The

PENALTY OF TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP

In every field of human endeavor, he that is first must perpetually live in the white light of publicity. Whether the leadership be vested in a man or in a manufactured product, emulation and envy are ever at work. In art, in literature, in music, in industry, the reward and the punishment are always the same. The reward is widespread recognition; the punishment, fierce denial and detraction. When a man’s work becomes a standard for the entire world, it also becomes a target for the shafts of the envious few. If his work be merely mediocre, he will be left severely alone-if he achieves a masterpiece, it will set a million tongues a-wagging. Jealousy does not protrude its forked tongue at the artist who produces a commonplace painting. Whatsoever you write, or paint, or play, or sing or build, no one will strive to surpass, or to slander you, unless your work is stamped with the seal of genius. Long, long after a splendid work has been done; those who are disappointed or envious continue to cry out that it cannot be done. Long after the big world had acclaimed the Wright brothers as the first men to accomplish heavier than air powered flight the little group of those academics that they had dethroned and displaced argued angrily that they had not done what they had done. The little world continued to protest that Fulton could never build a steamboat, while the big world flocked to the riverbanks to see his boat steam by. The leader is assailed because he is a leader, and the effort to equal him is merely added proof of that leadership. Failing to equal or to excel, the follower seeks to depreciate and to destroy-but only confirms once more the superiority of that which he strives to supplant. There is nothing new in this. It is as old as the world desire to surpass. And it all avails nothing. If the leader truly leads, he remains-the leader. Master-poet, master-painter, master-workman, each in his turn is assailed, and each holds the laurels through the ages. That which is good or great makes itself known, no matter how loud the clamor of denial. Therefore, that which deserves to live-lives.

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