

Ego and Arrogance

Everyone has a certain amount of ego, but you must keep that ego under control. Ego is feeling confident and important, knowing you can do the job. But if you get the feeling that you are too important, that you are indispensable, or that you can do the job without real effort and hard work, without correct preparation, that's arrogance. Arrogance is weakness. That's why I like this poem:

- John Wooden

Sometime when you're feeling important,
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted,
You're the best qualified in the room.

Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow this simple instruction
And see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water;
Put your hand in it up to the wrist.
Pull it out, and the hole that is remaining
Is the measure of how you'll be missed.

You may splash all you please when you enter;
You can stir up the water galore;
But stop, and you'll find in a minute,
That it looks quite the same as before.

The moral in this quaint example
Is to do just the best you can.
Be proud of yourself, but remember,
There is no indispensable man!

- Ogden Nash