



Editorial Thoughtscapes

Words Impact Business Success

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Reading Time:

3 minutes

Reader Benefit:

- ◆ Learn about miracles at the workplace;
- ◆ Insights about how you can use the seven miracles to be in-sync with your highest values;
- ◆ Buy the book to learn more about the seven miracles, and how you can work with integrity.

Book Review:

Title: Seven Miracles of Management

Author: Alan Downs

Publisher: Prentice Hall, 1998

Pages: 178 pages, includes Index

Reviewer's Rating: ☺☺☺☺☺

Rating Legend:

Inspiring ☺☺☺☺☺ *Excellent* ☺☺☺☺ *Good* ☺☺☺ *Average* ☺☺ *OK* ☺

Website Summary:

Miracles at Work in Management

Man must realise that he cannot operate with double-standards – with one set of principles for conducting business affairs, and another opposing set of rules for living life. The author Alan Downs, articulated that the world sorely needs a complete change of mindset. Read this book, and learn how “you can make a big difference” to the human condition. Start now. The rewards will be just as real and lasting for you.

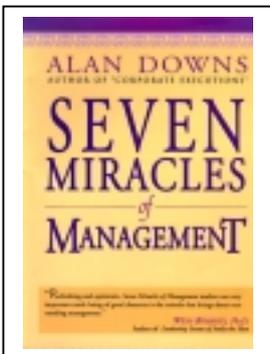
Synopsis:

Miracles at Work in Management

Man must realise that he cannot operate with double-standards – with one set of principles for conducting business affairs, and another opposing set of rules for living life.

This book clearly illustrates where the modern world is going against the grain. The author Alan Downs, articulated that the world sorely needs a complete change of mindset.

By embracing a new attitude – of honouring your humanity through being loving, honest, forgiving, creative and supportive – you can reclaim your birthright of creating miracles. This remarkable book has an inspiring message – that miracles happen whenever we practice these seven timeless principles.





Miracles at Work in Management

Book Review by Leon A. Enriquez

Whether management is an art or a science is a highly arguable subject. Almost everyone has some sort of opinion about what management really means. To some, management means to exploit the workforce. To others, management empowers the workers. Yet, in truth, we observe the daily grind and wonder why this world embraces lack and limitation as the de facto standard. Thus, we enshrine the ‘Haves’ and the ‘Have-Nots’!

Consider a simple illustration. Just imagine the outcome – horror and unbelief – when you speak about miracles to a secular world engrossed with limitation. For many, miracles happen to other people but not to themselves as individuals. To most people, miracles belong to the esoteric realm of magic and wishful thinking! And yet, the unseen truth is obvious to those who choose to see it. Miracles actually happen every day to ordinary people despite their misgivings.

Examples of miracles include: the extraordinary, the unusual, the exceptional, the spellbinding, and the phenomenal that happen every day – because of ordinary people doing ordinary things, in harmony with natural law. For instance, the creation of something extra is in essence, a miracle. In short, “miracles happen when we honour our humanity.”

“This book took many years to write. It is the culmination of a decade and a half of study, experience and practice,” said author Alan Downs in the *Preface*. “The ideas I describe are not originally mine; they are centuries old and universal in scope.”

Today, if you casually observe the business environment, you’ll probably notice that it’s often a cold and dreary place where monsters are on the prowl. It’s a cruel, dog eat dog world.

Conventional wisdom emphasises that the world of profitable business should not be diluted by human kindness and compassion. Those worldly wise stress that our ‘soft spots’ will cause us to fail in an aggressive world where you must be cold and hard, and calculating. When someone wins, another loses. That’s the tragedy of reality!



The author succinctly observed the worldly wisdom: “Hide your human feelings, consider everyone your competitor, and struggle to get larger share of limited resources. Work must be hard, and we must work hard at it. If someone doesn’t feel pain, there is no gain.”

Mr Downs takes a contrary stand against the popular herd mentality of limitation. Here, in this insightful and commendable book the author highlighted that “our education is mostly wrong.” Obviously, there is a disconnect. We cannot adopt double standards – in the way we live life, and the way we conduct business. This aggressive manipulation “is living in perpetual deception.”

Mr Downs said that what is truly needed is for each individual to find the journey back to personal integrity and enchantment. This is really our birthright – the power of our own humanity. There is an urgency and need for us to refresh our core beliefs with something more sincere and genuine.

The essence of humanity is contained in two elements: Meaning and Emotion. In fact, these two vital distinctions are the hallmarks of the human condition. Put another way, modern psychologists have classified these two elements as Thinking and Feeling. Be aware that the vitality of these two ideas have persisted throughout the centuries of man’s struggle to gain a better understanding of human nature.

You can achieve your full being and potential by looking for the true power inherent within your own humanity. Then, you can be truly honest, loving, forgiving, creative and supportive. And when you succeed at this noble quest, you will realise and find a new management style – that transcends the limited, small-minded power struggle that prevails over so many organisations.

‘Effortless accomplishment’ is at the core of what this new-found success is all about. How? By being genuine, a person releases a miraculous power that actually creates far more value than if he or she had adopted the wrong mindset – the limited path of manipulation, push-pull, withholding, power games, and competitive aggression.

This gracious book has eight chapters with a chapter each devoted to a total of seven miracles. Mr Downs classifies these miracles as: Manifestation, Reciprocity, Honesty, Forgiveness, Passion, Esteem, and Transcending the Past. Chapter 8 sheds light on the theme “On Becoming” as a final treat.



Each miracle highlighted in this inspirational work will cause a change in you. Thus, with your changed attitude, these miracles will inspire and impact, and change the very company that you work for. Yes, integrity unleashes amazing power to achieve a more lasting good that benefits everyone. Only a willing heart is required, and with regular practice it will become a learned habit.

One thing is for certain – these miracles are based on timeless principles that will appeal to and remain core ideals of the human being. If you faithfully embrace these ideals, put into practice each miracle, and abide by their pronouncements, it will bring you back to a place you once knew – a place of authenticity where sincerity surrounds you, flows from you, and towards you. Here, you will find fulfillment both as a human being, and also as a manager.

Each of us has a special responsibility to help make the world a better place. For many, this seems an almost impossible task. Yet, we can make the first important step where we truly have total control. Quite simply, you and I can begin the journey towards a better world by starting with our individual personality.

Real change starts with a change of heart. It's up to each one of us to decide where we want go – the way of miracles, or the path of limitation. Read this book, and learn how “you can make a big difference” to the human condition. Start now. The rewards will be just as real and lasting for you.

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