



turning managers into leaders

Merge's Monthly Mega Minute – October 2003

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Merge Gupta-Sunderji helps turn managers into leaders. Through engaging keynotes and facilitated workshops, she gives people specific and practical tools to achieve leadership and communication success. Contact her at www.mergespeaks.com or 403-605-4756

Why humans are like turtles

Once upon a time there was a turtle called Mikey. Mikey was a very unhappy turtle. He complained bitterly to anybody who would listen, "My life is going nowhere. I never get to visit new places. Nothing exciting ever happens to me. When everyone else goes out and does fun stuff, I always get left behind!" Every so often another turtle would feel sorry for Mikey and try to help him come out of his shell. But these new friends were short-lived, as swiftly, each one of them gave up in disgust or despair. Mikey watched sullenly while all the other turtles around him achieved their personal and professional goals. Every time he saw another turtle succeed, Mikey would become even more negative, and withdraw even further into his shell. You see, Mikey hadn't understood the one fundamental concept that every turtle knows: *you can go forward only when you stick your neck out.*

When you think about it, humans aren't that much different from turtles. If you play it safe and stay within your shell, you won't visit new places, nothing exciting will ever happen to you, and when everyone else goes out to do fun stuff, you'll get left behind. It's when you choose to take calculated risks that you achieve your personal and professional best. Remember, *you can go forward only when you stick your neck out.*