



One Man's Opinion - APRIL 13, 2018

BY MICHAEL SHINDLER, PRESIDENT

I have written in various **One Man's Opinion** pieces my views on leadership archetypes, particularly, the two at the opposite ends of a leadership spectrum. I thought about these pieces in the wake of the news of publication of the book, A Higher Loyalty, by former FBI Director (and former Assistant Attorney General of the United States), James Comey. Reports suggest some language about the current POTUS that is quite strong, precipitating his Twitter response calling Mr. Comey an "untruthful slime ball." My political leanings are likely quite clear and well-known, so I am not going into those here.

According to reports, Mr. Comey said of POTUS, ***"His leadership is transactional, ego driven and about personal loyalty."*** I am envious of the judicious and efficient use of language in this sentence. My entire OMO piece on "Dictator" is summed up in that incredibly powerful sentence. The person who embodies those three traits cannot be a "leader" of any consequence.

The Chairman of the Board of each of the last two companies (other than my own) for which I have worked can in my view, unfortunately, be described quite precisely by Mr. Comey's characterization of POTUS. In the first case, the COB owns too much of the company to be deposed, many times the percentage owned by Steve Wynn in his eponymous company; it simply will not happen. In the second case, the incumbent COB claims an affinity for POTUS as a former employee of one of his failed companies, so the characteristics may have been achieved as a compliment to a possible idol. That incumbent has managed to hang on, somehow.

I have often said that I'd rather work for a bad person than an ego-driven person. With the former, one can almost always discern how an event, circumstance or comment will affect his/her reaction; with the latter, his/her **perception** of that event, circumstance or comment will strongly inform the reaction. It may not always be predictable or, to a disinterested observer, logical or rational. It has taken me some time to identify other "tells" to enable a person to understand when dealing with someone who is "transactional, ego driven and about personal loyalty."

Perhaps I'll muse about that in this space soon.