

LOOP, SWOOP, AND PULL

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*A poem inspired by Robert Greenleaf's contributions
to the study and advancement of servant leadership.*

Tasked with a challenge,
Of leather and lace.
Eyelets and canvas,
Tongues, but no face.

All too familiar, a stumble.
You dig in your heel.
Step back to step one,
Too loose, too tight a feel.

You've been here before,
Today will be different.
Foresight and persuasion,
Aware of your mission.

Hear the voice unheard,
One of knots and turns.
Feel along the journey,
To heal, to make whole.

Slowly, surely, persuade.
One step at a time.
Guided hand-in-hand,
One foot, then the other.

With shared vision intact,
Goals common in full,
Chaos succumbs to clarity,
Just loop, swoop, and pull.

This poem's intent is to use simple language to reflect servant leadership themes in a simple everyday act. Like the simple task that is the focus of this piece, leadership is something that is to be honed through practice. Only after many experiences can one become proficient in each.

J. Ernest McCormick is a student of the University of Jamestown Masters of Arts in Leadership (MAL) program. His professional work focuses on leadership and management in non-profit organizations, with an emphasis on active family lifestyles and community health.