

31

refutably irrefutable laws of

LAME

leadership

Johnny Leckie



ABOUT:

Johnny Leckie is a Christ Follower, Husband to Leona, and Father to Matthew, Melissa and Michael. He's a Pastor, Church Planter, Musician, Artist, Podcaster and Blogger.

Johnny earned a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry from East Texas Baptist University and a Master of Arts in Religious Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Although he is proud of his "alma maters" and the education he received from them, he would prefer that you not hold his degrees against him.

Johnny has been in ministry for many years, and has served in most areas of ministry at one time or another. He's ministered in churches large and small, made mistakes large and small, and has the knocks, scars and joys to prove it.

Johnny has at turns, been "led by" or has "led as" a lame leader. He has also been led by some great leaders, none of whom should think that these insights are about them.

Johnny is also writing this in the third person, which in itself could be considered a law of lame leadership...

Find more of his thoughts at MinistryBackpack.com

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INTRODUCTION:

This little book could just as easily have been entitled, "How To Be A Lame Leader," because that is basically what it is about. It could also be considered a list of things to avoid if you want to become a better leader.

John Maxwell has written the "21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership," and I can't and won't try to refute them. They really are irrefutable and I highly recommend his book.

I, however, have come up with the "31 refutably irrefutable laws of lame leadership." They are "refutably irrefutable" because you may be able to refute them. But I really don't think you can.

Actually, after seeing them, I don't think you would want to try.

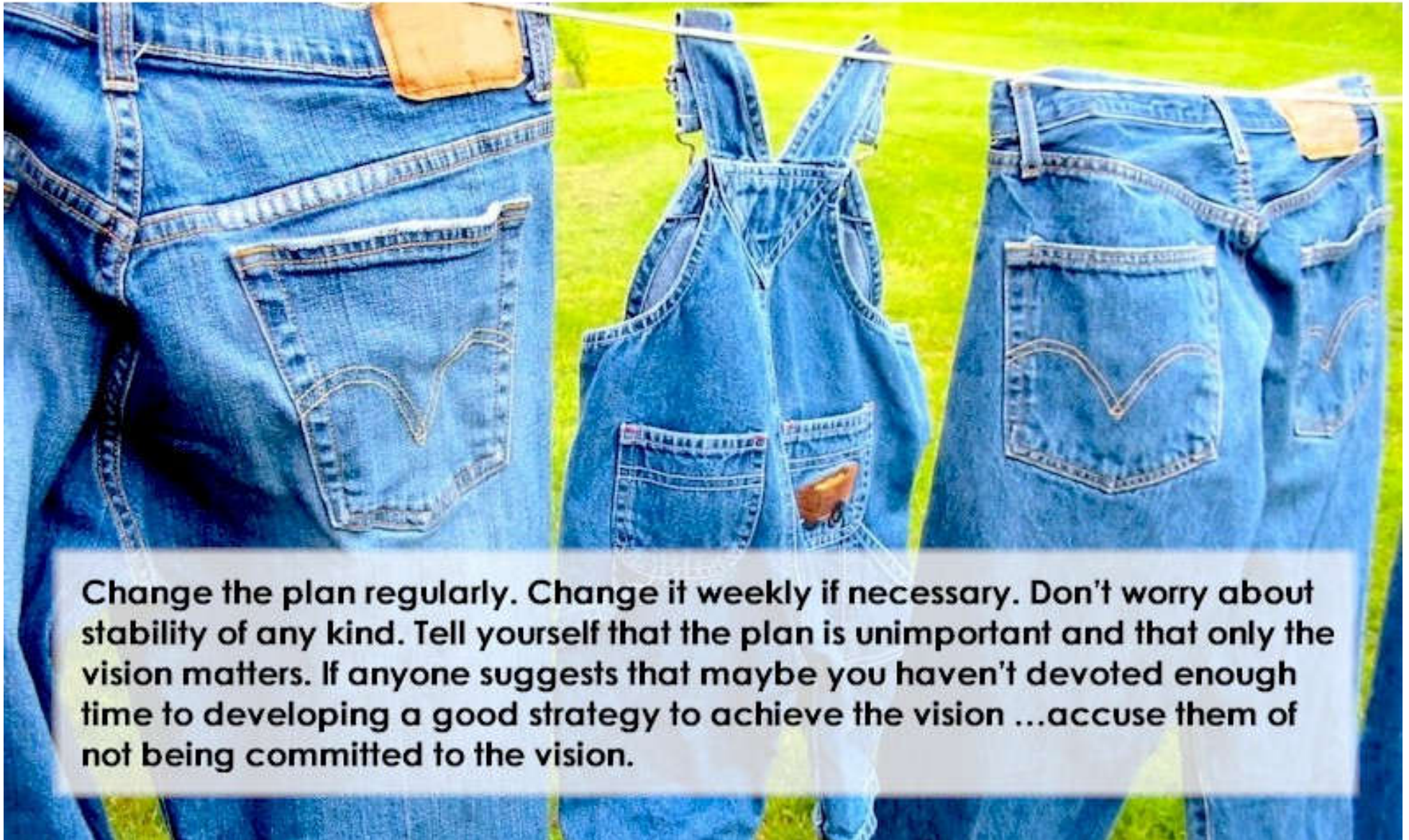
Either way, I have observed these "laws" displayed in real leaders, including myself, many times over the years. Even great leaders are lame leaders from time to time, and I am certainly no exception. In fact, most of these laws I discovered as I was displaying their characteristics in my own leadership.

I should also mention that implementing the opposite of these laws may not make you an incredible leader, but implementing these laws will certainly insure your name is listed in the annals of lame leadership.

This is not an exhaustive list, and as I said before, you may be able to refute a few of these "laws."

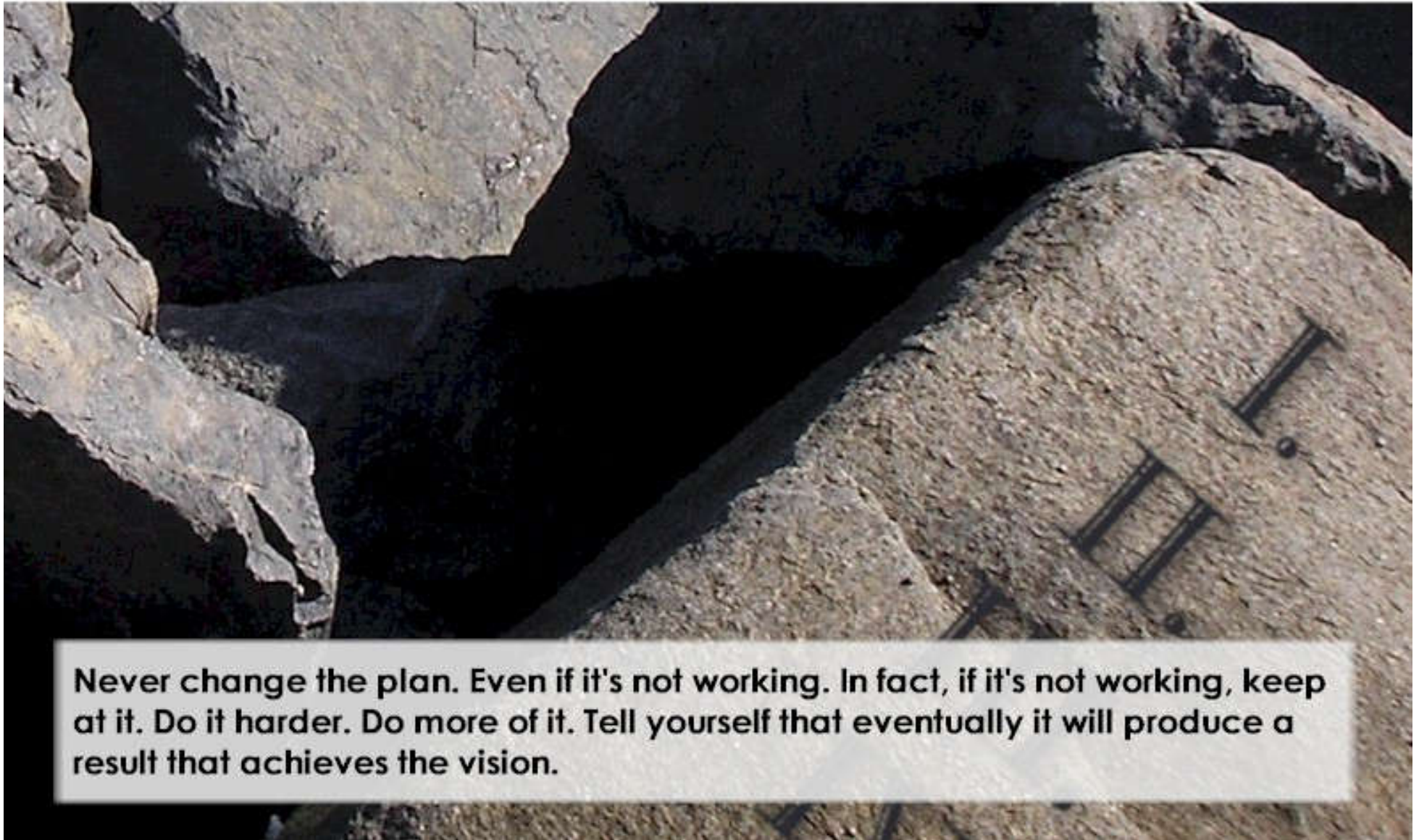
But I believe that would be highly refutable...

1. THE LAW OF THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS.



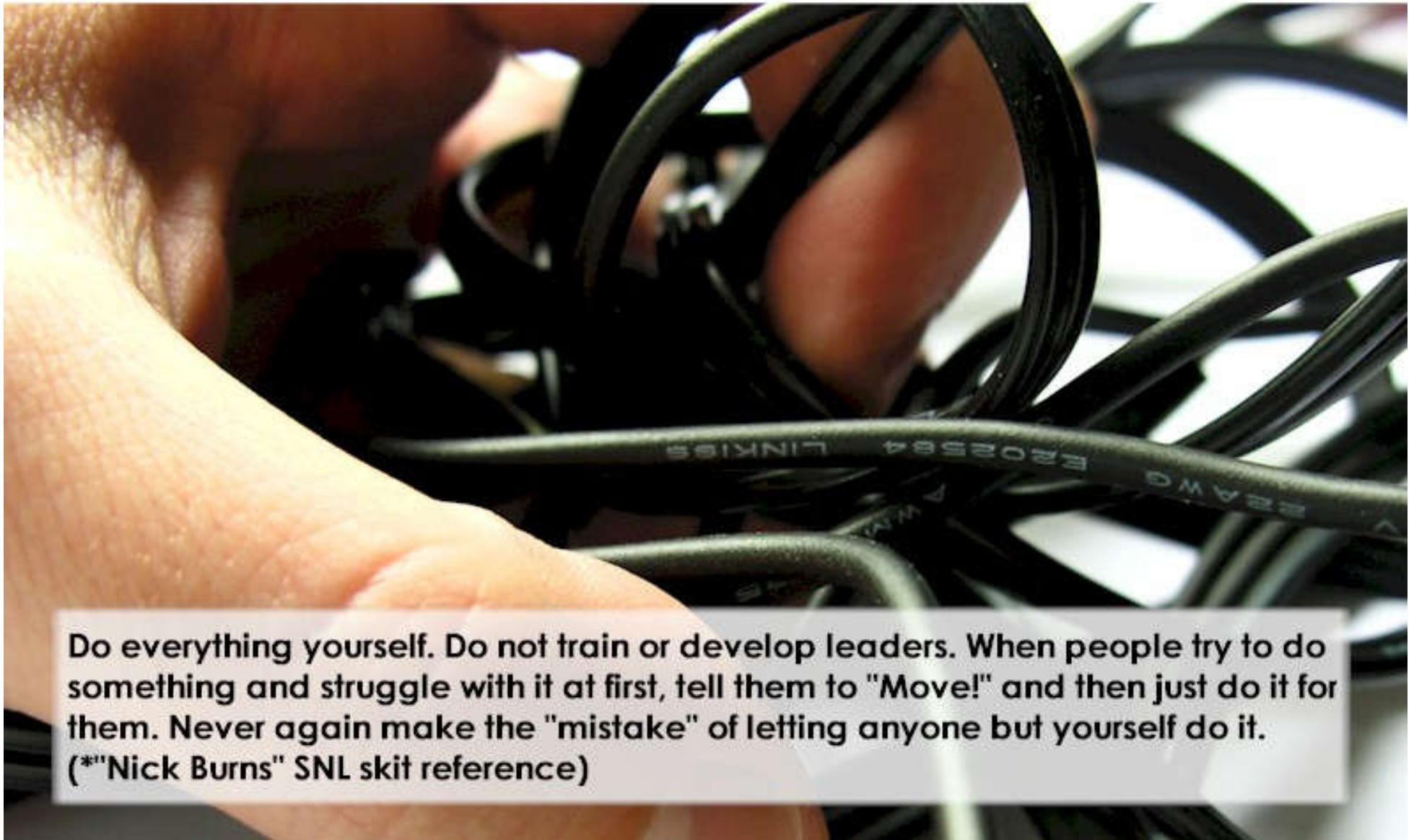
Change the plan regularly. Change it weekly if necessary. Don't worry about stability of any kind. Tell yourself that the plan is unimportant and that only the vision matters. If anyone suggests that maybe you haven't devoted enough time to developing a good strategy to achieve the vision ...accuse them of not being committed to the vision.

2. THE LAW OF THE STONE TABLETS.



Never change the plan. Even if it's not working. In fact, if it's not working, keep at it. Do it harder. Do more of it. Tell yourself that eventually it will produce a result that achieves the vision.

3. THE LAW OF THE "COMPANY COMPUTER GUY."*



Do everything yourself. Do not train or develop leaders. When people try to do something and struggle with it at first, tell them to "Move!" and then just do it for them. Never again make the "mistake" of letting anyone but yourself do it.
(*"Nick Burns" SNL skit reference)

4. THE LAW OF THE LAZY LEAD.

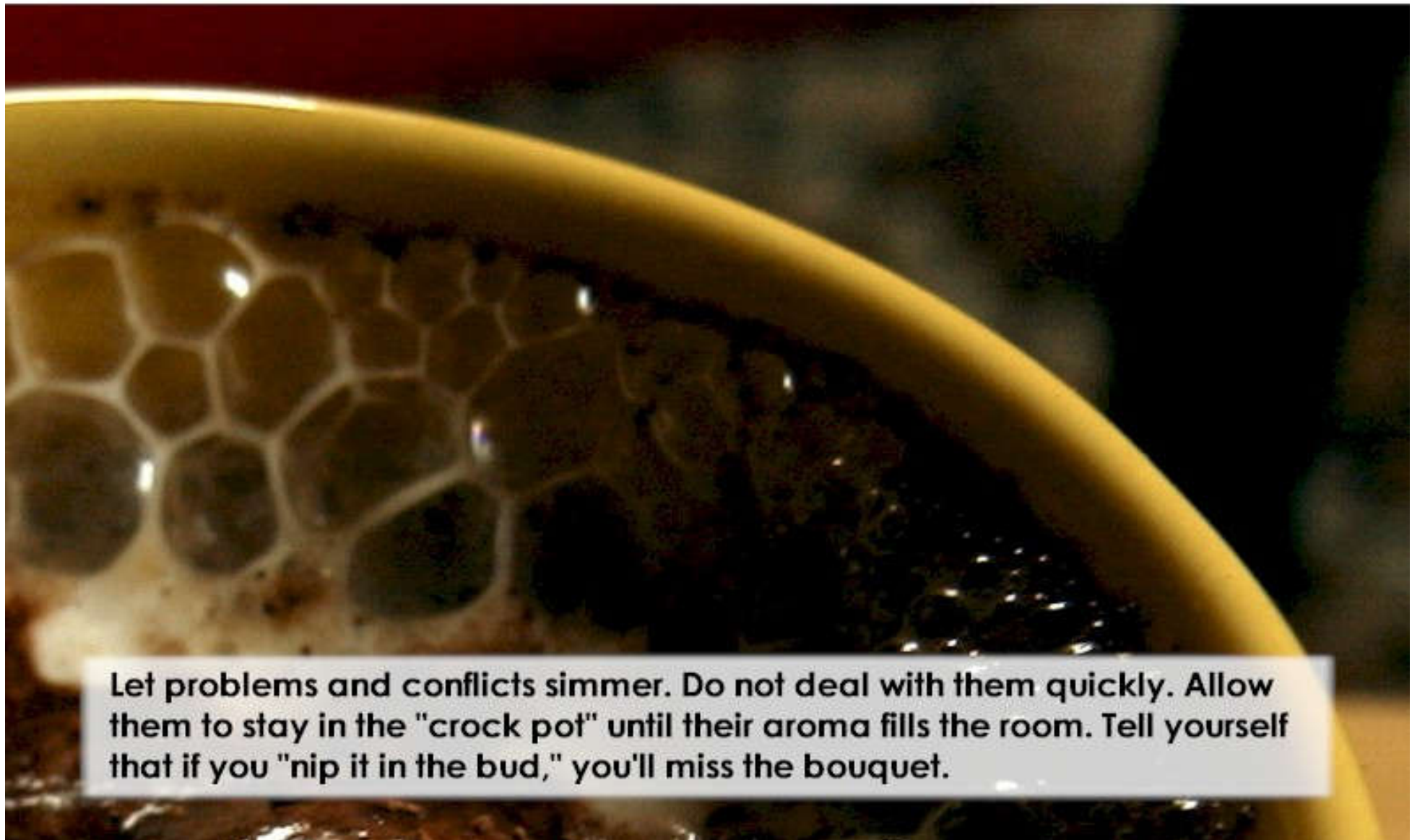


Delegate everything. ...Really. Everything. Don't do anything. Remind everyone that you are the leader.

5. THE LAW OF THE MURKY MICROMANAGE.

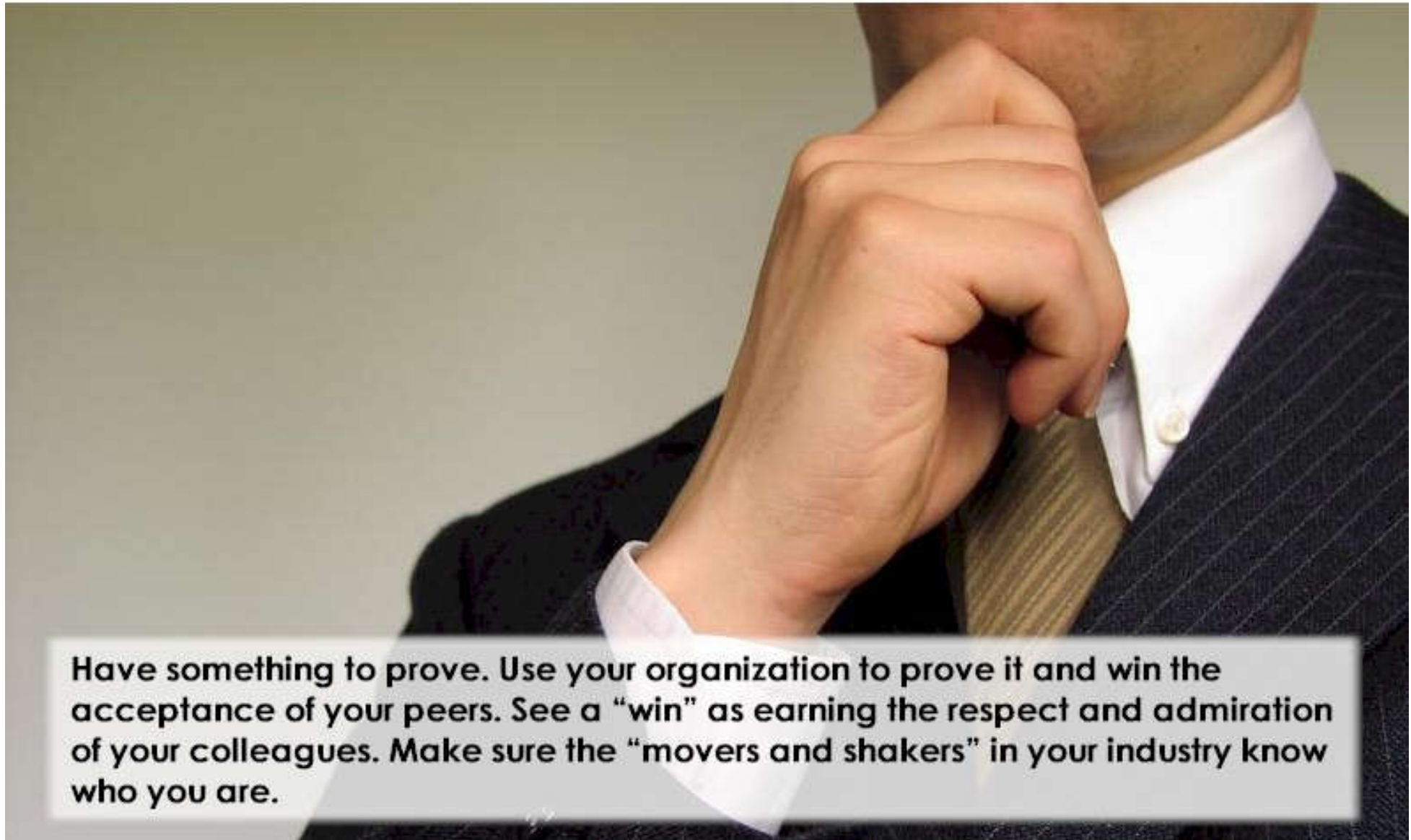


6. THE LAW OF THE SCORCHED PAN.



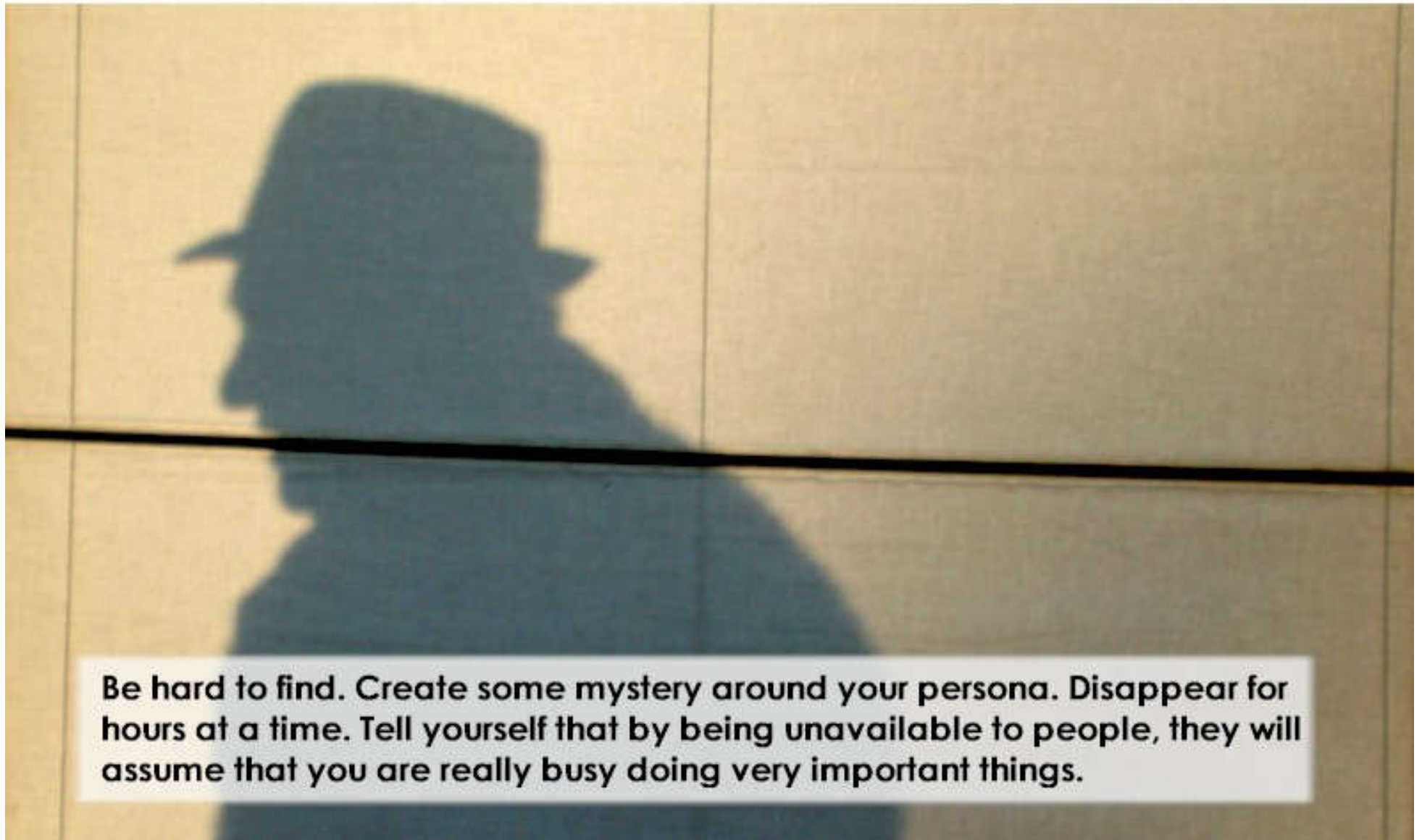
Let problems and conflicts simmer. Do not deal with them quickly. Allow them to stay in the "crock pot" until their aroma fills the room. Tell yourself that if you "nip it in the bud," you'll miss the bouquet.

7. THE LAW OF RECOGNITION.



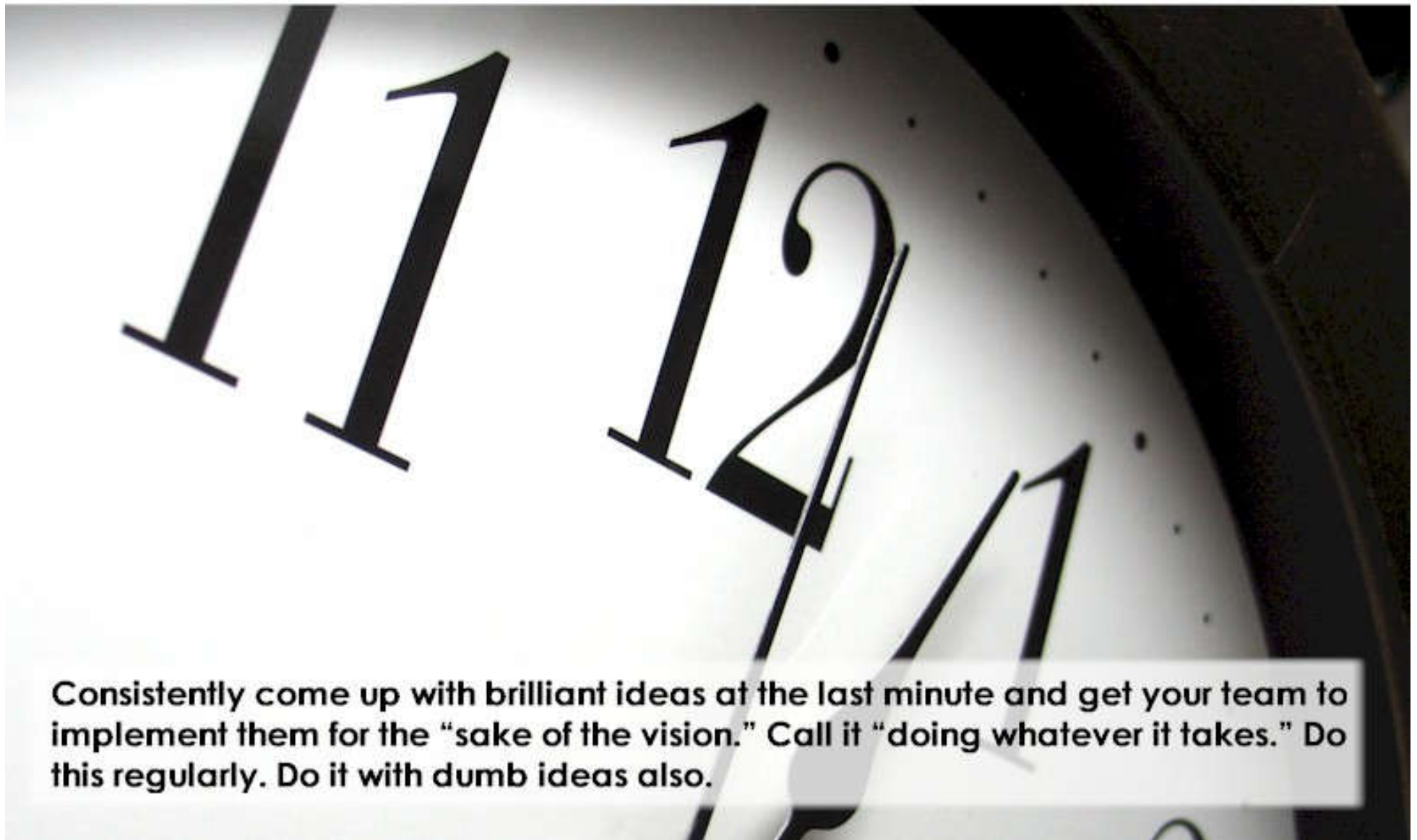
Have something to prove. Use your organization to prove it and win the acceptance of your peers. See a “win” as earning the respect and admiration of your colleagues. Make sure the “movers and shakers” in your industry know who you are.

8. THE LAW OF THE ALOOF.

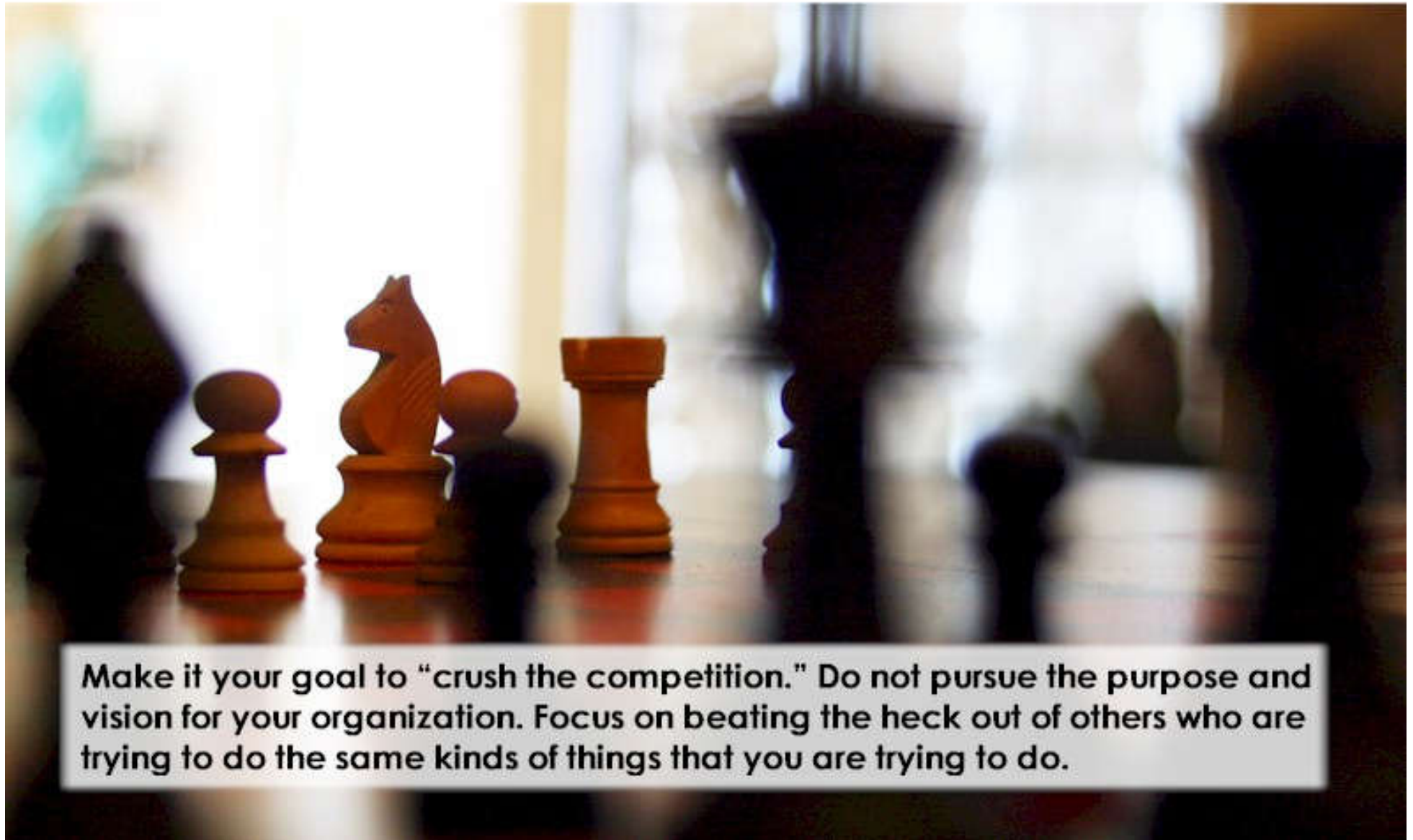


Be hard to find. Create some mystery around your persona. Disappear for hours at a time. Tell yourself that by being unavailable to people, they will assume that you are really busy doing very important things.

9. THE LAW OF THE LAST MINUTE.

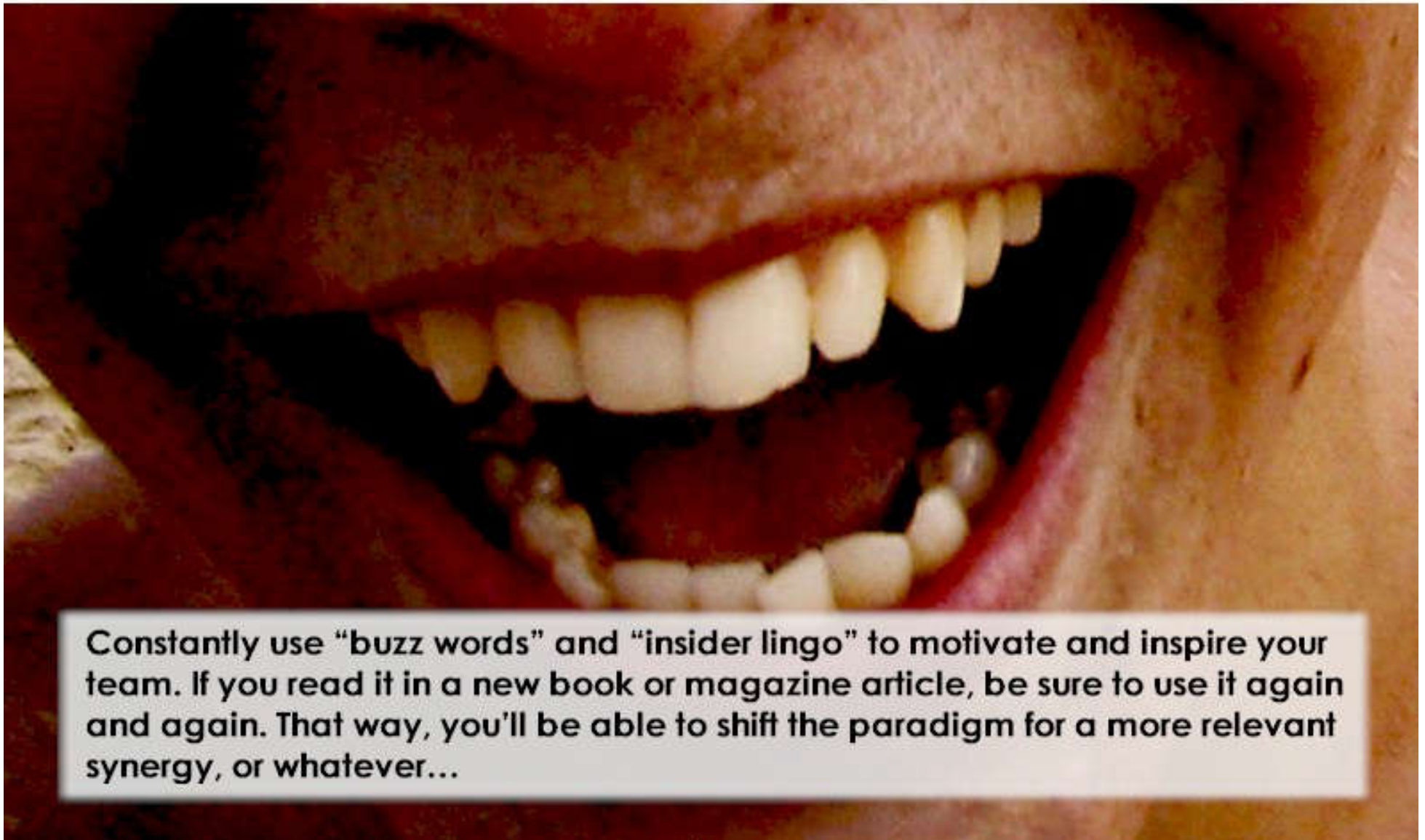


10. THE LAW OF THE WAR ROOM.



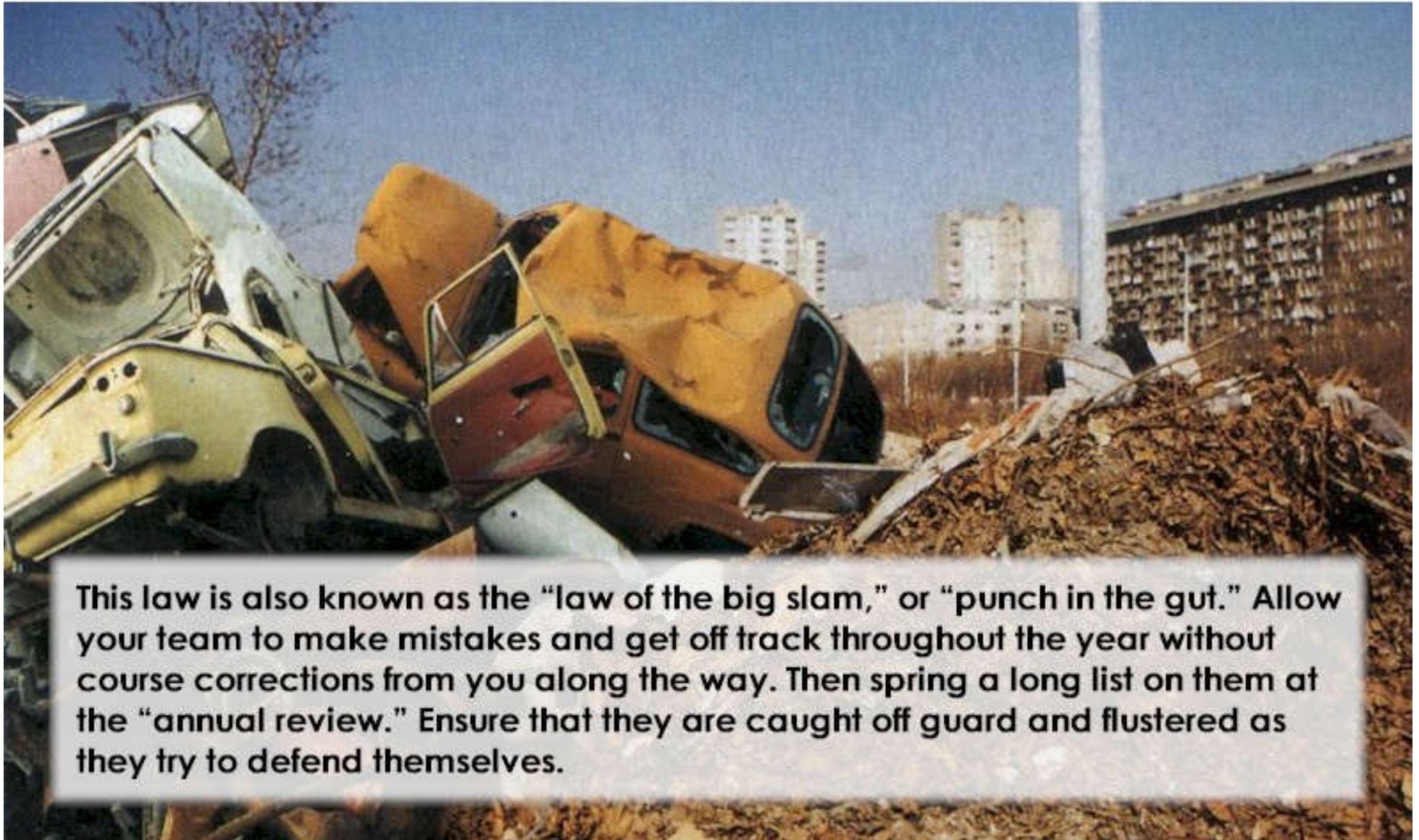
Make it your goal to “crush the competition.” Do not pursue the purpose and vision for your organization. Focus on beating the heck out of others who are trying to do the same kinds of things that you are trying to do.

11. THE LAW OF THE TRENDY TONGUE.




Constantly use “buzz words” and “insider lingo” to motivate and inspire your team. If you read it in a new book or magazine article, be sure to use it again and again. That way, you’ll be able to shift the paradigm for a more relevant synergy, or whatever...

12. THE LAW OF THE SIDE SWIPE.



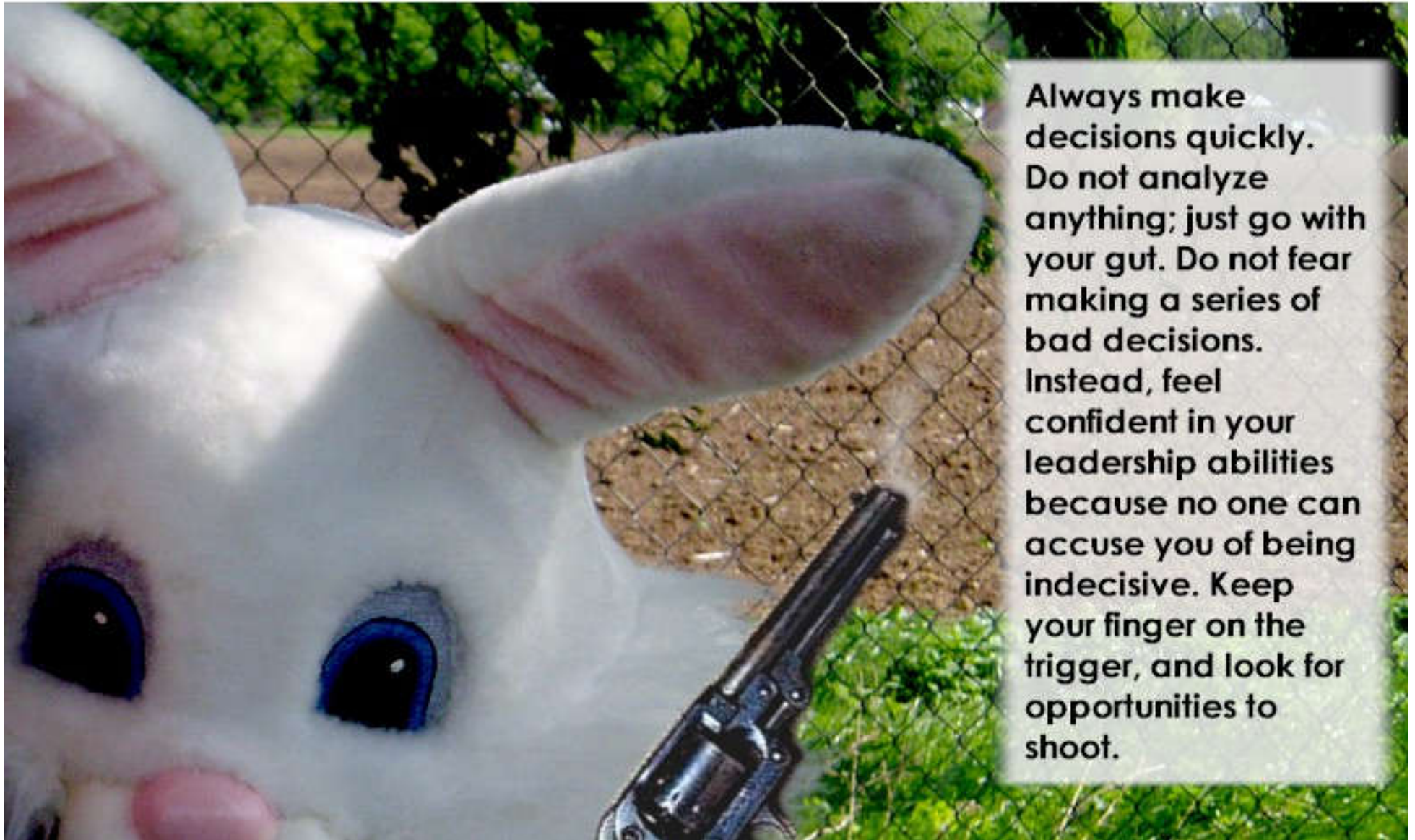
This law is also known as the “law of the big slam,” or “punch in the gut.” Allow your team to make mistakes and get off track throughout the year without course corrections from you along the way. Then spring a long list on them at the “annual review.” Ensure that they are caught off guard and flustered as they try to defend themselves.

13. THE LAW OF THE SENSITIVE DICTATOR.



Take personally any challenges to your leadership. Blacklist as “disloyal” anyone who questions your decisions or strategy.

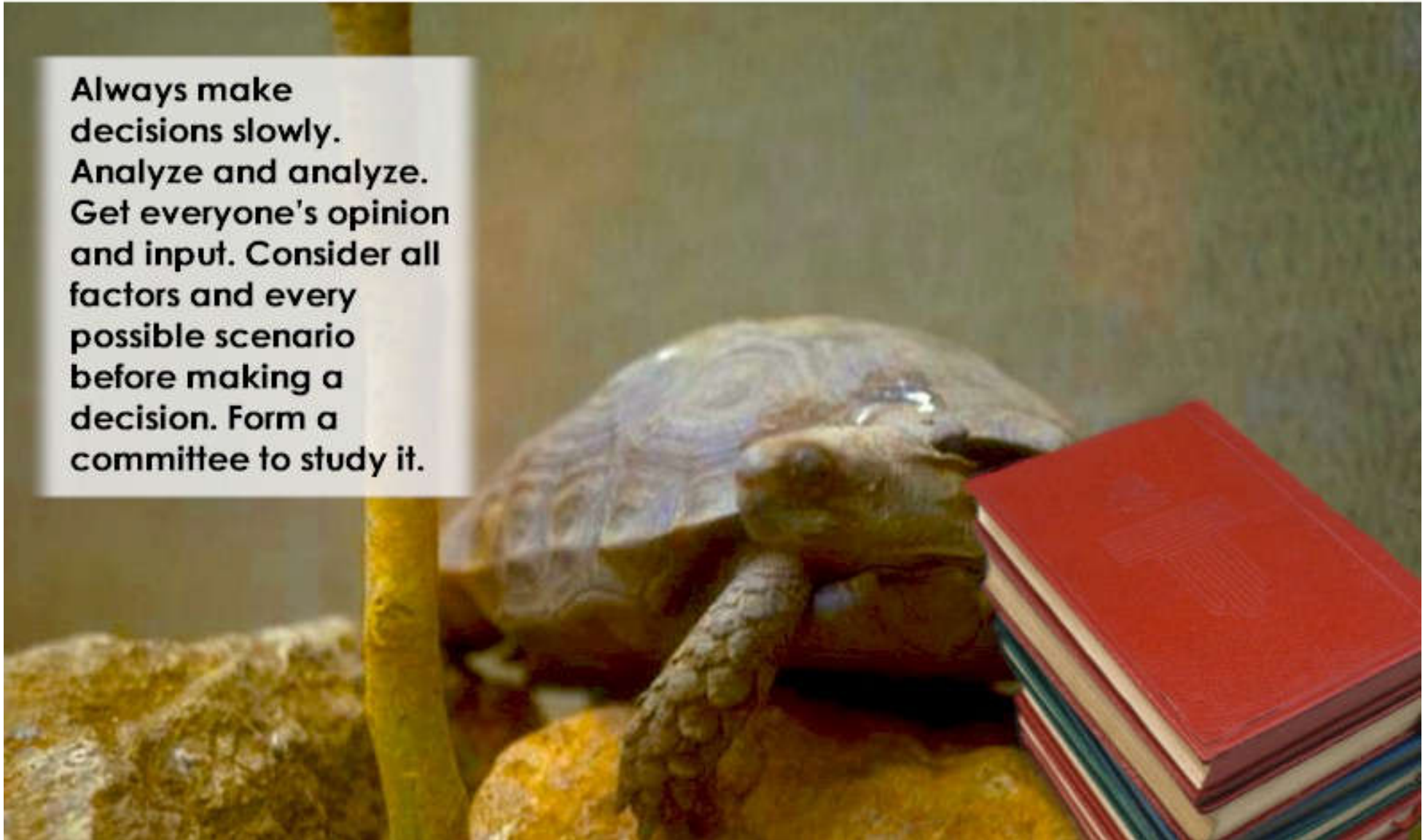
14. THE LAW OF THE "FIRE, READY, AIM RABBIT."



Always make decisions quickly. Do not analyze anything; just go with your gut. Do not fear making a series of bad decisions. Instead, feel confident in your leadership abilities because no one can accuse you of being indecisive. Keep your finger on the trigger, and look for opportunities to shoot.

15. THE LAW OF THE "STUDIOUS TURTLE."

Always make decisions slowly. Analyze and analyze. Get everyone's opinion and input. Consider all factors and every possible scenario before making a decision. Form a committee to study it.

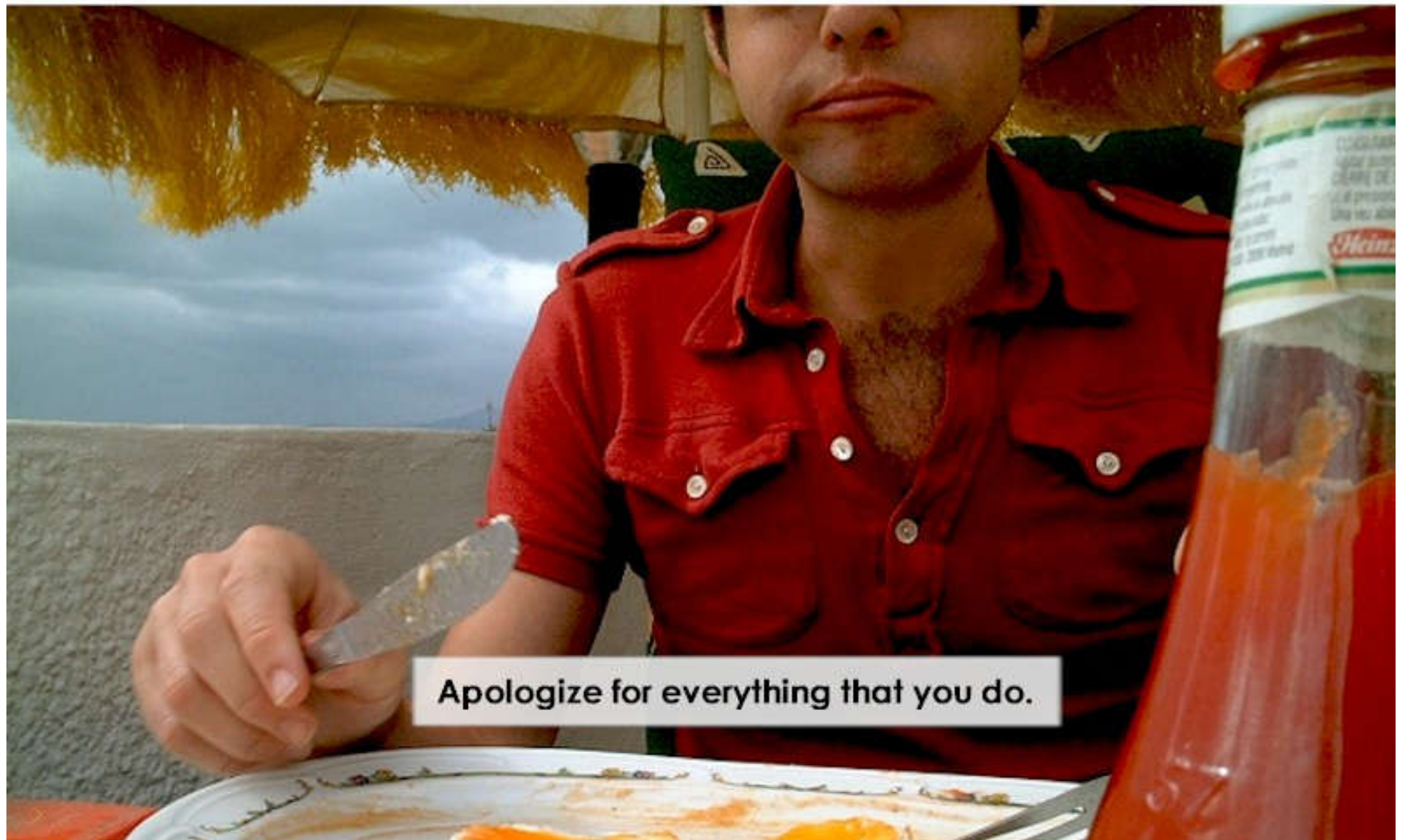


16. THE LAW OF THE BLANK STARE.



Never make decisions. Do not be proactive. Wait for things to work themselves out on their own. Eventually react to whatever happens.

17. THE LAW OF THE WEASEL.

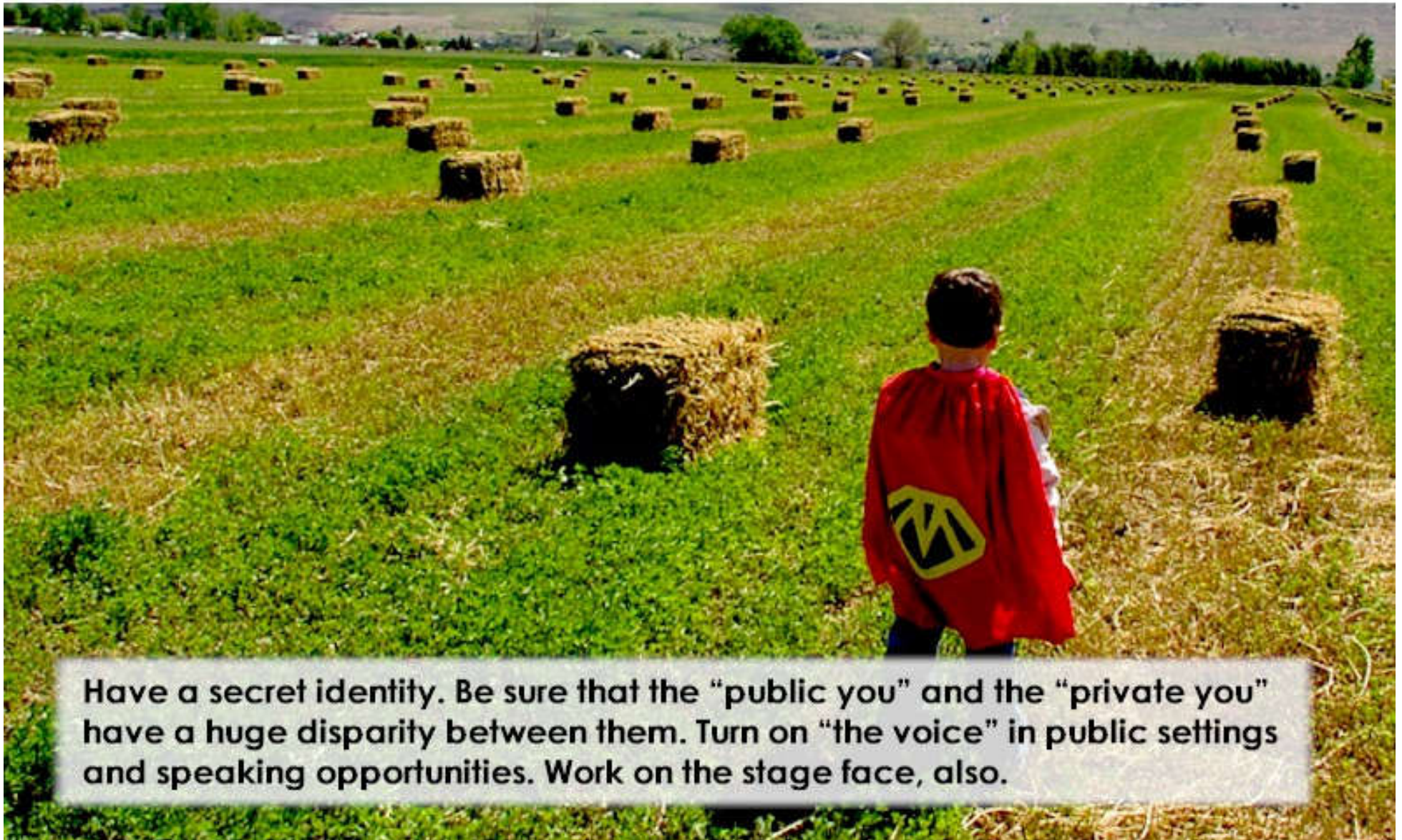


Apologize for everything that you do.

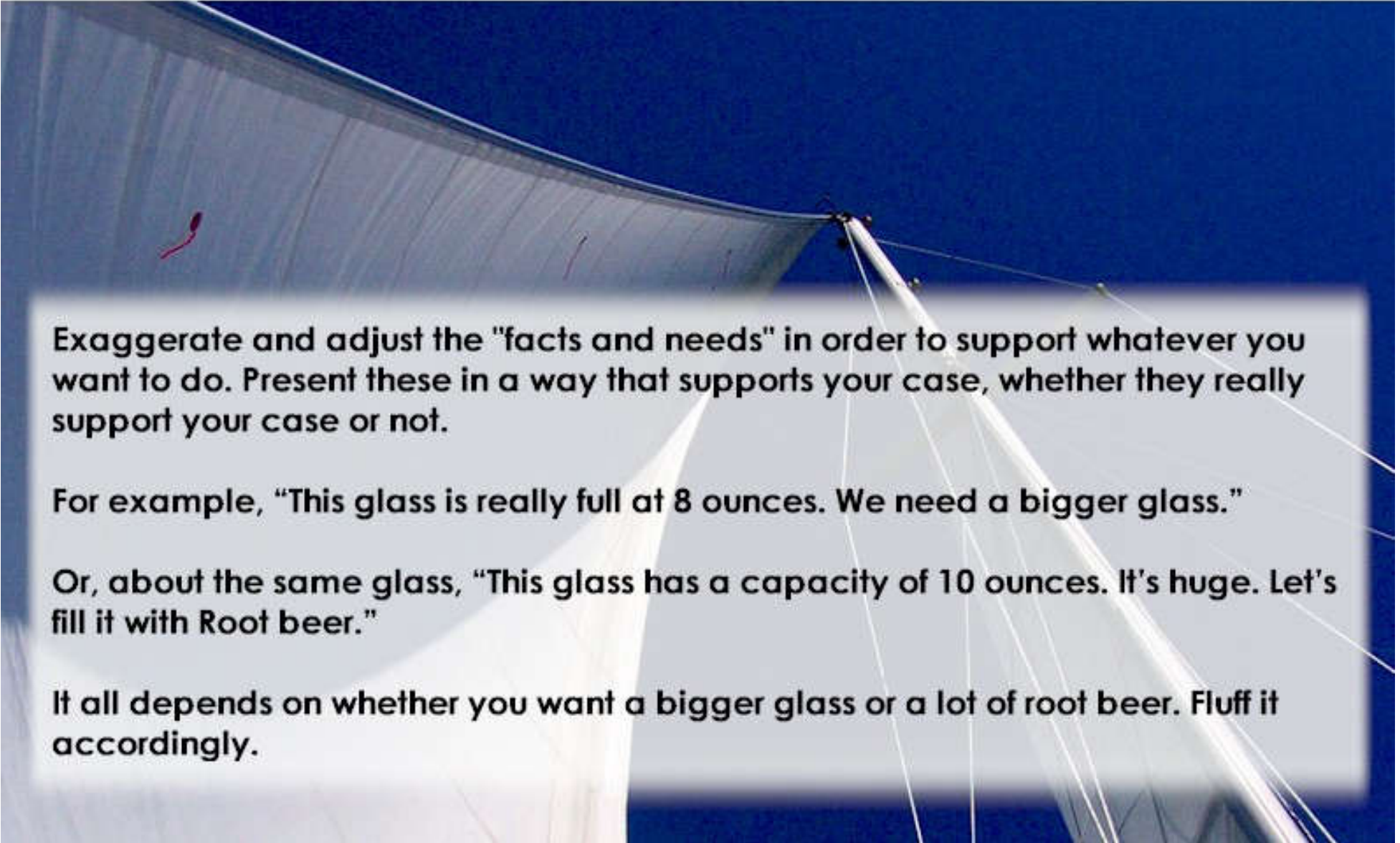
18. THE LAW OF THE BROKEN MIRROR.



19. THE LAW OF THE SUPER HERO.



20. THE LAW OF THE FLUFF.

A photograph of a sailboat's mast and sail against a clear blue sky. The sail is white and curved, with a red stripe near the top. The mast is white and extends from the bottom right towards the top center. Several ropes are visible, connecting the mast to the sail and other parts of the boat.

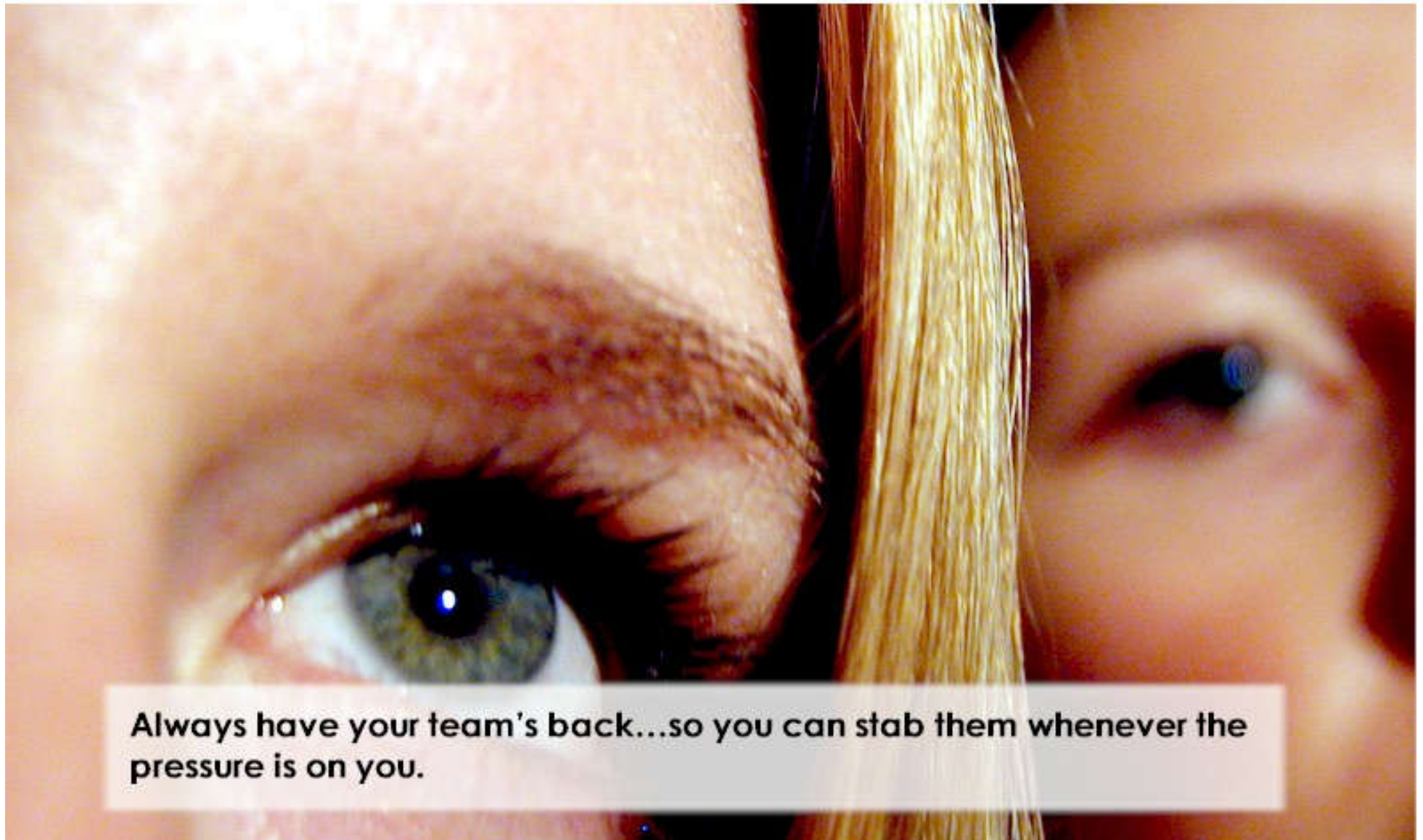
Exaggerate and adjust the "facts and needs" in order to support whatever you want to do. Present these in a way that supports your case, whether they really support your case or not.

For example, "This glass is really full at 8 ounces. We need a bigger glass."

Or, about the same glass, "This glass has a capacity of 10 ounces. It's huge. Let's fill it with Root beer."

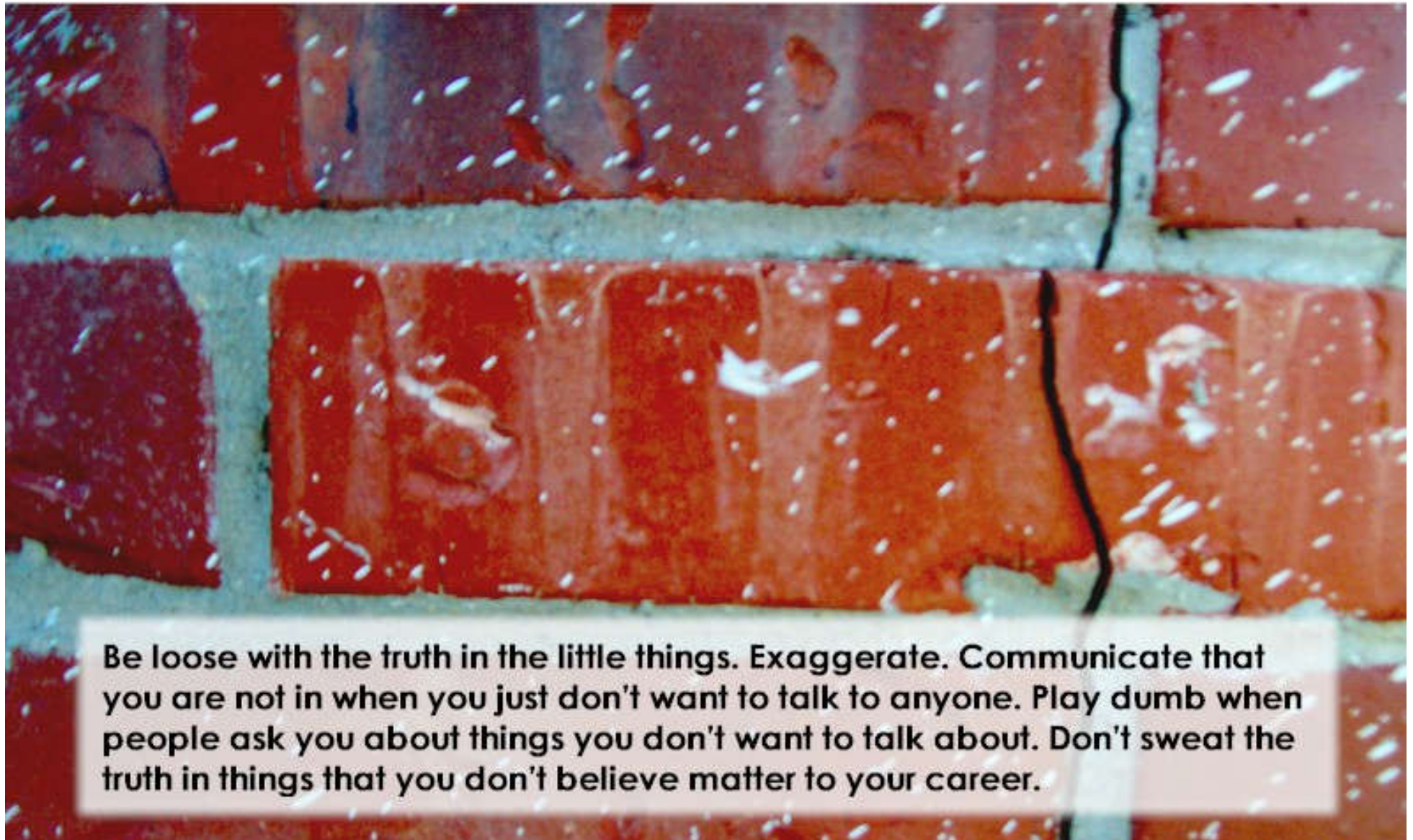
It all depends on whether you want a bigger glass or a lot of root beer. Fluff it accordingly.

21. THE LAW OF THE BACKLASH.



Always have your team's back...so you can stab them whenever the pressure is on you.

22. THE LAW OF THE LITTLE LIE.



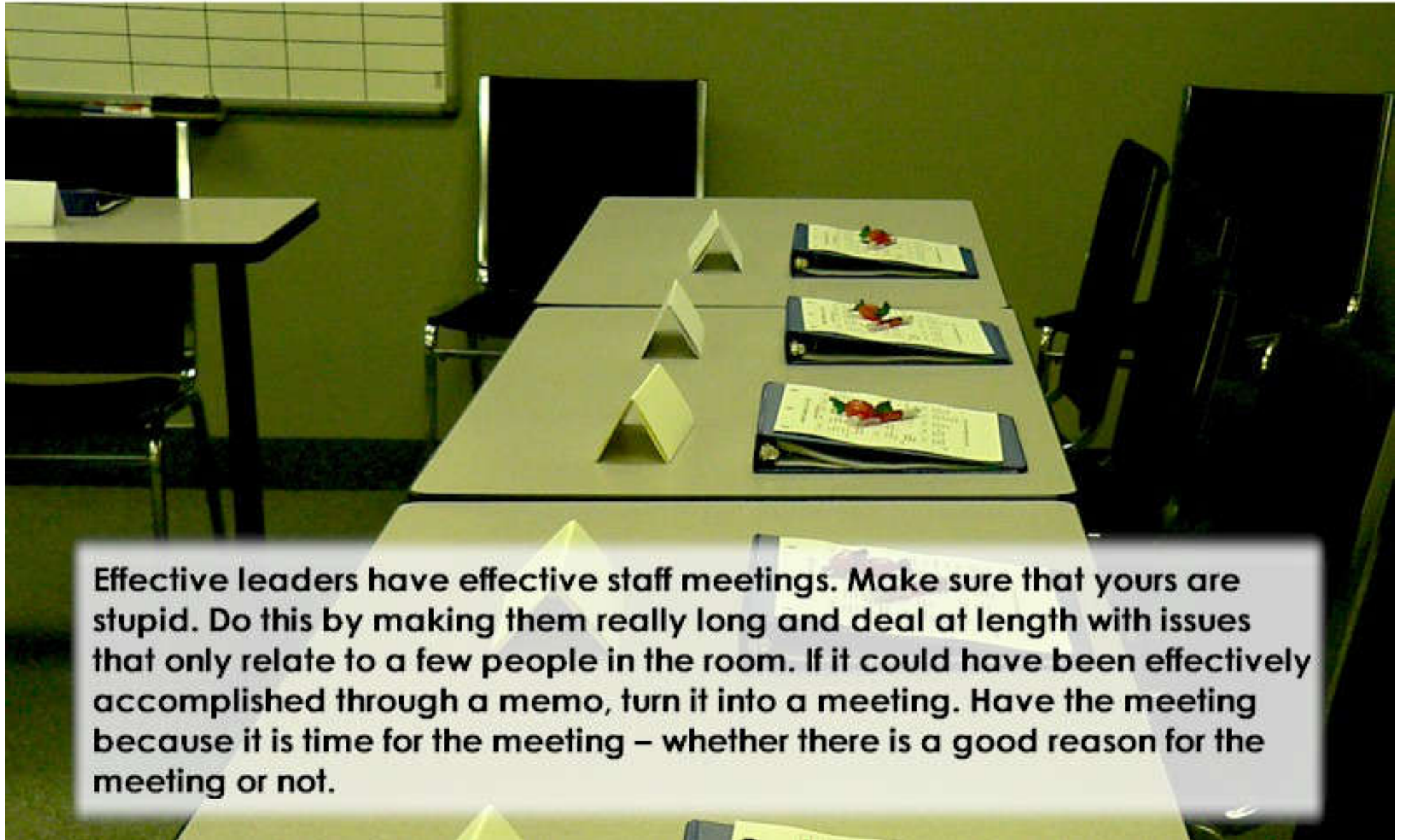
Be loose with the truth in the little things. Exaggerate. Communicate that you are not in when you just don't want to talk to anyone. Play dumb when people ask you about things you don't want to talk about. Don't sweat the truth in things that you don't believe matter to your career.

23. THE LAW OF THE BANDWAGON.

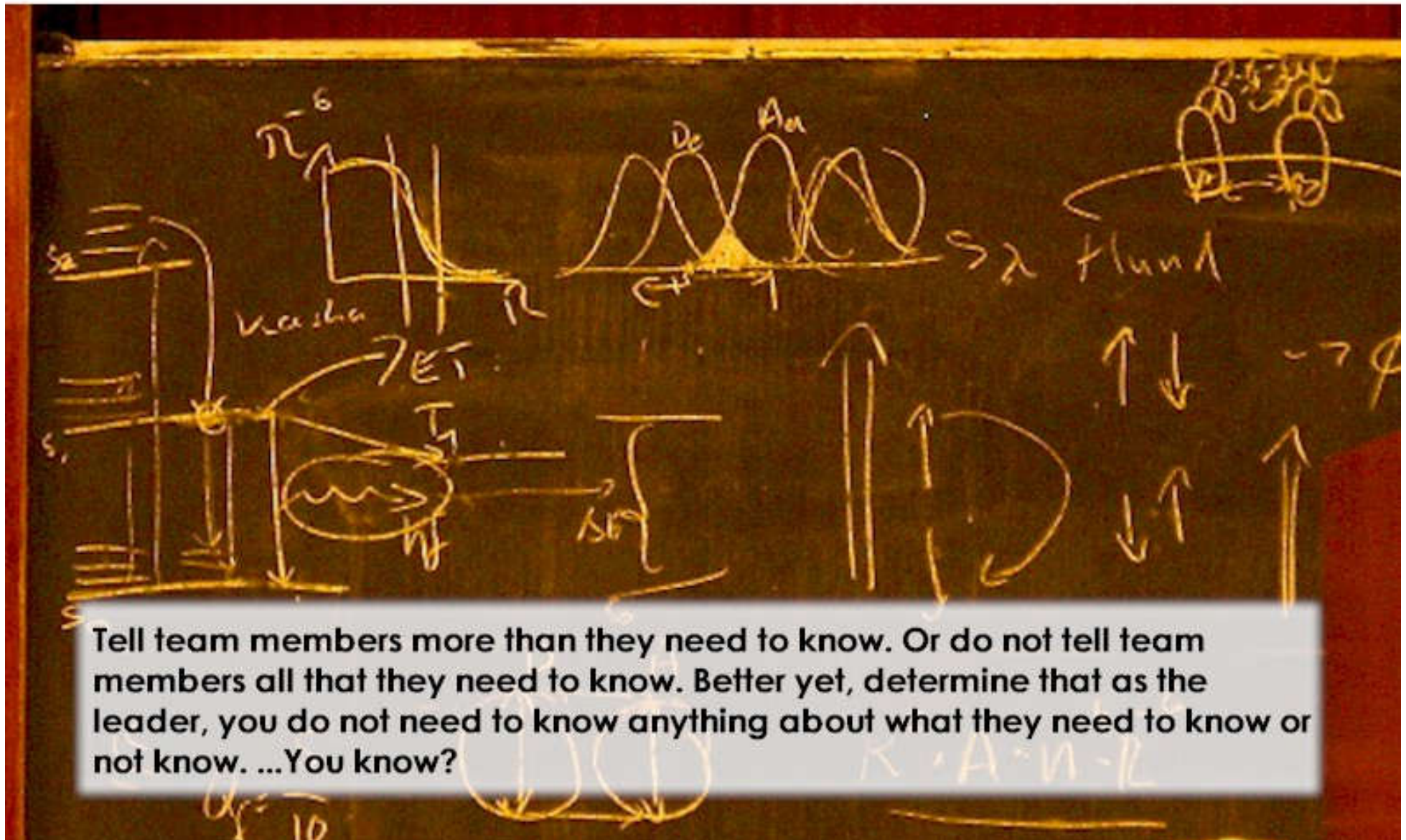


If other organizations are participating in an event or emphasis, table your own mission, goals and plans. Jump in with them in order to have a "presence." Call it an opportunity.

24. THE LAW OF THE "STUPID" STAFF MEETING.

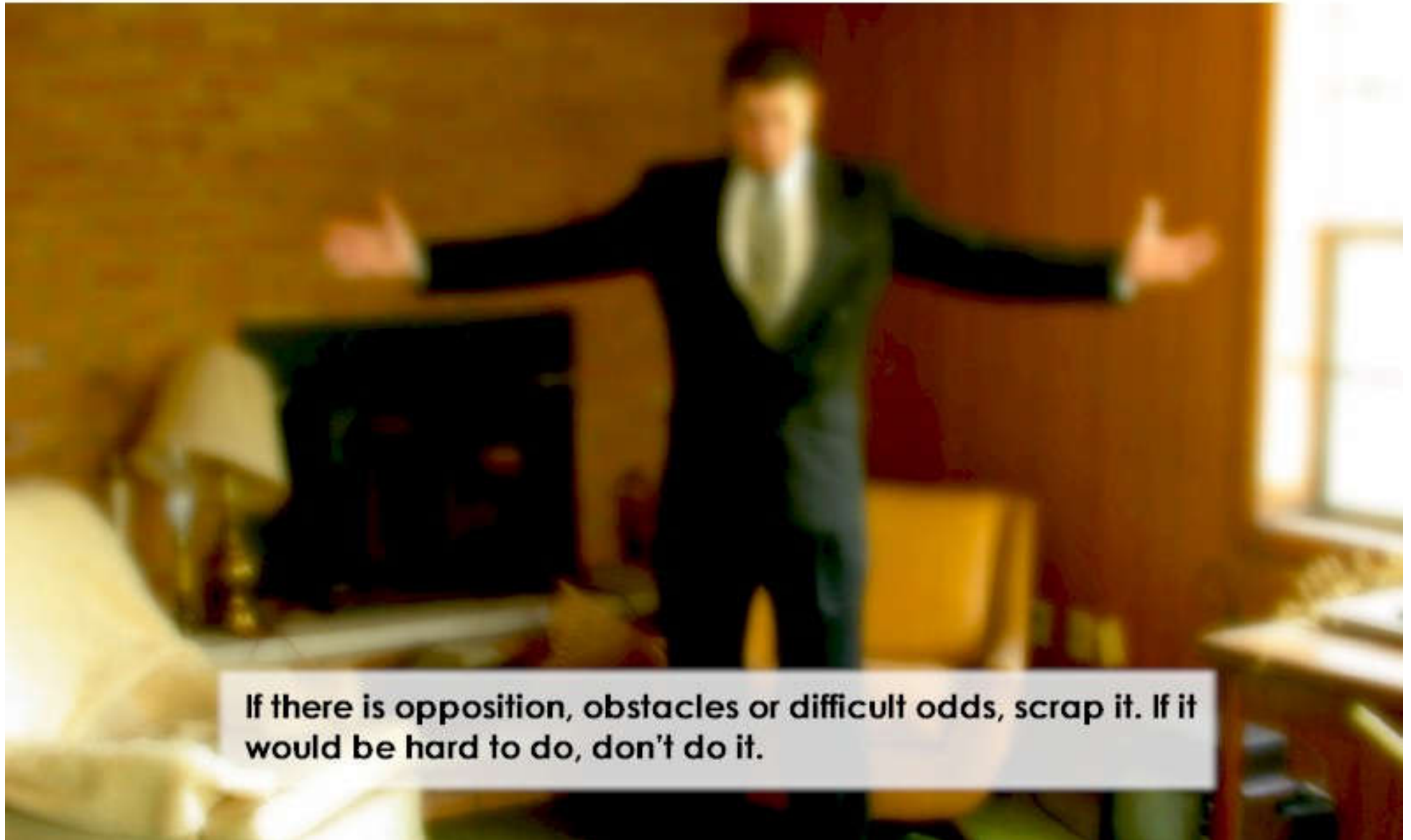


25. THE LAW OF THE "NEED TO KNOW."



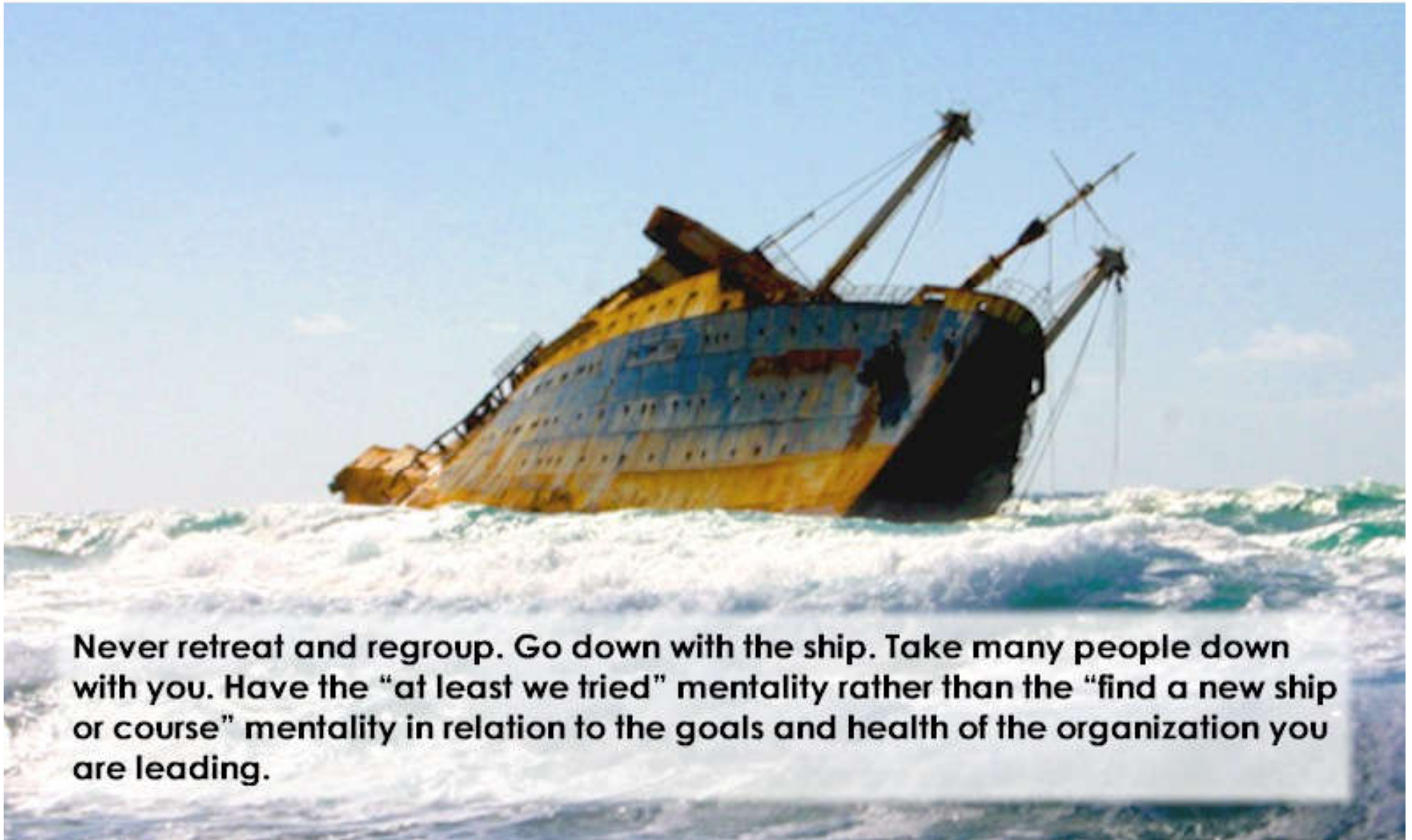
Tell team members more than they need to know. Or do not tell team members all that they need to know. Better yet, determine that as the leader, you do not need to know anything about what they need to know or not know. ...You know?

26. THE LAW OF THE QUIT.



If there is opposition, obstacles or difficult odds, scrap it. If it would be hard to do, don't do it.

27. THE LAW OF SINKING SHIP.



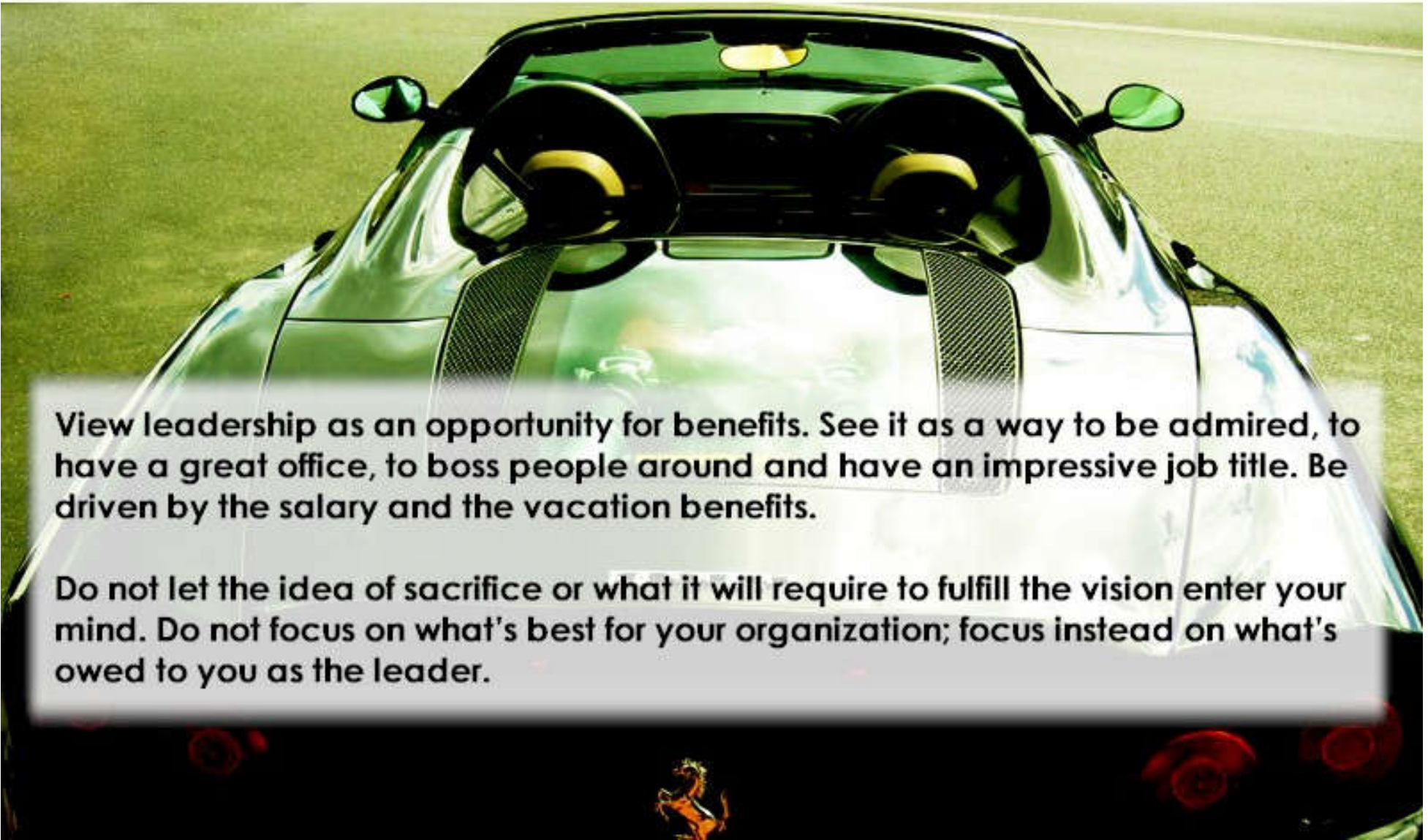
Never retreat and regroup. Go down with the ship. Take many people down with you. Have the “at least we tried” mentality rather than the “find a new ship or course” mentality in relation to the goals and health of the organization you are leading.

28. THE LAW OF THE PUSHOVER.



Allow loud or aggressive people to change or set your agenda. Bow to pressure whenever it comes your way.

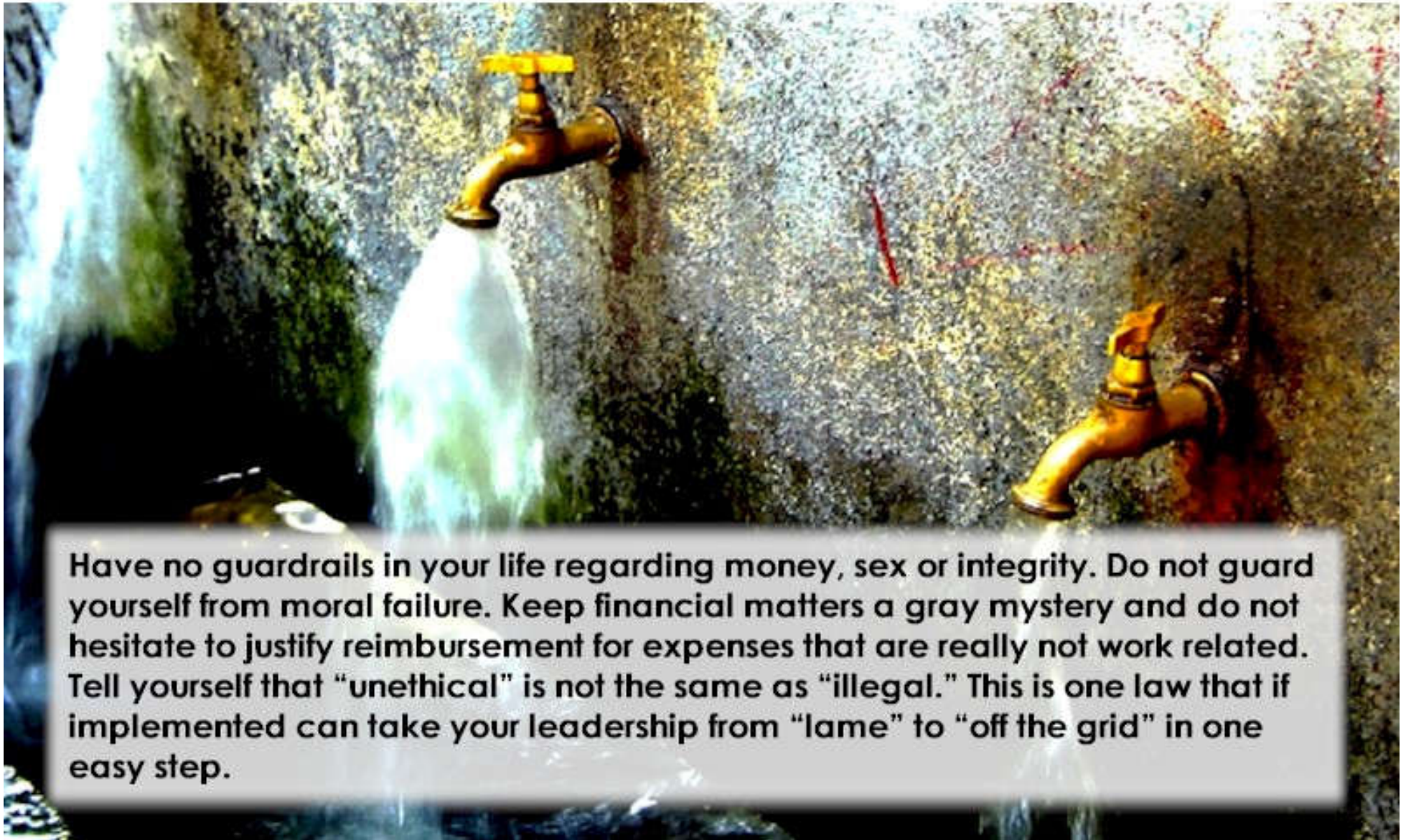
29. THE LAW OF THE PERKS.



View leadership as an opportunity for benefits. See it as a way to be admired, to have a great office, to boss people around and have an impressive job title. Be driven by the salary and the vacation benefits.

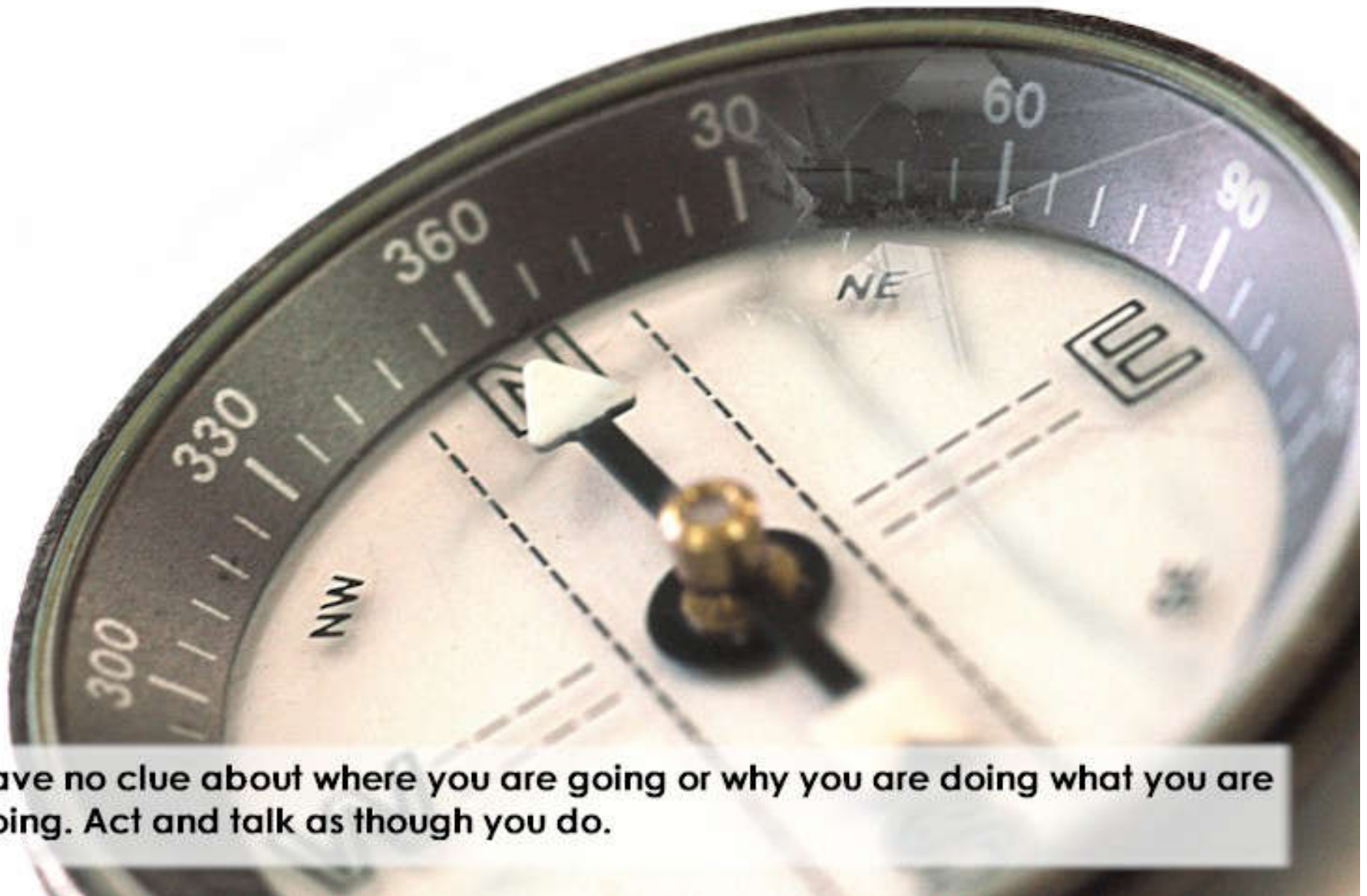
Do not let the idea of sacrifice or what it will require to fulfill the vision enter your mind. Do not focus on what's best for your organization; focus instead on what's owed to you as the leader.

30. THE LAW OF THE MORAL MISSTEP.



Have no guardrails in your life regarding money, sex or integrity. Do not guard yourself from moral failure. Keep financial matters a gray mystery and do not hesitate to justify reimbursement for expenses that are really not work related. Tell yourself that "unethical" is not the same as "illegal." This is one law that if implemented can take your leadership from "lame" to "off the grid" in one easy step.

31. THE LAW OF THE CRACKED COMPASS.



Have no clue about where you are going or why you are doing what you are doing. Act and talk as though you do.

Well there you have it. 31
Refutably Irrefutable Laws
of Lame Leadership.

Far too many times along
the way, I have applied
several of these laws
myself.

Every time I have done so, I
have become a lame
leader.

Do the same and so will
you.

