

# IKE-ISMS

SIMPLE TRUTHS ABOUT PROJECT MANAGEMENT,  
LEADERSHIP, AND THE CHOICES YOU MAKE ALONG THE WAY

# FORWARD

Project management.

It's a business necessity; yet it takes a special person to be good at it and help a company achieve its goals.

Many project managers are poorly trained. They may appear brilliant on paper, but they can't lead a team.

Leadership training is only a fraction of what is required.

It takes character, integrity, steadfastness, and heart to be a good project manager, and teams deserve good management.

Weak project management will lose sponsor support and team loyalty. Strong project management tackles, achieves, and celebrates.

Most project management books focus on the process, the mechanics, and the PERT, Gantt, and Pareto charts depicting workflow and milestones met -- or not.

This is not that type of book. This reference guide is a series of maxims from Richard "Ike" Eickholt, a strong project manager who led project teams with unique character, wisdom and principles.

These "Ike-isms" compress decades of making choices, motivating teams, and demonstrating leadership into 18 maxims and a poem. May they inspire others as they inspired me.

- a project team member

A black and white photograph showing a stack of white, textured paper. The paper has a slightly irregular, torn edge on the right side. The texture of the paper is visible, and the lighting creates soft shadows between the layers.

CHOICES

# TEAM SELECTION:

BEWARE OF WHO  
IS #40 ON THE  
LIST, ESPECIALLY  
IF THAT PERSON  
HAS A LONG WAY  
TO GET TO #39.





ON TIME.  
ON BUDGET.

BE SENSITIVE  
TO OTHERS'  
TIME AND  
MONEY.

A long, modern concrete corridor with a wooden bench on the right. The corridor is supported by a series of dark, rectangular columns. The floor is made of light-colored brick pavers. The walls are a light grey concrete. The lighting is dramatic, with bright sunlight streaming in from the left, casting long shadows and illuminating the floor and the side of the bench. The overall atmosphere is minimalist and architectural.

IF YOU HAVE A CHOICE OF LOVE  
OR RESPECT, CHOOSE RESPECT.



WHEN AT AN IMPASSE . . .

SEEK THE OPINION OF THE  
PROJECT MANAGER WITH MORE  
THAN 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.



REMEMBER . . .

NO ACTION IS A DECISION.

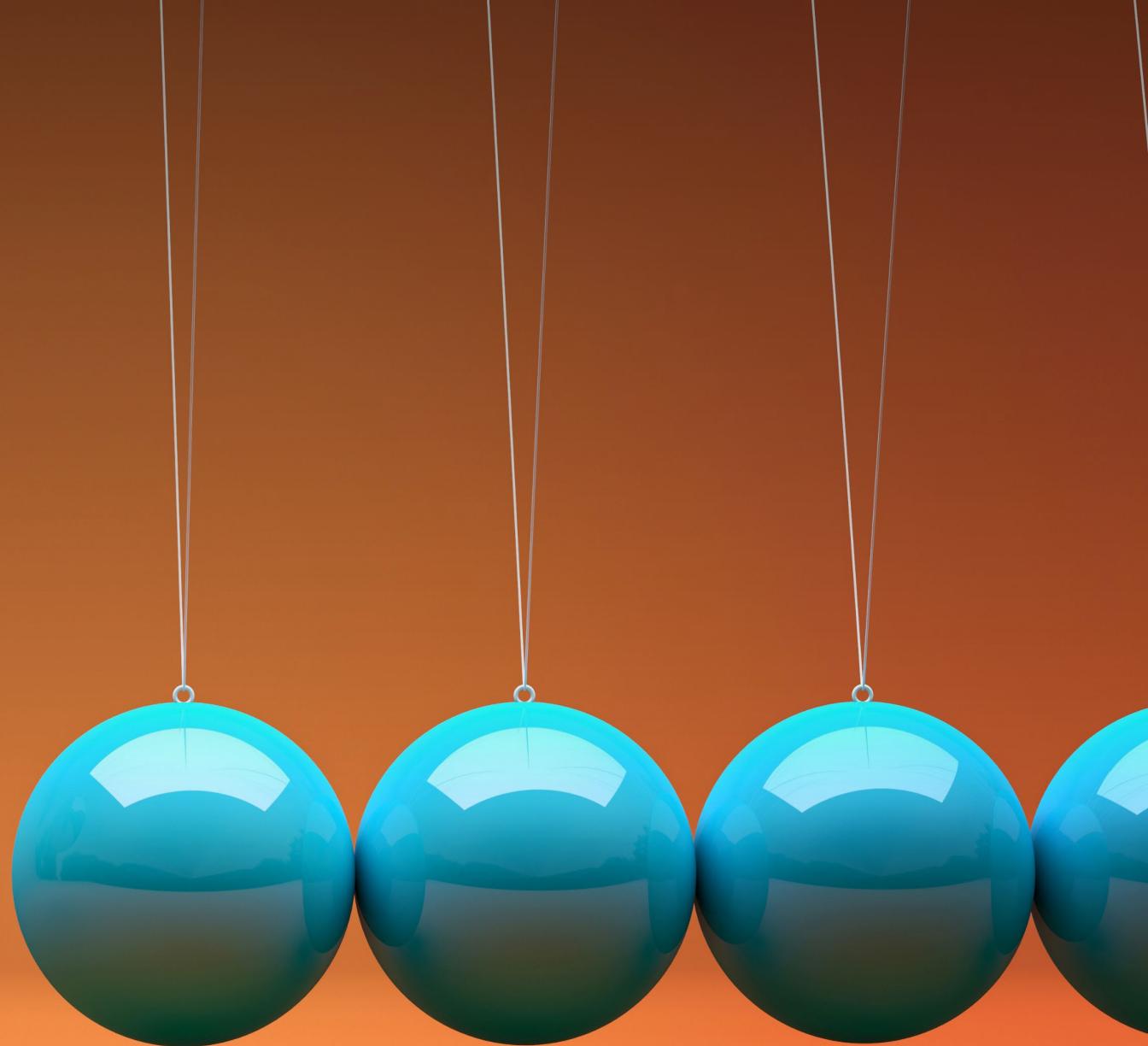
WHEN YOU HAVE  
THE POWER, THE  
WORST THING  
YOU CAN DO IS  
USE IT.



## STICKS & STONIES

DISMISS THINGS THAT AREN'T CRITICAL.  
SEPARATE THE STICKS AND STONIES FROM  
THE BIG BOULDERS THAT GET IN THE WAY  
OF PROGRESS.

WEEKLY REPORTS  
ARE NECESSARY.



IF SOMEONE'S TASKS  
REPEATEDLY APPEAR EACH WEEK,  
SOMETHING IS WRONG.



IF THE PROJECT MANAGER IS DORMANT,  
THE TEAM WILL BE, TOO.

IF YOU ARE AFRAID OF THE WRATH, IT WILL BITE YOU.

WHEN THINGS GET  
HARD,  
(AND THEY WILL GET HARD)

DON'T FOLD LIKE A  
CHEAP TENT.





WORDS FROM THE WISE

“WINNERS KNOW HOW TO WIN,  
AND LOSERS KNOW HOW TO LOSE.”



DON'T LET EGO  
OR JEALOUSY BE YOUR DEMISE.

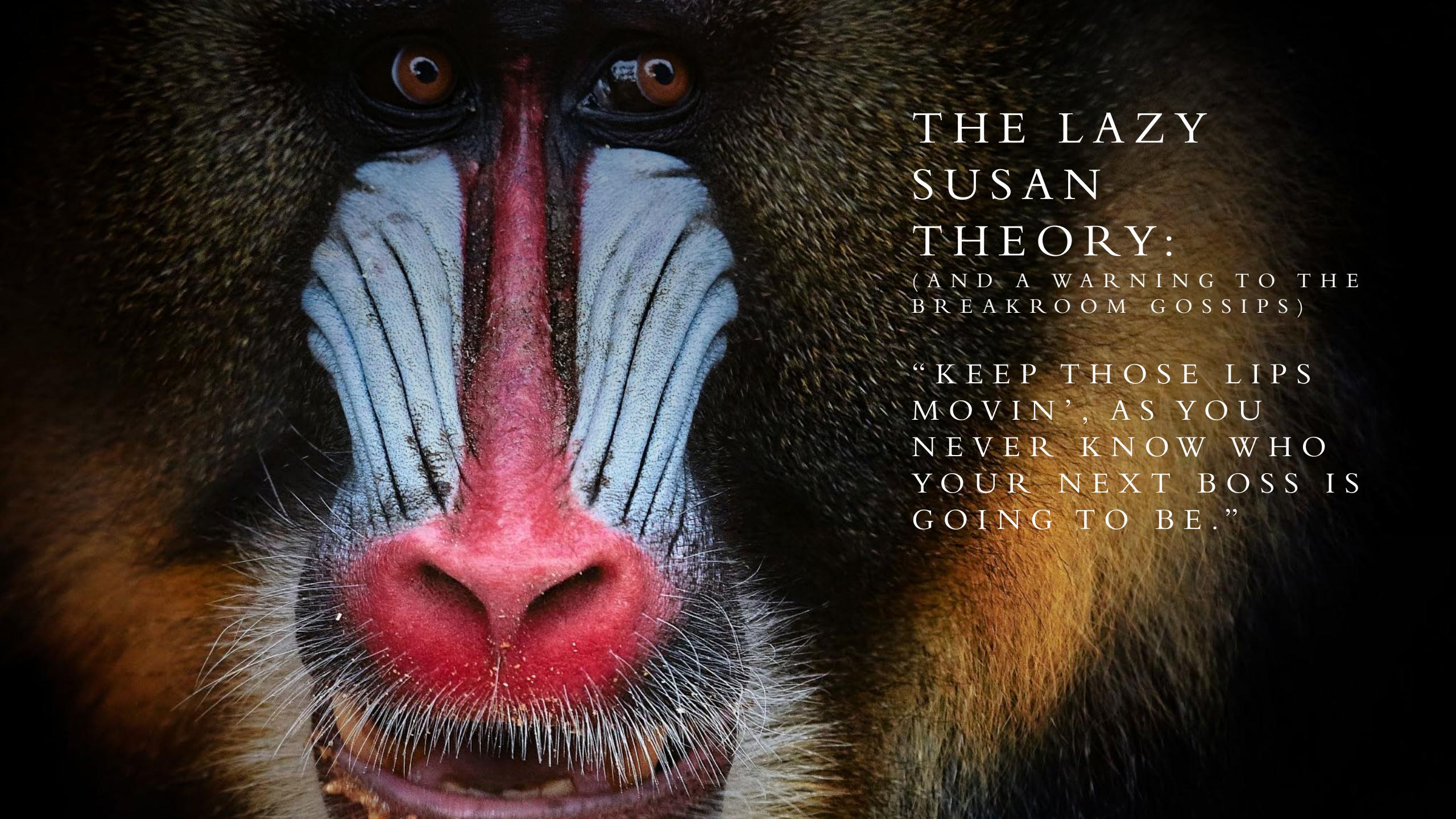
“IT’S AN  
OPPORTUNITY.”

ONLY SAY THIS  
TO THOSE WHOM  
YOU KNOW CAN DO  
THE JOB.



“SPEAK UP  
. . . OR YOU LOSE YOUR BITCH  
LICENSE.”





# THE LAZY SUSAN THEORY:

(AND A WARNING TO THE  
BREAKROOM GOSSIPERS)

“KEEP THOSE LIPS  
MOVIN’, AS YOU  
NEVER KNOW WHO  
YOUR NEXT BOSS IS  
GOING TO BE.”



IN RETROSPECT



A PESSIMIST IS AN  
OPTIMIST WITH  
MORE FACTS.

THERE  
ARE  
NO  
“GIMMIES”  
IN THE  
GAME OF  
LIFE.

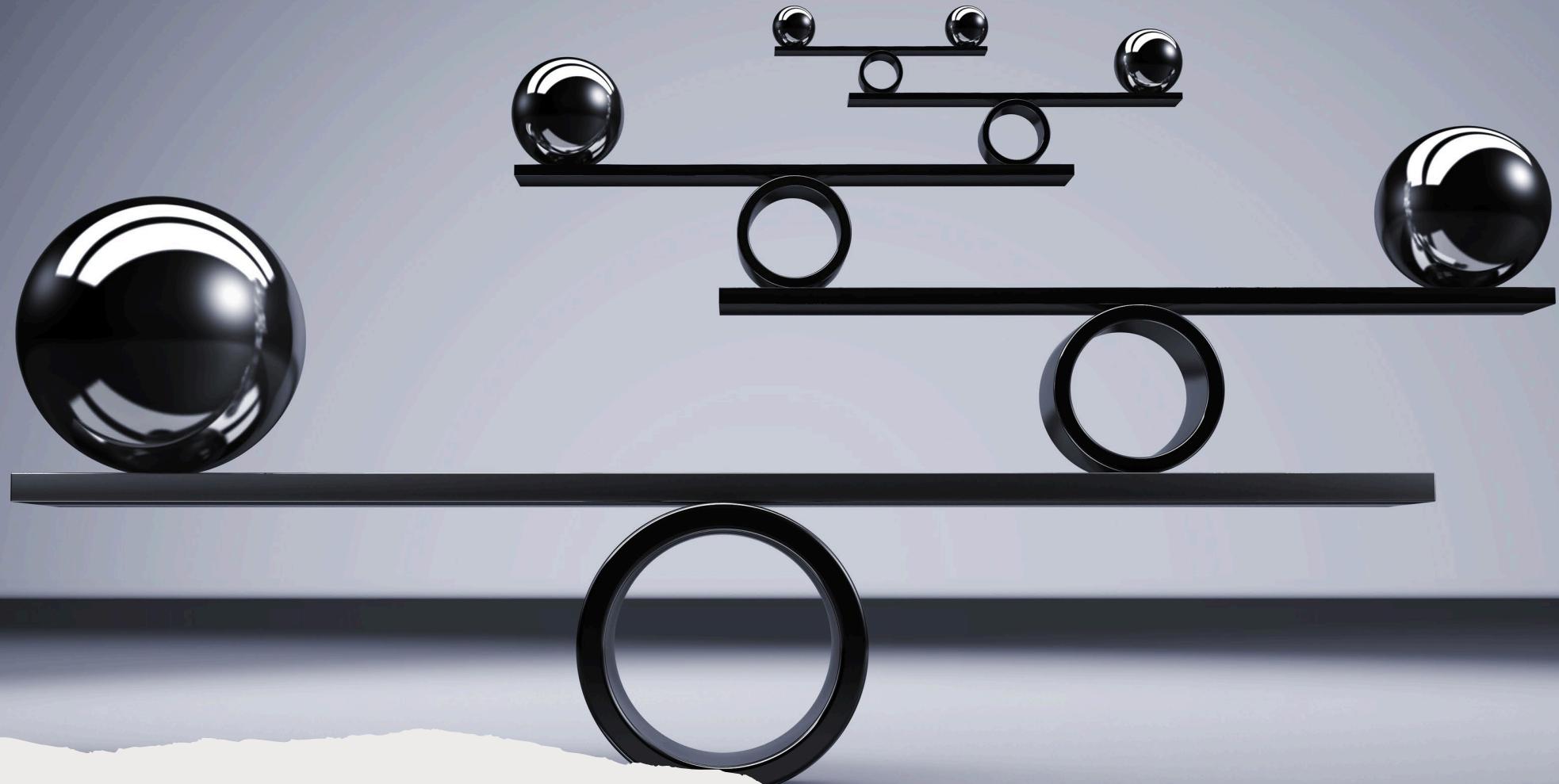


ALL YOU HAVE - THAT  
PEOPLE CAN COUNT  
ON - IS YOUR WORD.



IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR SPONSORS ABREAST OF WHERE  
YOU ARE ON THEIR PROJECT, YOU DIG YOUR OWN HOLE.

IF THERE'S A CHANGE, LET THEM KNOW. IT'S JUST COMMON  
COURTESY.



KEEP IN MIND: YOUR GREATEST  
STRENGTH IS ALSO YOUR GREATEST  
WEAKNESS.

# MAN IN THE GLASS

When you get what you want in your struggle for self,  
and the world makes you king for a day,  
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself,  
and see what that man has to say.  
For it isn't your father or mother or wife  
whose judgement upon you must pass.  
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life  
is the one staring back from the glass.

Some people might think you're a straight-shootin' chum,  
and call you a wonderful guy;  
but the man in the glass says you're only a bum,  
if you can't look him straight in the eye.  
He's the fellow to please; never mind all the rest,  
for he's with you, dear, up to the end.  
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test,  
if the guy in the glass is your friend.  
You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years  
and get pats on the back as you pass;  
but your final reward will be heartaches and tears,  
if you've cheated the man in the glass.

*- Anonymous*