



OF MONSTERS AND VIRTUES A VIRTUOUS LEADERSHIP HALLOWEEN TRICK

The full moon rose over the quiet suburb as Dracula, Frankenstein, the Wolfman and the Invisible Man met on the corner, ready for a night of trick-or-treating. "I can't wait to scare all those kids!" cackled Dracula, flashing his fangs. The others nodded eagerly.

Their first stop was little Timmy's house. When Timmy opened the door, Dracula leapt out shouting "Bleh bleh bleh!" sending the boy screaming.

"Oh dear, I may have overdone it a bit," Dracula said sheepishly as Timmy's mother glared. At the next house, Frankenstein stuck out his neck bolts and growled "Uuuggghhh!" causing a girl in a princess costume to burst into tears.

"Whoops, too scary for this crowd," rumbled Frankenstein, embarrassed. The Wolfman couldn't resist chasing a few cats, sending them scrambling up trees, hissing. "I...I just can't help myself sometimes," the Wolfman whined, tail between his legs.

Meanwhile, the Invisible Man was gently lifting kids' hats off their heads, until one boy snapped: "Hey, quit it!"

"Drat, they detected me!" frowned the transparent troublemaker. Clearly, the monsters were struggling to control their mischief. As darkness fell, their vices grew worse. Approaching the cemetery, Frankenstein loped toward an open grave. "Where are you going?" called Dracula.

"To dig up a new friend!" grinned Frankenstein. "I can't help myself!" Dracula knew grave robbing didn't end well. "Perhaps we should carry on trick-or-treating," he suggested, steering Frankenstein back toward town.

Soon the Wolfman began chasing pets again. "Must hunt...can't control it!" he howled. Dracula and Frankenstein held him back. "Simmer down now, you don't want to be 'wolfing' down the neighborhood cats," Dracula warned. The Wolfman took a few deep breaths.

At the next house, when a teenager with spiky blue hair opened the door, the Invisible Man couldn't resist yelling "Boo!" from behind, making the kid jump three feet into the air. "Dude!" the teen shouted angrily. The invisible troublemaker cringed. His hot-headed temper was getting the best of him again.

Soon Dracula eyed a man walking his dog. "Mmm, a midnight snack looks tasty," he murmured, baring his fangs. But Frankenstein stopped him. "We agreed - no biting people!" he rumbled. Dracula sighed. "You're right, my friend. I don't want to fall into old habits."

As the night wore on, the monsters struggled to rein in their wild sides and avoid indulging their worst impulses. But it was a constant battle. Approaching the final houses, Frankenstein had amassed mounds of candy, causing the others' bags to look puny by comparison. "How did you get so much loot?" Dracula asked. He was sorely lacking his favorite red licorice.

"I'm just so big and scary, folks dump handfuls of candy to get me to leave quickly," Frankenstein chuckled. When a dad holding a bowl of candy shuddered at the sight of Frankenstein, the monster grabbed the whole thing greedily. "Sir, can you please spare some red licorice?" Dracula asked politely. But the terrified father dashed inside and slammed the door.

"You took all the candy - even licorice!" Dracula scowled. "And now no one will come near this house." Frankenstein realized his gluttony had spoiled their fun. "I'm sorry friends, my monstrous appetite got the best of me. Let me make amends."

When the next door opened, before Frankenstein could even growl, the grumpy old man snarled "Take it!" dumping the whole bowl of candy at Frankenstein's feet and slamming

the door. The monsters looked at the pile forlornly. "I guess we are rather hideous, aren't we?" said the Wolfman glumly.

Just then, a voice called out in song: "Good eve, friends! Might I suggest, To lift your spirits and pass this test, The key, my dears, is virtues four - Prudence and justice, courage and more! Trick-or-treat with others in mind, Good manners you're sure to find. Share your candy, scare not any, Then Halloween will be fun for many!"

It was the Phantom of the Opera, floating down the street, white mask glowing in the moonlight. The monsters were astonished at his rhyme, but took it to heart. "The Phantom is right - let's share this haul and give others a chance at candy too," said Frankenstein. He gave Licorice to Dracula, who beamed fangily.

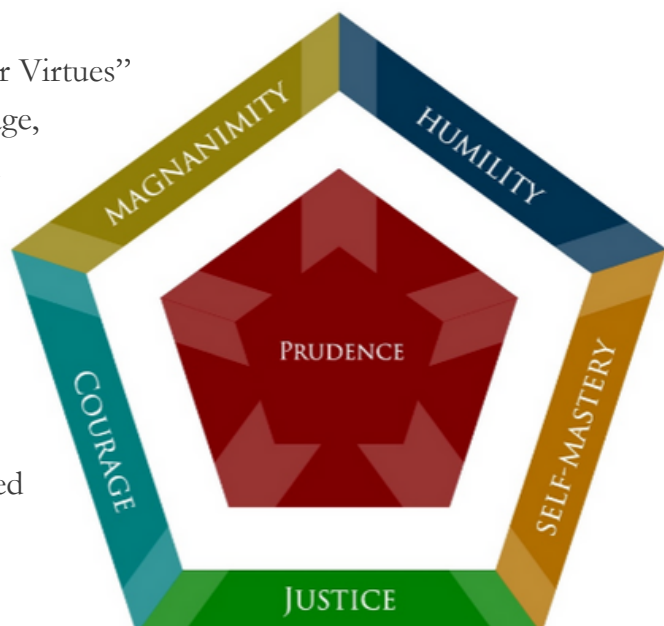
At the final house, Dracula politely asked for candy, getting a better response. As the friends walked home, the Invisible Man said: "I'm truly sorry for the pranks and scares, friends. Next time I'll restrain my mischief in respect for others."

"And I'll control my howling urges and not go overboard with cats," added the Wolfman sincerely. Frankenstein nodded. "Prudence, courage, justice and self-mastery - a recipe for virtues quite tasty!" They all laughed and continued home under the glowing moon, pockets bulging with treats to share, the night ending on a surprisingly sweet note. The Phantom smiled, his work done.

ABOUT THE FOUR VIRTUES

In his Master Course on "Practicing the Four Virtues" Alexandre Havard identifies prudence, courage, self-mastery, and justice as four fundamental virtues that provide the foundation for leadership excellence.

The four cardinal virtues of prudence, courage, self-mastery, and justice form a strong foundation for the higher leadership virtues of magnanimity and humility described by Alex Havard.



Prudence, the ability to discern the right course of action, enables the **magnanimous** leader to channel ambition into worthy, carefully planned goals.

Courage provides the moral strength to persist despite obstacles and criticisms.

Self-mastery gives leaders the inner resilience to manage their egos and power responsibly. **Justice** ensures that **magnanimous** visions align with ethics to uplift followers and communities.

Likewise, **humility** arises from the cardinal virtues. **Prudence** offers perspective on the limits of one's knowledge. **Courage** enables leaders to admit mistakes and listen to others. **Self-mastery** restrains unhealthy pride. And **justice** reminds leaders to create opportunities for all, not feed self-importance.

Magnanimous, humble leadership is only possible for those grounded in prudence, courage, self-control, and justice. Mastering the fundamentals enables the actualization of leadership excellence. A leader strong in these four virtues has the character and competence to serve others with integrity for a better world.



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