This interactive roundtable explores Prudence as a construct in practical behaviors of good judgment and common sense in care and thought for the future. Prudence is based in theoretical context of self-leadership, individual performance, and leadership styles: Transformational, Transactional, and Laissez-faire.

“Do what you can with what you have and where you are at.”

Theodore Roosevelt
October 27, 1858 – January 6, 1919
American statesman and writer
26th President of the United States from 1901 to 1909

Theodore Roosevelt coined what is now a famous saying: “Do what you can with what you have and where you are at.” This quote embodies the quality of empowerment to do something while simultaneously dissolving personal excuses for not doing anything. It also embodies the concept of Prudence to apply practicability and common sense to life situations of which Theodore Roosevelt “is known for his appreciation of life’s struggles and for a bedrock belief that people can create major change with sufficient motivation and hard work” (Camargo & Roosevelt, 2015, p. 696) and thus, promote authentic leadership for progress, peace, and prosperity.

Roundtable Discussion Question:

What leadership examples can you think of that embody this famous quote?

This example could be you or someone else based on what you have observed.
Our conceptual explanation of Prudence as a construct:

Ability and Willingness are categorized as broad-based logical referents of Prudence to align with Aquinas (2011) definition of Prudence for practical reasoning in personal self-governance.

We apply Prudence to self-leadership in both physical and cognitive processes – ability (resources) and willingness (attitude).

We also like the biblical scripture interplay of Prudence and wisdom: “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence . . .” (Proverbs 8:12).

We propose that applying Prudence in the Aquinas context aligns with self-leadership theory and could potentially explain Prudence as a variable construct, which undergirds the theoretical connections between self-leadership, individual performance, and leadership styles.

What do you think?

Please share your perspective with us at the ILA Roundtable Discussion.

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