

Story #14b

The Servant Leader

*Be Your Own Teacher ... Receive your student's offerings
and wait ... in case an authentic response arises
- then, in either case, find and show your gratitude.
(The Teacher's Bill of Rights)*

Around the year 2,000 I'm in Greenfield, MA. I had a small part in starting an independent school, called the Uplook School. We tried to be spiritual with the kids. We were successfully doing it. I went and taught there for two different blocks of three weeks each.

I taught the kids to be teachers. So, I was the follower; they were the teachers. I was ***The Servant Leader***. I would show them how each lesson they were to teach had to have a story at the beginning, a science demonstration in the middle (it was science teaching), and then a spiritual message to bring it home. They did a great job. I was the student. I was following.

So, I want to show ***The Servant Leader*** through a story called, "The First Teacher". It's from my book, *Bickart's Just-in-Time Fables* (2020), #77.



#77 *The First Teacher*



Two young people, Wendy and John, were playing in the woods. They were friends for as long as their young stories remembered. John made a joke and Wendy laughed. John made a suggestion and Wendy listened, then took the suggestion to heart. Then Wendy listened to another and another. John watched. “Do you listen to everyone?” John asked. “Yes,” said Wendy. And she did. And she also asked them questions and laughed at their jokes. She listened until she saw who they truly were. One day, Wendy told John, “You have just opened the doors of my life and let me out.”

After many, many years, John made a joke and a suggestion and Wendy laughed and listened. Then, she took the suggestion to heart. Suddenly, John realized that Wendy was his teacher.

The Teacher

*To serve people
is a great honor.*

*To follow them
is to lead them.*

*To appreciate
who they truly are
is to teach them.*

And this is the greatest honor.

TRUE TEACHERS MAY LOOK LIKE FOLLOWERS

“Words that are strictly true seem to be paradoxical.”

(Tzu, 2012/circa 500 BC, Tao te ching, Verse 78. Savannah, GA: Green King Press.)

So, that's it for today - a little emotional - see you in one of those tomorrows.



References

- Bickart, J. (2020). *Bickart's Just-in-Time Fables* (Vol. 2). Asheville, NC: Red Shirt Interactive Group.
- Tzu, L. (2012/circa 500 BC). *Tao te ching*. Savannah, GA: Green King Press.