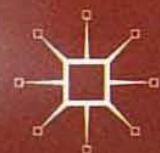


Worldly Leadership



Alternative Wisdoms for
a Complex World

Sharon Turnbull, Peter Case,
Gareth Edwards, Doris Schedlitzki
and Peter Simpson



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Alternative Wisdoms for a Complex World

Edited by

Sharon Turnbull

Peter Case

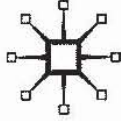
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To Susan, Anastacia and Lindsey (from Peter)

To Edwin and to my parents, Reg and Audrey (from Sharon)

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Foreword

There is a delicious paradox in the concept of worldly leadership: to be of any use at all, leadership must be properly indigenous, rooted in a particular time and place. Can such leadership also be generalized to the world at large? I suggest that the answer is yes, because the practice of leadership in a 'worldly' manner educes or draws out universally recognizable ideals of unity, truth, beauty and goodness, even while it is clothed in power, politics and petty instrumentalism. These ideals are ever present in worldly leadership; in fact, idealistic *otherworldliness* may be crucial for fully being in the world. If so, this book will be about manifesting worldly ideals: a proper manifesto.

Worldliness is, as much as anything else, a mindset, a turn of mind or way of thinking about the world 'out there', and about oneself and one's relations to it. Worldliness evokes the all-embracing sense of 'the whole world', and there is a subtle difference to 'global', which implies something more uniform. While 'globalization' speaks to the convergence of cultures and economies, worldliness refers to the tremendous multiplicity of ways of living, of meanings, priorities and choices; of cultural trajectories that hail from different histories and create different contexts in the present. A worldly person is experienced in life, in the affairs of the world, sophisticated, practical, temporal and earthly.

The world is one and many. Conceptually it is impossible to consider anything without a prior assumption of unity, the singleness of 'it', the object of thought. When we think of a world it is as a unity; if we conceive it as synonymous with a planet, we must immediately think of the many other planets, and thus a multiplicity of worlds united in Cosmos. A planet or globe is a singleness of shared space and time, in which a multitude of species and forms of consciousness exist, inextricably interdependent, yet each distinct.

From a human perspective, the world as 'one' emphasizes our common humanity, and makes possible concepts such as 'human nature'; the world as 'many' points to the multiplicity of locales, cultures, species, ecosystems, values.

This book is a celebration of this paradox, and exploration of its twists and turns, and most importantly, it expresses the most longed for quality of leadership: wisdom.

Jonathan Gosling

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