

What Being Tall Means to Me

Height has always been held as a great quality by all cultures throughout history. To be tall is to tower over others, to be dominant and to lead. Since a tall person has such a respectable quality, they are generally given the respect that is given to a leader. Being taller than average, I have been cast into leadership roles fairly often, though my other qualities such as age, personal maturity, and responsibility would have contributed to my being chosen as a leader. Now, as a tall person, I could very well use my height to constantly dominate over others. After all, in this world dominance is power, and power is everything. However, as odd as it sounds, I do not use my height to dominate others. Why not? Having been given such an opportunity, should I not utilize it as much as possible? Am I too lazy or without any type of ambition whatsoever? For the former, all one has to do is look at my calendar to see that laziness is not the reason. One cannot say that it is the latter either, since I do like trying to outperform others. When I was a young child, I dreamed of being taller than everyone else and constantly looked forward to growing taller than my friends and relatives. Now that I have reached a great height, I have realized that being tall compared to others is not an actual accomplishment in and of itself. However, there is something that comes with great height, and that is perspective. When someone goes to a greater height, they increase their range of sight. That is why watchtowers and crowsmasts are tall: they give a viewer on top the chance to see more and as a bigger, more complete picture. By being tall, I have a greater range of sight and an easier time looking over things. But the main perspective is being able to see things as a part of a greater whole. It is being able to see how things fit together into a beautiful order. That is how I am able to keep myself from dominating others. By realizing that I am not the dominating force or principle that keeps the world or universe in order, I can maintain a measure of humility. Are there times where I will have to be the leader in a situation or have to enforce something for the good of others? Probably, and when I have to I shall use all the capabilities at my disposal. But until that point, I can follow others who are wiser and more experienced than I. I can definitely respect others who are learning and growing with me. I can also observe from my viewpoint the order and change around me to know when I need to step in as a leader and how to effectively lead in whatever scenario I happen to be in. That is what being tall means to me. Being able to see the order of things and people around me so that if I must lead, I will be able to lead well. If I need to follow, I will follow and learn from my leader. Unlike what much of the world believes, there is no need for dominance, but there is a need for humility and learning.