



The Reflective Leader: Standing Still to Move Forward

By Alan Smith, Peter Shaw

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The popular caricature of a great leader today is an activist who leads from the front, often through sheer force of personality - the kind of leader who will act as a saviour to a company or organisation. But most leaders are ordinary people who learn wisdom. One key to successful leadership is the ability to reflect - on one's own strengths and weaknesses, and on human nature and behaviour in order to bring out the best in others and build team spirit and morale.

This practical and inspiring book sets out an approach to leadership that is more effective in the longer term and explores: the art of reflection, the ability to identify key facts, how to weigh up risks, how to nurture self-knowledge and understanding of others, how to differentiate between knowledge and wisdom, the art of listening, building a common vision and more. From their extensive experience training leaders in business, ministry and public service, the authors offer a wise and reliable guide.

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Editorial Review

Review

'You have to be a reflective practitioner to be effective in any profession. The theme in the book of the importance of "standing and staring" before deciding on next steps is crucial.' (Hazel MacKenzie, Head of National Leadership Unit for NHS Scotland)

'The daily discipline of contemplation was made so easy with The Reflective Leader - the simple messages and challenging questions at the end of every day allowed me discipline myself into taking reflective time out for me. Every aspect of my leadership was challenged - even the bits I found very uncomfortable to answer gave me food for thought.' (Janice Hewitt, Assistant Chief Executive Stirling Council)

'The style is easy but stimulating, providing much food for thought on knowing yourself, understanding others, enabling teams to flourish, and keeping abreast of developments ... [The] underlying theme is "contemplation before action"... A highly useful resource for mission leadership teams.' (David Bone)

'In sharing learning ... [the authors] offer help to those who find reflection difficult ... They gently introduce their Christian heritage through the Rule of St Benedict and Pastoral Rule of St Gregory the Great ... The format is designed for busy leaders, and makes the book easy to pick up and use in short sessions ... The opening chapter ... emphasizes the balance between practice and reflection that runs through the book. In this regard the authors compare favourably with Donald Schön's "Reflective Practitioner," which is seen as a standard text.' (Tim Harle)

About the Author

ALAN SMITH is the Bishop of St Albans and author of God-Shaped Mission.

PETER SHAW is a Partner with Praesta, an international executive coaching organisation. He is a Reader in the Church of England, teaches on the Guildford diocesan ministry course and is a popular conference speaker.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Deloris Wagner:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They are really reading whatever they take because their hobby will be reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, man feel need book when they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will require this The Reflective Leader: Standing Still to Move Forward.

Megan Snyder:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or even read a book allowed The Reflective Leader: Standing Still to Move Forward? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have some other opinion?

Andrew Nixon:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love The Reflective Leader: Standing Still to Move Forward, you are able to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Jimmy Martinez:

The Reflective Leader: Standing Still to Move Forward can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to put every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing The Reflective Leader: Standing Still to Move Forward nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource info that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial thinking.

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