



## **For a Leader**

May you have the grace and wisdom  
To act kindly, learning  
To distinguish between what is  
Personal and what is not.

May you be hospitable to criticism.  
May you never put yourself at the center of things.

May you act not from arrogance but out of service.

May you work on yourself  
Building up and refining the ways of your mind.

May you learn to cultivate the art of presence  
In order to engage with those who meet you.

When someone fails or disappoints you  
May the graciousness with which you engage  
Be their stairway to renewal and refinement.

May you treasure the gifts of the mind  
Through reading and creative thinking  
So that you continue to be a servant of the frontier  
Where the new will draw its enrichment from the old,  
And you never become a functionary.

May you know the wisdom of deep listening,  
The healing of wholesome words,  
The encouragement of the appreciative gaze,  
The decorum of held dignity,  
The springtime of the bleak question.

May you have a mind that loves frontiers  
So that you can evoke the bright fields  
That lie beyond the view of the regular eye.

May you have good friends  
To mirror your blind spots.

May leadership be for you  
A true adventure of growth.

John O'Donohue