

INSIDER



LEO CLUB OF KALUBOWILA



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MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT

It is a great pleasure to be a part of the first issue of Leo Insider, the monthly magazine of the Leoistic Year 2026/27. I am delighted to extend my warm wishes to the President, Executive Committee, and every member of the Leo Club of Kalubowila for the new Leoistic Year.

The Leo Club of Kalubowila is one of the most respected and long-standing community clubs in our district, with a rich history and a proud legacy of service, leadership, and excellence. Over the years, the club has produced many outstanding leaders, including District Presidents and Multiple District Presidents, whose contributions have left a lasting impact on the Leo movement.

Like every community club, I know there will be challenges along the way. However, I am confident that under the leadership of President Savindi and her dedicated team, the club will continue to grow stronger and achieve even greater success. I would also encourage you to stay connected with your past Leos and your parent Lions Club. Their experience, guidance, and continued support will undoubtedly strengthen your journey and help the club achieve even greater milestones throughout the year.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation for the unwavering support the Leo Club of Kalubowila extended to the district during the previous Leoistic Year. Your commitment and active participation contributed significantly to our collective success, and I truly hope we can continue that same spirit of teamwork and collaboration in the year ahead.

Once again, thank you, President Savindi, for the invitation and the opportunity to share my thoughts through this wonderful publication. I wish the Leo Club of Kalubowila every success in all its service projects, leadership initiatives, and fellowship activities. May this Leoistic Year be filled with meaningful achievements, lasting friendships, and unforgettable memories.

Together, let us continue to lead, serve, and create a better future.

Leo Lion Bonomi Tharinda
District Vice President (2026/27)
Leo District 306 D2



MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB EXECUTIVE

When I first stepped into the world of Leoism through the Leo Club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, I never imagined how much it would shape the person I am today. What started as a simple decision to join a university club soon became a journey filled with invaluable experiences, lifelong friendships, and opportunities that challenged me to grow beyond my own expectations. Serving as one of the Media Directors at the Leo Club of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura taught me that leadership is not only about holding a title, it is about commitment, consistency, and the willingness to serve. Behind every project, every campaign, and every achievement was a dedicated team working with one shared purpose. Those experiences strengthened my confidence, nurtured my creativity, and inspired me to embrace every challenge with determination.

Today, as I take on the responsibility of serving as the second vice president of the Leo Club of Kalubowila, I do so with immense gratitude and excitement. This role is more than a new chapter; it is an opportunity to give back to a movement that has given me so much. Every lesson I learned, every friendship I built, and every obstacle I overcame has prepared me for this moment.

As we embark on this new Leoistic year, we do so under a vision that reminds us that leadership is never defined by a title, but by the impact we create.

Much like the orca, a symbol of strength, intelligence, and unity, our greatest achievements will come when we move forward together. Orcas thrive because they trust, support, and lead one another as a family. In the same way, let us build a club where every member feels empowered, every voice is valued, and every act of service strengthens the bond that unites us.

To every Leo, especially those who are just beginning their journey, remember that every leader was once a beginner. Never underestimate the value of small contributions, because they often become the foundation of extraordinary achievements. Embrace every opportunity to learn, step outside your comfort zone, and believe in your potential. Leoism has a remarkable way of revealing strengths within you that you never knew existed.

I am truly honored to share this journey with each of you. May this Leoistic year be one of courage, collaboration, growth, and meaningful service. Together, let us prove that leadership is not worn as a badge; it is lived through every action we take.

Leo Lion Danushi Gunasinghe
Second Vice President (2026/27)
Leo Club of Kalubowila



EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Holding the first issue of Volume 7 in my hands feels surreal. Stepping into the role of Chief Editor for the Leolistic Year 2026/27 is both nerve-wracking and incredibly exciting.

We chose FIFA as our cover theme because football represents something far bigger than sport—it's about unity, energy, and shared passion across every boundary. That sense of togetherness is the very heart of being a Leo.

Inside these pages, you'll find stories that will make you laugh, inspire you, and remind you why we love this community. Every single page reflects the tireless dedication of our writers, designers, and especially our brilliant Editorial Team, who poured their weekends and late nights into perfection.

To our contributors, thank you for trusting us with your voice. To our readers, thank you for giving us your time. This issue is just the start of an incredible year ahead, and we hope these pages leave you inspired.

With gratitude and Leo spirit,
Leo Imalsha Apsari
Chief Editor (2026/27)
Leo Club of Kalubowila





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BEHIND THE COVER PAGE



United by the Beautiful Game Welcome to the 7th Edition.

If you are holding this magazine, you are looking at a canvas that celebrates more than just a sport. This month, our cover is dedicated to the global phenomenon of FIFA. But more importantly, to the spirit it represents.

For this edition, we chose FIFA as our central theme not merely to discuss transfers, tactics, or tournament results but to use the beautiful game as a lens through which we view the world. The cover you see before you is a visual metaphor for connection, passion, and human excellence.

Why FIFA? Why Now?

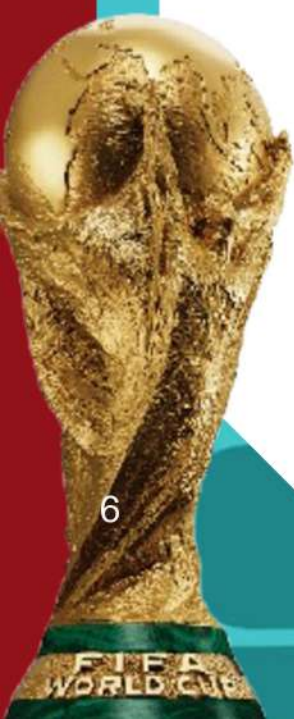
Football is the world's universal language. It transcends borders, cultures, and generations, uniting over 5 billion fans across every continent. By placing FIFA at the heart of our cover, we are tapping into an electric, global energy that resonates with millions. The cover captures the essence of the sport dynamic motion, the spirit of competition, and the roar of a stadium to set the stage for a magazine that is as diverse and vibrant as the fans who fill the stands.

The Final Whistle

The cover is your gateway. It is designed to seize your attention with the universal appeal of FIFA, but the true soul of this magazine lies within the stories we have carefully curated for you.

We invite you to linger on the cover, absorb the energy of the world's greatest sport, and then turn the page. Discover how that same electric energy is driving change, sparking creativity, and shaping the world around us.

Welcome to the game. Welcome to your monthly magazine.





THE STORY OF FOOTBALL

THE SPORT THAT CAPTIVATED THE WORLD

Football, one of the most popular sports in the world today, first began in England during the mid-19th century. It is now regarded as one of the world's most celebrated sports. Although various forms of folk football were played under different rules during the Middle Ages, the game was later standardized after being recognized as a winter sport.

Evidence of a ball game made with a stone-like ball can also be found in Mesoamerican culture. In some traditions, the football represented the sun. Similarly, an ancient Chinese game known as Cuju closely resembled modern football. In Australia, another traditional game called Marngrook, believed to be even older than Cuju, was played. In Marngrook, players kicked a ball made from leaves and roots. Around the 12th century, games similar to football were played on the fields and streets of England. Besides kicking the ball, players were also allowed to strike it with their hands. These early versions differed greatly from modern football because they were extremely rough and violent.

In ancient times, football involved large numbers of participants and became widespread across towns. However, the game sometimes led to fatalities. As a result, it was banned for several centuries before returning to the streets of London in the 17th century. Although it was banned again in 1853, football had by then become established in public schools. Despite facing many obstacles throughout its history, football has now become one of the world's most loved and widely followed sports.

At the beginning of the 21st century, it was estimated that there were around 250 million football players worldwide. The FIFA World Cup is held every four years. More than 200 countries compete in international and continental football tournaments, including the FIFA World Cup. Nations such as Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, and Italy are among the most prominent participants.

Likewise, there are very few people who are unfamiliar with legendary footballers such as Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, and Erling Haaland. Although the history of football was not always pleasant, today it has become one of the most popular sports in the world, surpassing many others in global appeal. The thunderous cheers of millions of fans in stadiums around the world are a testament to its immense popularity.

Nirasha Sewmini
LC of USJ

The Beautiful Bond Between Football and Humanity

There's a moment that happens in every football match whether it's played in a billion-dollar stadium or on a dusty patch of land in a remote village. A whistle blows, and for the next ninety minutes, nothing else matters. Not your bills. Not your stress. Not the chaos of the world outside. Just the ball, the movement, and the hope. I've always believed that football is more than a sport. It's a mirror that reflects who we are at our very core our joys, our heartbreaks, our stubbornness, and our ability to come together when it matters most.



Take Ivory Coast, 2006. The country was torn apart by civil war. Families were divided. Communities were shattered. Then something unexpected happened. The national football team qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations, and their captain, Didier Drogba, stepped forward. He got on his knees in front of the cameras and pleaded with both sides to lay down their weapons. "We want to celebrate," he said, "but we cannot do it properly because our country is suffering." And you know what? It worked. A ceasefire was declared. Football didn't fix everything, but it reminded everyone that they shared something bigger than their differences. That's the power of this game. Then there are the heroes. Think about Marcus Rashford. During the pandemic, when millions of children in the UK were going hungry, he didn't stay silent. He campaigned, he fought, and he forced the government to change its policy on free school meals.

A footballer using his platform to feed children. Or Mohamed Salah, who has become a symbol of hope and pride for millions, bringing people of different faiths and backgrounds together. These aren't just athletes. They're human beings who understand that football gave them a voice and they chose to use it for something bigger than themselves. Here's something I've always loved about football: it's not perfect. Mistakes happen. Penalties are missed. Goals are scored by accident. Referees make calls that leave us tearing our hair out. And somehow, that's exactly what makes it so beautiful. Because that's life, isn't it? We stumble, we fall, we miss our chances. But we get back up. We keep running. Football teaches us resilience. It teaches us that failure isn't the end, it's just part of the journey. It teaches us to celebrate the small victories and never give up on the next opportunity.

I want to say something simple, but I think it matters. Football belongs to everyone. It doesn't care if you're rich or poor, tall or short, or what language you speak. All it asks is that you show up. When we watch a match together, we're part of a global community spanning every continent and culture. That's the relationship between humanity and football. It's not about winning or losing. It's about belonging. It's about sharing a moment with millions of strangers who, for a brief moment, feel exactly what you feel. I don't know where football will take us in the future. But I do know this: as long as there's a ball, a patch of grass, and a group of people willing to chase it, football will continue to be the most human thing we have. Because at its heart, it's not about the goals or the glory. It's about the connection. The emotion. The reminder that, even in a world that often feels divided, we are all part of the same team. So the next time you watch a match, don't just watch the ball. Watch the faces. Watch the joy. Watch the tears. That's where the real story is. That's the relationship between humanity and football. And honestly? It's the most beautiful love story I know.

Leo Thinesa



HOT TAKES FC FIFA'26

Football isn't just about watching matches. It's about understanding the game, feeling its history, and sharing that passion with others. That's exactly why we launched Hot Takes FC-FIFA World Cup, our very first project of the Leolistic Year 2026/27. We started by creating a small digital handbook, a compact guide packed with the history, legendary moments, iconic players, and fascinating facts about the FIFA World Cup. We published it online because we believed that knowledge should be accessible to everyone, whether you're a die-hard fan or someone just discovering the beautiful game. The response was overwhelming, and it proved that people were hungry for more than just match scores, they wanted to connect. So, on the day of the World Cup final, we took things to the next level. We brought together Leos and non-Leos alike for a lively gathering where we watched the match, shared predictions, debated who would lift the trophy, and celebrated the spirit of football as one community. It wasn't just about the game, it was about the conversations, the laughter, and the bonds we built over a shared love for football. Hot Takes FC reminded us that football has the power to unite people from all walks of life, and we couldn't be prouder of how it all came together.



MATCH DAY



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Nourishing Lives, One Plant at a Time,

They say the best way to grow a community is to plant seeds of kindness. And that's exactly what we did with THURU, our vegetable, fruit, and herbal plant distribution project, held on the 21st of July 2026 at the sacred grounds of Bellanwila Raja Maha Viharaya. But THURU was never just about handing out plants. It was about something much deeper. We carefully selected recipients randomly from the devotees visiting the temple that day because we believed that everyone deserves a chance to grow their own food, heal with nature, and embrace a sustainable way of living. Each plant carried a message: that we care, that we see you, and that we want to be part of your journey toward a greener, healthier future. The smiles we witnessed, the gratitude we received, and the connections we made reminded us that even the smallest act of giving can leave the deepest impact. This wasn't just a project for us and it was a movement. And with THURU, we've only just begun. We invite you to join us in this mission, to nurture what we've started, and to help us grow a world where no one goes without the simple, life giving joy of growing their own food. Because when we plant together, we thrive together.



PRIDE OF OUR OWN LEOS



Serving as Treasurer was one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of my life. Managing club finances, fundraising, preparing reports, and supporting project teams taught me responsibility, resilience, and leadership. Although the role came with stress, criticism, successes, and failures, each challenge made me stronger. I also had the opportunity to lead **Language School 5.0** with the support of Assistant Treasurer **Leo Shalani**, while **Leo Chamodi** provided valuable assistance in reporting. I further contributed to the **Golden Ticket Gala Raffle Draw**, a joint fundraising project.



My Leo journey began in the 2024/25 Leoistic year with the Leo Club of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. I started as a Content Creator for Ashirwadha '24 and gradually became involved in projects and events such as Eleganza '25, gaining valuable experience through different responsibilities.

Among all my experiences, **Coastal Code** and **Pixel Plus** became milestone projects that helped me grow both personally and professionally. These opportunities inspired me to apply for the position of **Treasurer** for the 2025/26 Leoistic year.



These efforts were recognized at **NEXUS '26** Mid-Year Review, where I received an appreciation for Outstanding Teamwork and Dedication to the Leo Movement. This achievement was possible because of the support and guidance of my Club President **Leo Rumal Kaushika**, First Vice President **Leo Savindi Dias**, the Vice Presidents, Assistant Treasurers, and District Treasurer **Leo Lehan Randitha**.

Today, I continue my Leo journey as a member of the Leo Club of Kalubowila under the guidance of President **Leo Savindi Dias**. Looking back, the greatest value of this journey is not the positions I held or the recognition I received, but the lessons I learned. Leoism taught me how to face challenges, work with people, lead under pressure, and turn failures into opportunities for growth. Most importantly, it showed me that every new opportunity is a chance to learn, improve, and become stronger.

Leo Lashini Jayawickrama





+Recap+



Where Every *Journey* Begins....

Every great Leoistic Year begins with a shared vision, and ours was no different. Before the projects, events, and milestones, we came together as one team to connect, exchange ideas, and set the direction for the journey ahead.

It was more than just our first gathering but it was the moment we strengthened friendships, shared our aspirations, and built the foundation for a year driven by purpose, teamwork, and service. Every conversation reminded us that great achievements always begin with a united team and a common goal.

With hearts full of enthusiasm and minds focused on what lies ahead, we stepped into this Leoistic Year ready to create meaningful impact, embrace new challenges, and make every moment count.



El Niño and Its Impact on the World and Sri Lanka

El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon that occurs when the central and eastern Pacific Ocean becomes warmer than normal. It usually occurs every 2 to 7 years and affects weather patterns around the world by changing rainfall, temperature, and wind systems. As a result, many countries experience droughts, floods, heat waves, and disruptions to agriculture and water resources. Around the world, El Niño causes different impacts in different regions. Some countries in Asia, Africa, and South America face severe droughts and water shortages, while others experience heavy rainfall and flooding. In Europe, countries such as Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Greece often experience hotter and drier conditions, increasing the risk of droughts and wildfires. Meanwhile, parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Northern Europe may experience wetter weather than usual. These changes can affect agriculture, public health, water supplies, and economic activities.

Sri Lanka is particularly vulnerable to El Niño because the country depends heavily on monsoon rainfall. During many El Niño events, the Southwest Monsoon (May to September) becomes weaker, leading to lower rainfall in western, southern, and central areas. This can cause drought conditions, higher temperatures, and reduced water availability. However, some northern and eastern regions may receive heavier rainfall later in the year, increasing the risk of floods.

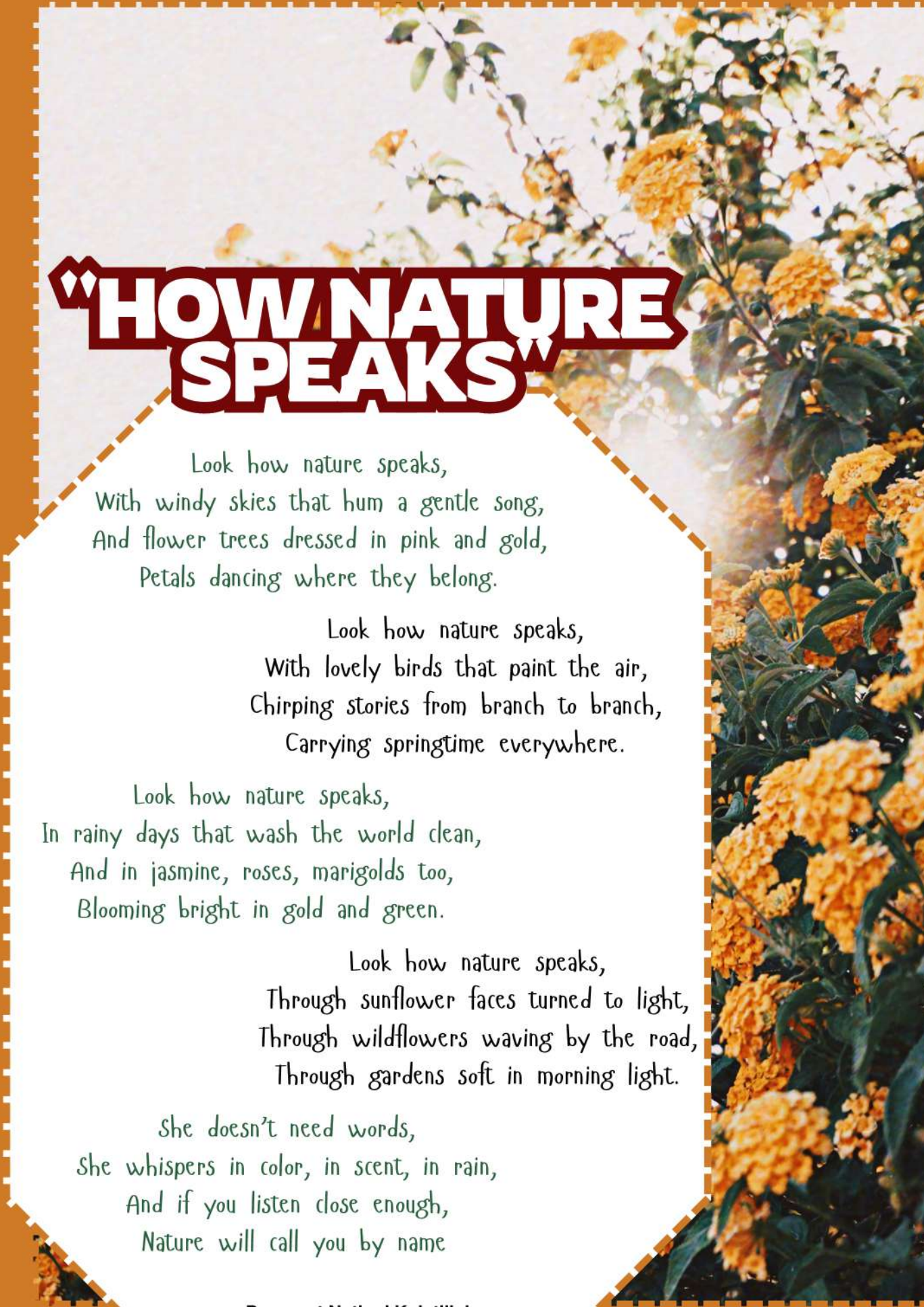
Agriculture is one of the sectors most affected by El Niño in Sri Lanka. Reduced rainfall can lower paddy production and affect tea, coconut, and vegetable cultivation. Water shortages can also reduce hydroelectric power generation and put pressure on drinking water supplies. These impacts can affect farmers' incomes, food security, and the national economy.

To prepare for El Niño, the Department of Meteorology continuously monitors climate conditions and issues forecasts and warnings. The Disaster Management Centre (DMC), Irrigation Department, and other government institutions work together to manage water resources, prepare for droughts and floods, and support farmers through proper planning. Public awareness programs also encourage people to use water and electricity responsibly.

Several experts and leaders have emphasized the importance of preparedness. Dr. Dhammika Patabendi, Minister of Environment, has urged the public to depend on scientific information and use water and electricity carefully. Ajith Wijemannage, Director General of Meteorology, has stated that El Niño can bring both prolonged dry spells and heavy rainfall to different parts of the country. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake has instructed authorities to ensure food security, water availability, and energy stability through proper planning.

Leo Lashini Jayawickrama





“HOW NATURE SPEAKS”

Look how nature speaks,
With windy skies that hum a gentle song,
And flower trees dressed in pink and gold,
Petals dancing where they belong.

Look how nature speaks,
With lovely birds that paint the air,
Chirping stories from branch to branch,
Carrying springtime everywhere.

Look how nature speaks,
In rainy days that wash the world clean,
And in jasmine, roses, marigolds too,
Blooming bright in gold and green.

Look how nature speaks,
Through sunflower faces turned to light,
Through wildflowers waving by the road,
Through gardens soft in morning light.

She doesn't need words,
She whispers in color, in scent, in rain,
And if you listen close enough,
Nature will call you by name

Prospect Nethmi Kulatilleke

SMALL ACTIONS, BIG IMPACTS



"The future depends on what you do today."
- Mahatma Gandhi -

University life is often filled with lectures, assignments, exams, and plans for the future. While these are important, there are also responsibilities beyond the classroom. Environmental protection, disaster preparedness, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle through sports are all essential for building a stronger and more resilient community. Although these areas may seem different, they all contribute to improving the quality of life for everyone.

Protecting Our Environment

Sri Lanka has experienced many environmental challenges in recent years, including floods, landslides, and increasing pollution. Human activities often contribute to these problems, making environmental conservation more important than ever. Simple actions such as reducing plastic use, disposing of waste responsibly, planting trees, and conserving natural resources can have a significant impact. Protecting the environment is not only the responsibility of governments or organizations—it is a shared responsibility that begins with each of us.

Preparing for Tomorrow

Disasters can happen without warning, but being prepared can greatly reduce their impact. Basic knowledge of first aid, emergency evacuation procedures, and weather warnings can help save lives during critical situations. Universities and youth organizations have an important role in creating awareness and encouraging disaster preparedness. By learning these essential skills and sharing them with others, young people can help build safer and more resilient communities.

Sports: More Than Just a Game

Sports play an important role in creating healthy individuals and stronger communities. Regular physical activity improves fitness, reduces stress, and supports mental well-being. Beyond health benefits, sports teach valuable life skills such as teamwork, discipline, leadership, and perseverance. In a busy university environment, participating in sports provides a healthy balance between academic responsibilities and personal well-being while bringing people together through friendship and mutual respect.

At the Leo Club of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, we believe that true service begins with awareness and transforms into action. By protecting our environment, preparing for disasters, and promoting healthy lifestyles through sports, we can create meaningful change. Every small step taken with care and commitment brings us closer to a safer, greener, and healthier tomorrow. Together, we can make a lasting impact.

DEAR DIARY

Leading with Humanity. My Journey Beyond Leadership If someone had asked me a few years ago where Leoism would take me, I would never have imagined this journey. Not because I lacked ambition, but because I never joined Leo to chase titles. Like many young people, I simply wanted to be part of something bigger than myself. Looking back today as the Immediate Past District President of Leo District 306 D8, I realise that while I thought I was building projects, Leoism was quietly building me. My journey began with the Leo Club of Baddegama, the club I will always call home. It was there that I learned my very first lessons in service, fellowship, and responsibility. Those lessons were simple, yet they became the foundation of every leadership decision I would make in the years that followed. Not every chapter, however, was filled with celebration.

The year before I became Club President was one of the most difficult periods our club had experienced. Membership had declined, leadership was uncertain, and there was a genuine fear that we were losing the momentum we had worked so hard to build. Becoming Club President was never part of a grand personal plan. In many ways, it was a responsibility that found me before I was ready. Looking back, I am grateful that it did. That experience taught me something no leadership seminar ever could. Leadership is rarely about stepping forward because you feel prepared. More often, it is about stepping forward because people are counting on you. From that moment onward, every opportunity in Leoism became less about personal achievement and more about creating opportunities for others. One project that continues to hold a special place in my heart is The Gusto.

On the surface, it was designed as a treasure hunt. But the real treasure was never hidden inside a box. Instead, each team discovered a different opportunity to serve at a temple, a church, a hospital, and an orphanage. More than forty Leos from across the district travelled through Baddegama, not only discovering its beauty and culture but also experiencing the joy of meaningful service. That day reminded me that the most memorable projects are not always the biggest. They are the ones that leave people thinking differently when they return home. As my Leo journey continued, so did my life outside the movement. I balanced my professional career at Dialog Axiata while embracing new challenges, and eventually made the life-changing decision to step into entrepreneurship. Whether in a corporate boardroom, building a business from the ground up, or standing before a room full of Leos, I found myself drawing upon the same principles Leoism had taught me years before: listen carefully, stay humble, and never lose sight of people. Perhaps that is why, when I was entrusted with leading the inaugural Leo District 306 D8, choosing my district theme felt natural. Leading with Humanity. For many, it was simply a theme. For me, it was everything I had learned throughout my journey. It was a reminder that leadership should never become louder than compassion. That influence should never replace humility.

That people should always come before propaganda, positions, and personal recognition. Some of my most treasured memories as District President were never captured by cameras. They came through unexpected messages from young Leos telling me they had passed an examination they had been worrying about. Others reached out simply to say they were doing better after difficult personal struggles. Some wanted guidance. Some only needed someone to listen. Those moments changed my understanding of leadership forever. People often remember conferences, projects, awards, and ceremonies. I remember conversations. Because those conversations reminded me that our greatest responsibility as leaders is not to create followers, it is to create hope. Today, when I reflect on my Leo journey, I don't think about the positions I held. I think about the people who trusted me. The mentors who believed in me before I believed in myself. The friends who became family. The club that gave me my beginning. The district that gave me the opportunity to make history.

Leo Anushka Liyanage
Immediate Past District President
Leo District 306D8



FOOD O'CLOCK By Leo



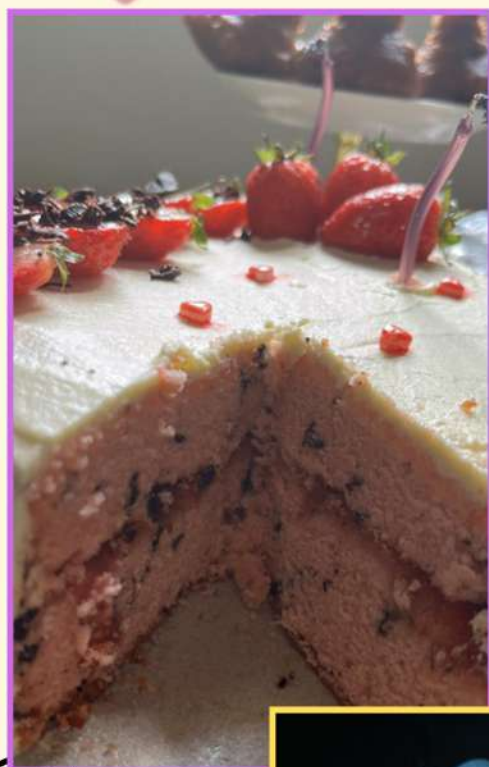
BAKING MY HAPPY PLACE

Whenever life gets a little overwhelming, I find myself turning to baking. It's my favourite way to take a break, clear my mind, and simply enjoy the moment. Whether it's baking a cake, cookies, or trying a new recipe, the process always brings me a sense of peace and happiness.

For me, baking isn't just about creating something delicious. It's about expressing my creativity and taking time for myself. Every recipe teaches me something new, and every bake reminds me that even the smallest moments can bring the greatest joy.

No matter how busy life gets, baking will always be my little escape.





Behind the Scenes

Turning Opportunities into Impact

**"Opportunity doesn't happen. You create it."
- Chris Grosser -**

Every individual dreams of making a difference but only those who recognize and seize opportunities transform those dreams into reality. Opportunities are rarely handed to us on a silver platter they often arrive disguised as challenges, responsibilities or moments that demand courage. The difference between ordinary and extraordinary people lies in their willingness to say "yes" when opportunity knocks.

For every Leo, the very name L.E.O carries a powerful message:

L – Leadership

Leadership is the courage to step forward, inspire others and create positive change. A Leo does not wait for someone else to lead. Instead, they take initiative, guide with integrity and empower others to achieve a shared vision.

E – Experience

Experience is the greatest teacher. Every project organized, every obstacle overcome, every conversation held and every lesson learned shapes us into stronger, wiser and more compassionate individuals. Leo Clubs provide a safe environment to learn through action, allowing members to develop skills that remain valuable throughout life.

O – Opportunity

Opportunity is where dreams become achievements. Every service project, leadership role, training program, community initiative, and networking event is a chance to discover new talents, build lifelong friendships, and create meaningful change. Opportunities do not last forever. They belong to those who recognize their value and act with confidence.

Many people spend their lives waiting for the "perfect opportunity." However, successful individuals understand that every experience has the potential to become an opportunity if approached with determination and an open mind. Within Leo Clubs, members are constantly surrounded by opportunities to serve communities, develop professionally, improve communication skills and become tomorrow's leaders.

As Leos, let us never wait for opportunities to find us. Let us create them, embrace them and transform them into lasting impact. Together, we can prove that the true spirit of Leadership, Experience and Opportunity is not merely our motto it is our way of life.



Remember...

L – Lead with purpose

E – Experience every challenge

O – Own every opportunity

Because every opportunity you seize today shapes the leader you become tomorrow.

Sayuri Parindya
Assistant Treasurer
LC of USJ



FIFA

2026



The FIFA World Cup is the world's biggest football tournament and is held every four years. It brings together the best national teams from around the world and attracts millions of fans. The 2026 FIFA World Cup is expected to be one of the most exciting tournaments in history.

For the first time, the tournament will be hosted by three countries: Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Another major change is the expansion from 32 to 48 teams. This gives more countries the opportunity to compete and makes the tournament even more exciting with more matches and new rivalries.

Many famous players and talented young footballers are expected to participate. Strong teams such as Argentina, Brazil, France, England, and Spain will aim to win the championship, but the World Cup is always full of surprises.

The tournament will also continue to use modern technology, including the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system and goal-line technology, to help ensure fair decisions during matches.

More than just a football competition, the FIFA World Cup brings people from different countries together. It promotes friendship, teamwork, and respect while celebrating the world's most popular sport.

In conclusion, the FIFA World Cup 2026 promises to be a historic and unforgettable event. With three host nations, more participating teams, and exciting football, fans around the world are eagerly waiting to see who will become the next world champion.

Leo Club of Colombo Monarch

Across the Leo Network

GAMBIT

Project GAMBIT was an educational initiative conducted by the Leo Club of Colombo Monarch at Makuluduwa Nawa Adarsha Vidyalaya with the vision of re-establishing chess as a sustainable extracurricular activity within the school. Inspired by the chess opening known as a gambit, where a player makes a calculated sacrifice to gain a long-term advantage, the project focused on investing in young minds and creating opportunities that would extend far beyond a single event.

The Leo Club of Colombo Monarch began the project with an interactive chess awareness and introductory session for approximately 100 students from Grades 6 to 9. The session introduced students to the fundamentals of chess, strategic thinking, and the educational benefits the game offers, encouraging critical thinking, patience, concentration, and problem-solving skills.

To ensure a lasting impact, the Leo Club of Colombo Monarch donated chess boards and essential chess equipment to the school, benefiting its entire student population of approximately 300 students. More importantly, the club successfully connected Makuluduwa Nawa Adarsha Vidyalaya with the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka, enabling the establishment of a sustainable chess coaching system. This partnership provides students with continued coaching, opportunities to participate in organized chess activities, and a pathway for long-term skill development.



Leo Club of Piliyandala

Across the Leo Network

Mental Health Awareness Webinar - An International Twinning Initiative -

The Mental Health Awareness Webinar, jointly hosted by the Leo Club of Gauhati Greater Samrat and the Leo Club of Kalmunai along with 9 Leo Clubs and 5 Lions Clubs, brought together young leaders from across India and Sri Lanka through an international twinning initiative. The programme created a platform for open conversations on mental health and the challenges faced by today's youth.

The Leo Club of Piliyandala also played a key role in the initiative, serving as a Joint Chairperson and the Secretary of the International Twinning Project, contributing to its planning, coordination and successful execution.

The webinar explored a wide range of relevant issues, including youth anxiety, academic and examination stress, social media and mental health, burnout, economic stress, substance abuse, bullying and cyberbullying, men's mental health, mindfulness and self-care, access to mental health services, and suicide prevention.

A particularly important message throughout the programme was the need to break the stigma surrounding mental health and encourage young people to seek support without fear or shame. The sessions highlighted that asking for help is a sign of courage and that communities must become safer spaces for honest conversations.

More than a webinar, the initiative demonstrated how international collaboration and Leoism can turn awareness into meaningful action for healthier, more supportive communities.



Through the Eras

In 2018, my journey with Leo began at Saegis Campus. I had always wanted to help people, even during my school days at Royal College, but since there was no Leo Club there, I never had the opportunity. When I started studying at Saegis, I heard about Leo Club and its charity work. Curious, I attended their orientation program, and it was truly inspiring. Without knowing much about Leo, I joined as Vice President, eager to learn and contribute. That role helped me develop my leadership skills, work with incredible people, and understand the true impact of service.

Later, I transferred to Leo Club of Kalubowila, where I continued my journey as Vice President, Director, and finally, President. Through these roles, I met inspiring individuals, organized impactful projects, and grew immensely as a person. Beyond service, Leo also nurtured my passion for music. I met artists, influential figures, and fellow music lovers who helped me explore new opportunities.

One of the biggest transformations experienced was gaining confidence in public speaking. Initially, I was nervous about addressing crowds, but Leo provided a platform for me to improve my communication skills and professionalism. More importantly, Leo allowed me to fulfill my dream of helping others. Over the past seven years, it has been an incredible journey of personal and professional growth.

To those considering joining Leo, I say come and see what you can do. There are countless opportunities waiting for you. While financial success is important, the joy of helping others is unmatched. Through Leo, you will not only make a difference in people's lives but also discover your own hidden potential.

Looking back, I am truly grateful for my journey with the Kalubowila Leos. It has been an unforgettable experience, and I cherish every moment. The friendships, the experiences, and the lessons I've gained will always remain close to my heart.

Leo Lion Osanda Bandara
Past Club President (2022/23)
Leo Club of Kalubowila



The tips corner

10 Practical Life Tips

1. Start before you're ready.

"Progress begins with the first step."

2. Discipline beats motivation.

"Consistency creates success."

3. Protect your peace.

"Not every battle deserves your energy."

4. Learn every day.

"Knowledge is an investment that always grows."

5. Value your time.

"Spend it on what truly matters."

6. Embrace failure.

"Every setback is a lesson in disguise."

7. Be kind, always.

"Kindness costs nothing but means everything."

8. Believe in yourself.

"Confidence is built by keeping promises to yourself."

9. Stay grateful.

"Gratitude turns ordinary moments into blessings."

10. Never stop growing.

"The best version of you is still ahead."

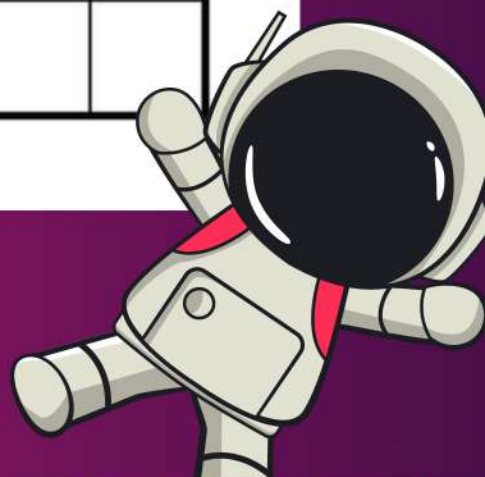


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The Mindful Leo



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