

Advice from the Monks

Any supervisor who has had such responsibility for very long can agree that, in certain situations, reasoned conversation can only accomplish so much before other methods of persuasion may be required. Here is some advice benefitting the leadership of any organization, and it is from the Rule of St. Benedict, Sixth Century A.D. (its language may not be contemporary, but the content of the message is right on):

“If any pilgrim monk come from distant parts, with wish as a guest to dwell in the monastery, and will be content with the customs which he finds in the place and not perchance by his lavishness disturb the monastery, but is simply content with what he finds, he shall be received, for as long a time as he desires.



“If, indeed, he find fault with anything, or expose it reasonably and with the humility of charity, the Abbot shall discuss it prudently, lest perchance God has sent him for this very thing.

“But if he have been found gossipy and contumacious in the time of his sojourn as guest, not only ought he not to be joined to the body of the monastery, but also it shall be said to him, honestly, that he must depart. If he does not go, let two stout monks, in the name of God, explain the matter to him.”

Amen and amen.

– Beecher Hunter