



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:

Jeffrey Spencer:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *The Reflective Leader: Standing Still to Move Forward*. Try to stumble through book *The Reflective Leader: Standing Still to Move Forward* as your friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you really feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let us make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

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William Wright:

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