



Virtuous Leadership: An Agenda for Personal Excellence

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Drawing on the lives of some of the greatest political, intellectual and religious leaders of modern times, and the author's personal experience, *Virtuous Leadership* demonstrates that leadership and virtue are not only compatible, they are actually synonymous.

Virtuous Leadership defines each of the classical human virtues most essential to leadership - magnanimity, humility, prudence, courage, self-control and justice. It demonstrates how these virtues promote personal transformation and the attainment of self-fulfillment. It also considers the Christian supernatural virtues of faith, hope and charity without which no study of leadership can be complete. The book's final section, *Towards Victory*, offers a methodology for the achievement of interior growth tailored to the needs of busy, professional people intent on imbuing their lives with a transcendent purpose. Thus, the aim of *Virtuous Leadership* is ultimately practical. It is meant to be your guidebook in the quest for moral excellence.

Virtuous Leadership: An Agenda for Personal Excellence Details

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Anna Akmene says

An excellent book about leadership as a mission, not only ambitions. Leadership is a character, not a feature. It's all in your hands and you can create yourself as a leader.

Tomas Modrovich says

Odvaha-Velkodusnost-Pokora-Mudrost-Sebaovladanie-Spravodlivost. Cnosti, ktore A.Havard vidi ako to najdolezitejsie, co by mal v sebe kazdy skutocny leader najst a nachadzat. Na knihu ma namotivoval rozhovor economickeho tyzdennika Trend s A.Havardom spred par rokov. Vtedy velmi inspirativne citanie sa naplnalo aj uvodom knihy, resp. jej prvej casti, kedze slovenska verzia sa sklada z oboch prepojenych knih - Cnostne liderstvo a Stvoreni pre velkost. V druhej polovici knihy vsak autor az podozrivo casto zacal vnasat nabozenstvo vsade tam, kde predtym jeho definicia cnosti davala racionalny vyznam. A aspon mna osobne obohacovala. Nasledne som zacal pochybovat a pochybnosti sa stupnovali, cim blizsie prichadzal koniec knizky. Po poslednej strane prisiel uz len povzdych, ake skvele to mohlo byt..

Anna Brodarick says

My favorite part of the book was learning Corazon Aquino's story. What an inspiring woman, and a strong leader!

Frank Kelly says

One of the best business books I've read in a long, long time. Leadership is based on virtue -- and as Havard makes abundantly clear -- virtue can be developed, grown and deepened in anyone. True leadership is about taking care of your people and not yourself. I highly recommend this slim but powerful and very rich book to anyone truly interested becoming a better leader in business and life while becoming a better person

Catherine T. Mohs says

Excellent book on a Christian perspective on leadership and how virtues play an important role in all leadership styles.

Pinkyivan says

Was expecting self help, but got a nice updated version of virtue ethics.

Andrew says

This compelling book took me awhile to read. That's not because its subject is difficult to grasp or because it is hard to get through. Rather, its one of those books you slowly work through, chewing over the messages and thinking how you can incorporate its ideas into your life.

This book makes the books claim that true leadership isn't just about character, it IS character. True leadership requires not pithy maxims, but the development of virtue. The book uses the cardinal virtues as the building blocks, with humility and magnanimity topping the necessary characteristics a leader must embody. Filled with anecdotes and examples, this is a must read for anyone.

Timothy Olson says

The book is thinly veiled as a "Professional Development" book. Much of the writing is standard fare for such publications. The real value in this book is the footnotes. The Author is well-read and selects authors of quality. Reading this book added another 7 books to my " want to read" list.

In the end, though, it becomes clear that this is primarily a book of spirituality disguised as a professional development book.

Ines Malenica says

This book was very helpful about understanding the virtues and shows how to accomplish them in everyday life. It describes them very profoundly one by one and the author presents the exact ways how to train yourself to become the best version of yourself. I like the examples and stories he tells about some influential people in human history, which induced me to learn more about their inspirational lives.

Marek ?igáš says

Kone?ne manažérska kniha, ktorá sa riadi zdravým rozumom ! Niežeby píše? o rôznych technikách time managementu a kade?om inom bolo zlé, ale ?astokrát zabúdame na základy. Táto kniha sa zaoberá práve nimi. Ve?mi inšpiratívne a prínosné.

Glenn Williams says

The author sets forward a leadership model that is rooted in aretology – the science of virtue. He presents a systematic and holistic attempt to relate the classical virtues to professional leadership in modern times. Great theory, excellent application, and thought-provoking.

Virginia Lieto says

If you are looking for a way to bring virtue to the workplace, without coming across as a “Holy Roller,” then *Virtuous Leadership*, by Alexandre Havard is the book for you! Right from the book’s introduction you learn that “leadership is character” (Introduction xi). Havard tells us that people obtain good character as a the result of perseverance toward personal excellence. So, how do we achieve personal excellence? We do so through the practice of virtue. Havard is a man after my own heart! He speaks my language; the language of virtue.

"We perceive and interpret things through the lens of character. By strengthening our character – i.e., by growing in virtue – we improve our ability to deliberate in the light of reason" (p. 70).

In *Virtuous Leadership*, the author deftly covers the major components of virtuous leadership; magnanimity and humility. Without these two virtues, interwoven into our daily lives, leadership would be hollow, and greatness would be non-existent. Yet, Havard does not stop there. He digs deeper, telling us that magnanimity and humility alone will not bring one to the status of virtuous leader. One must also possess and practice the cardinal virtues: Prudence, Courage (Fortitude), Self-Control (Temperance) and Justice. Havard discusses each of these virtues in depth, helping the reader identify where to best employ them in the course of business and in life.

Havard also informs the reader about the science of virtues, (comprising the intellectual and ethical virtues). In addition, he discusses the moral profile of a leader, where a true leader deals with realism, and the immature leader resorts to skepticism. Havard offers many comparisons of mature, virtuous leadership, contrasted against immature leadership, throughout the book; peppered with stories and quotes of notable figures in history – all meant to guide the reader toward virtuous leadership.

Virtuous Leadership is easy to read and easy to understand. I consider this book a must read for anyone wanting to succeed in business and in life. In addition, I think this book would be a great resource for use in corporate training seminars.

Kathy Nealen says

A philosophical and very Catholic look at qualities important for leadership. Instead of focusing on tactics for being successful, this author promotes cultivating virtues that will facilitate leadership. Please be advised this book is very Catholic - most of the examples are saints or other prominent Catholics. Not your typical business book - recommended not just for leadership but life in general.

Andrew says

Excellent book that makes Thomistic/Aristotelean virtue theory an inspiring reality for those desiring to be excellent in their various roles of service. Havard gives many examples from the lives of admirable and not-so-admirable leaders drawn from mostly modern European and American history. He offers compelling reasons to pursue the virtues, detailed examples to provide understanding of them and practical ways to achieve them.

Clare Cannon says

This book is outstanding. It demonstrates how virtue can impact every kind of personal and professional situation. A passage from the Author's forward shows what kind of impact this is. He saw an old lady rummaging through rubbish, and he gave her the money he had left in his pocket. A few minutes later, just as he was boarding his train, the old woman came running up to him with a big smile on her face and bunch of flowers, which she gave to him. Seeing her great selflessness and generosity of heart, he was "overcome with joy, with a deep love for life, with a desire... to be better". And he continues "It is by no means unusual that a close encounter with goodness makes the soul take flight, as though it had sprouted wings."

Imagine how the world would be transformed if people lived this kind of virtue in positions of leadership.
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