From Smart to Wise: Acting and Leading with Wisdom*

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Over a period of time, several concepts and thoughts have evolved on the way over behavioral aspects of effective leadership. The book has furnished prominent perspective in the conceptual understanding of leadership practices, with organizational implications. The authors, Prasad Kaipa and Navi Radjou have brought out a practical novel, in an achievable leadership perspective through this book. ‘From Smart to the wise’, is a procedural guideline to the man, who wants to be contented with him and intended to contribute to the noble purpose.

The book propagates two types of leader, ‘functional smart’ and ‘business smart’. The functional smart leaders have been depicted as leaders, who hold operational excellence in the organization they work, whereas, smart leaders have been related with visionaries and higher goal achievers, with quick realization of derived results. With a very precise definition of wisdom, the authors have taken the smart-leader perspectives to wise leader perspectives. The book comprises eight chapters, disseminating the insight of a wise leadership. The chapters are well aligned and give the readers, an understanding on the procedural flow of transformation, from smart to wise leadership.

The book consists of various phenomena, remarkably ‘Change the perspectives towards noble purpose’. A noble purpose would help to transcend personal gain, ego and inculcation of meaning, in each respective path of life. This would entail the ultimate contentment and happiness. It demonstrates integrity, by aligning actions with intuition, feeling and authentic self i.e. Noble purpose or North Star. The book also propagates role clarity with detach engagement, that is, wise leader is not involved in the role emotionally, or attached with its outcome, even though the engagement possess is full of zeal and passion. Decision Making on the basis of unique decision logic, i.e. wise leaders make decisions on the basis of ethical clarity, context awareness and set of system, process and reasoning principles. Wise leaders use logic instinct, intuition and emotion to decide. The book has advised to have North Star and given the attribute HERO. Where ‘H’ is not loosing the “Hope, if the situation is gloomy”, ‘E’ is efficacy; which is showing to perform in full confidence, ‘R’ is “resilience; relating failure with stepping stone to success”, ‘O’ is “Optimism; expect to succeed, while another might have failed”. Discovering the
drivers of one’s motivation gives us enlightened self interest. It also gives the understanding of knowing the difference between short term and long term motivation. The alignment of this phenomenon, with practice helps to develop our own wisdom logic. The very important highlight is the last one, as it covers the true meaning of the author’s concept in our life; this is to co-create a field of wise leadership. This facilitates spreading of wise leadership among the surrounding people and in various levels of organization, which eventually takes the journey from enlightened self interest to enlightened social interest.

Concept, thought and ideas are very imminently explained with the suitability of modern parlance. It has also portrayed the imminent future implications of leadership. Step by step process of turning smart to wise leaders make the book unique, as this facilitates practical implications of the concept into leader’s real life scenarios. Portraying effective leaders as example at suitable places in the text has made the book more pragmatic and interesting. The concept of wise leadership is the best fusion of eastern and western ideology, with great concern towards connecting leaders to a larger noble purpose, so that, the foundation of most fruitful and sustainable future of the corporate world can be foreseen. The book has new ideology, with respect to leadership style. Wise leadership is having the impression of servant and spiritual leadership, and gives unique dimension of transcending and leveraging the perspective to serve society at large. It assures the effectiveness in self and imparting excellence to others, with a focus towards well being of the organization and society.

The limitations of the book are; some ideas, the book entails are found tough to practice in reality, as the commencing period may cause some difficulties. Only, persistent efforts towards practicing the phenomenon can change the style. The conceptualization of current theory has not roofed the influence of environmental forces on individual personalities and the organization, as a whole.