

Bees hide a surprising secret. When a hive loses its queen – the only one capable of giving life to the colony and maintaining order in a perfectly organized society – all seems lost. Life in the hive slows down. Without new eggs, the future disappears. Within a few weeks, the colony is threatened with extinction. But bees don't panic. Nor do they wait for salvation from outside.

With an extraordinary display of collective intelligence and deep instinct, they launch a spectacular emergency response that is hard to imagine in a world ruled by insects. Transformation begins with a simple but essential choice. Worker bees select some ordinary larvae – the very ones that would normally become ordinary workers. They are nothing special. They were born no different. But now their fate changes completely.

They are selected to receive a special diet: royal food. A rare substance produced by nutritious bees, rich in protein, vitamins, and bioactive compounds. It's royal food in the purest sense. The larva fed exclusively on this substance no longer follows the usual path. In just a few days, its body develops differently. The body becomes larger, stronger. Life expectancy is multiplied by almost twenty. It won't work. It will rule. It will not follow routine. It will bring life. The queen isn't chosen based on genes. It's created.

What makes this process truly fascinating is that the worker bee is the king. It's as if, in a human society, you could take an ordinary child and, with the right nutrition, the right environment, and the necessary support, turn it into an extraordinary leader. Without genetic interventions. Without fireworks. Just thanks to support and perspective.

A leader is born out of crisis. This metamorphosis doesn't just save the larva. It saves the entire colony. Once the new queen is ready, she takes over the hive, begins laying eggs, restores order, and begins a new collective life cycle. From the threat of extinction, the colony is reborn stronger, more organized, and more balanced.

A silent but profound lesson. Bees show us without words that in moments of great crisis, what is needed is not despair – but clarity. The right choice. Care and guidance. In their world, no queen is born. It is nurtured & guided.

And perhaps, just as in the beehive, in life too, it doesn't matter who you are at the beginning, it's the end result that counts. But rather than what you receive, how you are cared for, and what decisions others make in difficult times. Because sometimes the strongest leaders are born in the most difficult moments.

-Unknown author, news feed

Can you relate your ALA life to this narrative? Think hard, and try taking some actions to make our ALA stronger.

Judy Twete, Department NEC