

A Leader?

I went on a search to become a leader.
I searched high and low. I spoke with
authority and people listened, but alas
there was one wiser than I and they followed him.

I sought to *inspire confidence*
but the crowd responded, “Why should we trust you?”

I postured and I assumed the *look* of leadership
with a countenance that glowed with *confidence* and *pride*.
But many passed me by and never noticed my air of elegance.

I ran ahead of the others, *pointing the way* to new heights.
I demonstrated that I knew the route to greatness.
And then I looked back and I was alone.

What shall I do, I queried. I’ve tried hard and used all that I know.

And I sat me down and I pondered long.

And then I *listened* to the voices around me.
And I hear what the group was trying to accomplish.
I rolled up my sleeves and I *joined in* the work.

As we worked I asked, “Are we all *together*
in what we want to do and how to get the job done?”
And we thought together and we fought together and we struggled towards our goal.

I found myself encouraging the faint-hearted.
I sought the ideas of those too shy to speak out.
I taught those who had little skill.
I praised those who worked hard.

When our task was complete, one of the groups turned to me and said,
“This would not have been done but for your leadership.”

At first I said I didn’t lead.
I just walked with the rest.

And then I understood *leadership is not a goal*.
It’s a way of reaching a goal.

I lead best when I help others to use themselves creatively.
I lead best when I focus on my group, their needs and their goals.

To lead is to serve. To give. To achieve. Together.