THE LITTLE BOOK OF INSPIRATION

100 proverbs from influential leaders
People have often asked me about quotes from my speeches and workshops. Here are the ones I find most relevant and inspiring. I hope they'll inspire you too.

Thomas Barta
Anything the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can be achieved (Napoleon Hill)

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Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value (Albert Einstein)

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Definiteness of purpose is the starting point of all achievement (W. Clement Stone)

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We become what we think about (Earl Nightingale)

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The mind is everything. What you think you become (Buddha)
Build your own dreams, or someone else will hire you to build theirs (Farrah Gray)

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The unexamined life is not worth living for a human being (Socrates)

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Dream big and dare to fail (Norman Vaughan)

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Anxiety shortens life (Buddha)

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Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning (Gloria Steinem)
A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes (Mahatma Gandhi)

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When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be (Lao Tzu)

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I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear (Rosa Parks)

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Winning isn't everything. The will to win is the only thing (Vince Lombardi)

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Believe you can and you’re halfway there (Theodore Roosevelt)
I would rather die of passion than of boredom
(Vincent van Gogh)

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It is never too late to be what you might have been (George Eliot)

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I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions (Stephen Covey)

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Certain things catch your eye, but pursue only those that capture the heart (Indian Proverb)

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If you spend your life trying to be good at everything, you will never be great at anything (Tom Rath)
Do try to be good, not to be great. Otherwise you will be in danger (Buddha)

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If you can dream it, you can achieve it (Zig Ziglar)

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The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

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I cannot trust a man to control others who cannot control himself (Robert E. Lee)

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Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart … Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens (Carl Gustav Jung)
INSPIRE

THE AGENDA
What helps people, helps business
(Leo Burnett)

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Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter (Martin Luther King Jr.)

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A leader does not deserve the name unless he is willing occasionally to stand alone (Henry A. Kissinger)

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You have to lead people gently toward what they already know is right (Phil Crosby)

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The best way to predict your future is to create it (Abraham Lincoln)
The first man gets the oyster, the second man gets the shell (Andrew Carnegie)

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The art of leadership is saying no, not saying yes. It is very easy to say yes (Tony Blair)

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Leaders must encourage their organizations to dance to forms of music yet to be heard (Warren Bennis)

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Have something to say, say it, stop talking (George Horace Lorimer)

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Problems are only opportunities in work clothes (Henry J. Kaiser)
Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower 
(Steve Jobs)

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A leader is a dealer in hope 
(Napoleon Bonaparte)

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There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or 
the mirror that reflects it (Edith Wharton)

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A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a 
molder of consensus (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

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The real leader has no need to lead - he is content to 
point the way (Henry Miller)
The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been (Henry A. Kissinger)

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There are no traffic jams along the extra mile (Roger Staubach)

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If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got (Henry Ford)

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Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things (Peter Drucker)

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There are many paths, but the only one that leads to the top of the mountain, is the one you make yourself (Ancient Chinese proverb)
When you can't make them see the light, make them feel the heat (Ronald Reagan)

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The right man is the one who seizes the moment (Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe)

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‘My dear fellow, who will let you?’ ‘That’s not the point. The point is, who will stop me?’ (Dialogue in Ayn Rand novel)

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The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality (Max De Pree)

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Everything you’ve ever wanted is on the other side of fear (George Addair)
INSPIRE

ACTION
I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do (Leonardo da Vinci)

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The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now (Chinese Proverb)

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The most difficult thing is the decision to act. The rest is merely tenacity (Amelia Earhart)

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Leadership is an action, not a position (Donald McGannon)

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Every strike brings me closer to the next home run (Babe Ruth)
Too many of us are not living our dreams because we are living our fears (Les Brown)

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Not the cry, but the flight of a wild duck, leads the flock to fly and follow (Chinese Proverb)

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A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new (Albert Einstein)

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One doesn’t discover new lands without consenting to lose sight, for a very long time, of the shore (André Gide)

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Nothing is impossible; the word itself says ‘I’m possible’!(Audrey Hepburn)
It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop (Confucius)

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Action may not always bring happiness but there is no happiness without action (Benjamin Disraeli)

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Talk doesn't cook rice (Chinese Proverb)

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Either you run the day, or the day runs you (Jim Rohn)

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Do what you can, with what you've got, where you are (Theodore Roosevelt)
Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions (Dalai Lama)

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Fall seven times and stand up eight (Japanese Proverb)

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The best revenge is massive success (Frank Sinatra)

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The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions (Confucius)

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... either write things worth reading, or do things worth the writing (Benjamin Franklin)
How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world
(Anne Frank)

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You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try (Beverly Sills)

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Life shrinks or expands according to one's courage (Anaïs Nin)

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When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it (Henry Ford)

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The shortest answer is doing the thing (Ernest Hemingway)
INSPIRE

YOUR TEAM
The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires (William Arthur Ward)

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People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel (Maya Angelou)

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Good teachers know how to bring out the best in students (Charles Kuralt)

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The sharp employ the sharp (Douglas William Jerrold)

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Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better (Bill Bradley)
A single arrow is easily broken, but not ten in a bundle
(Japanese Proverb)

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Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him, and to let him know that you trust him (Booker T. Washington)

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Victory is much more meaningful when it comes not just from one person, but from the joint achievements of many (Howard Schultz)

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Keep your fears to yourself, but share your courage with others (Robert Louis Stevenson)

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Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success (Henry Ford)
Education costs money, but then so does ignorance
(Claus Adolf Moser)

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None of us is as smart as all of us (Ken Blanchard)

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People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing, that's why we recommend it daily (Zig Ziglar)

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Love is a better teacher than duty (Albert Einstein)

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When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion (Ethiopian Proverb)
When the best leader's work is done the people say, 'We did it ourselves' (Lao Tzu)

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Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships (Michael Jordan)

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Get the best people and train them well (Scott McNealy)

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If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else (Booker T. Washington)

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A true teacher defends his students against his own personal influences (Amos Bronson Alcott)
The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers (Ralph Nader)

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The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership (Harvey S. Firestone)

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You do not lead by hitting people over the head. That’s assault, not leadership (Dwight D. Eisenhower)

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Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results (George Patton)

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To lead people, walk behind them (Lao Tzu)
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