he tells them not to come with him, as they can stay safe at the barrow for it not their fight. He rather face the beast on his own, with his own strength, then have any of the men hurt in trying to protect or fight with him.

Beowulf shows commitment in his leadership, he  finish any mission he started or die trying. When he sails to Geatland and talks to King Hrothgar, he fully ready to accept death if he can not win. He still goes  on to fight against the enemy as he don't want any of the people in his land or Geatland to live in fear, pain, or suffering for the rest of their lives. Beowulf keeps his word unfailingly, he don't back down or surrender in a fight and he will  kill whatever creature is cause a problem to the community.

Take the whole fight with Grendel, he could have easy ignored the problem when he hear of it,  But he decided to commitment in going to help Geatland and the King, not because of his alliance with Hrothgar, but as a way for him to save his friend and his people from a horrible fate after twelve long years. An when he  faced down Grendel he keeps his commitment to fight him and not only wins, but rips Grendel's arm off at the socket and killing him from the blood loss. He does the same when Grendel's mother, takes revenge against him for killing her son and slays one of Hrothgar's man  the most trusted, he arrives at the lake of monsters ( with armor as he when without in his first fight ) and fights her until she is dead.

Years pass once again and Beowulf is a old man and the King, when a different beast (Dragon) attacks his home and people. Now at  he didn't have to fight because he has grown old in age, but instead he again commits to taking down the beast and freeing his people from it terror.  He stayed committed to ensure other people was safe and to stand in the way of any creature that would try to kill them.

Beowulf also uses Problem-Solving skills to escape situation he finds himself end, and rushes to act on the solution. In Followership : What It Takes to Lead problem solving is : "Analytical and critical thinking skills help you to evaluate the problem and to make decisions." (chapter 9) Fortunately the trouble with Grendel was simple, he fought him without a sword, shield or body armor because the monster didn't know how to fight like that and Beowulf feel he could take him on with his strength, luck for him it was true. But Grendel's mother on the other hand a different problem.

Beowulf knows without a doubt about Grendel's mother, she is far more dangerous than her son. He knows can't just fight her with brute strength, so instead he wear his chain mail and his sword to  battle with her. He verges on dying after his sword proved useless against her and his chain mail protecting his neck from her claws and her knife, but knows he will die if he doesn't think of some way to kill her soon. He solved his problem by grading a sword for the she monsters armory and hit her with it,  cut her from her head to her shoulder bone and he uses it to kill her unequivocally.

The last time Beowulf solves a problem his kingdom attacked by a dragon. Beowulf has grown into a old man, and knows he can't fight the dragon like he use to with Grendel and his mother and the beast is  more dangerous for him as it has venomous spit and can breath out flames. Beowulf solved this problem by wear a full set of armor in hopes to defect the dragon at all. Sadly wouldn't enough to keep him from dying after the dragon bite him in the neck.  Beowulf used his problem solving skills to work out the best way to win his battles, even though he don't make out alive in his last fight.

The final characterization is Courage, where Beowulf don't back down to the enemy or as according to Brian Tracy in his book   Leadership (The Brian Tracy Success Library) courage is: ," Leaders doesn't wait around for someone else to do something". ( chapter 4) Beowulf shows courage by going to Geatland and fight Grendel, even when knowing the creature background, still  goes to fight it in hand to hand combat and win. Beowulf also showed courage again when he goes and fights Grendel's mother, as he jumps with chain mail on, into a lake of monsters with little idea what's waiting for him down there. An when he is fighting Grendel's mother and can't use his sword, it takes courage to still put up and keep going even when the enemy has you pinned down and is close to kill you.

Beowulf rules his kingdom, once he became King, with greatness and courage, becoming a wise old man in the fifty years he ruled. But once again he would need courage as a dragon starts attacking his kingdom and people with fire. Beowulf puts on his armor with a sword and shield to face the dragon with venom for spit and fire for breath, with takes lots courage to face such a creature. Even when Beowulf died, people remembered him for his courage to face any enemy to for his kingdom and for others.

 It takes many characteristics to lead people, and by looking at the relationships, compassion, commitment ,problem-solving ,and courage of Beowulf, he makes a effective leader.

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