

“The Keys to Leading: Integrating Head with Heart”

Book Review

After years of experience as founder and President of the Vail Leadership Institute, John Horan Kates has written the book about his lifelong passion – a new paradigm of leadership. When I first met John after moving to the Vail Valley, I knew I had found a friend of the spirit. His commitment to lifelong learning and a desire to create special educational programs in the Valley just radiated from him.

Over the thirty four years he has been in the Valley, John has touched hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people very deeply as he helps them examine this complex, paradoxical subject of leadership in today’s troubled world.

How can one remain optimistic in an age of scandals that abound in government, business, and sports? John does. How can one lead in an age of terrorism and unique challenges? John knows. And now he has captured the essence of his wonderful philosophy in an easy-to-read book, “The Keys to Leading.”

John summarizes the ten keys to leading effectively and ethically regardless of your age or field of endeavor. Dimensions like “attitude,” “values,” and “serving” are examined in depth from multiple perspectives over a carefully paced period of reading, reflection, and personal journaling which John recommends.

This book is not about the answers John gives you. “The Keys to Leading” is about the power of the questions John asks you to answer in your head and in your heart. His tools are reflective writing and action steps which you determine. I did the reflection and answered John’s questions for myself. I was impressed with the results.

Filled with rich quotes and personal stories that illustrate his thoughts, “The Keys to Leading” is very readable. I recommend it. It will connect your head and your heart. It will touch your soul if you let it.

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