

# Symposium Paper Number Five

Gene Marshall – December 2003

## Leadership Power

The empowerment of leadership is now and will remain for the foreseeable future the most important priority for the entire Symposium project. What do we mean by leadership in the context of this project? What are the various components of leadership? How is leadership developed?

### What do we mean by leadership in the context of this project?

First of all leadership means the role of enabling a Christian Resurgence Circle. This role is more than taking one's turn at being the guide for the meeting, conducting a Bible conversation, or leading a study. Leadership includes constancy in attending meetings and assuring that meetings actually happen in good quality. It also includes thoughtful care for each person involved. And it includes a host of mundane things like arranging for a meeting place; arranging chairs; setting out song books, a marker board, candles, bells, or whatever else is needed for the happening of each meeting.

Leadership also means the various roles that are played at Symposium meetings, Regional Assemblies, and Training Schools. All of these roles need to be understood as servant roles. Though status and status seeking will remain a part of human life, Spirit communities need to develop objective policies of decision making that transcend status issues and simply place the right person in the right role at the right time. It is also helpful to remember that creative followership is a form of leadership. Choosing and following good leadership is leadership.

### What are the various components of leadership?

To be an ever-improving leader of Christian Resurgence, these four master arenas of competence need to be considered: Spirit Maturity, Rational Overviews, Leadership Skills, and Personal Economics.

#### Spirit Maturity

Spirit Maturity means insight into the functioning of one's own specific personality. This is a lifetime quest and a crucial one for Spirit maturity, for Spirit is what we essentially are when we are able to surrender identification with the habits of the personality that we commonly think constitutes our identity. Accessing Spirit has many dimensions too numerous and too profound to fully explore in a brief essay, but here is a list that I currently find helpful:

##### Trust

- a. Knowing Trust as the willingness to be lucid about finitude and estrangement
- b. Being Trust as an enduring openness to perpetual forgiveness
- c. Doing Trust as the courage to be our actual being

##### Compassion

- d. Knowing Compassion as accessing the strength of our unavoidable solitude
- e. Being Compassion as accessing the joy of our essential authenticity
- f. Doing Compassion as accessing our capacities for loving kindness toward others

##### Freedom

- g. Knowing Freedom as living beyond the habits of personality
- h. Being Freedom as living beyond the cultural customs of good and evil
- i. Doing Freedom as living beyond the delusions of fated outcomes

## Rational Overviews

Leadership empowerment for this project also includes competence in the following mental or rational overviews, clarities, and understandings:

1. Theological clarity on the transparent, triune dynamics of an up-to-date Christianity
2. Rational clarity on the elements and history of the Symposium project
3. Workable overviews on basic sociology and on world affairs
4. Workable overviews on the functioning of the human psyche
5. Understanding of the specific persons among whom we are providing leadership

## Leadership Skills

Leadership empowerment for this project also includes mastering some specific skills:

1. Rational Method Skills such as charting, pedagogy, and the metaphorical translation of Biblical passages
2. Group Process Skills such as consensus building and workshoping
3. Spirit Method Skills such as conversation methods and inquiry methods

## Personal Economics

And leadership empowerment for this project also includes competence with managing one's personal finances and time. Attention to the following matters releases Spirit and biological energies for all the tasks of our lives including the Symposium project:

1. Time Management
2. Money Budgeting and Accounting
3. Income Stream Design
4. Benevolence Management

## How is leadership developed?

Leadership of the sort we are imaging can be developed by attending the Leadership Training School of this project, by attending other Spirit retreats and workshops, by appropriate reading and solitary disciplines, by following and watching others lead, and by venturing into doing leadership roles.

The **Leadership Training School** of this project, which now meets once a year for a mere three days, is currently the key resource for developing the leadership needed by this project. We need to encourage all current and potential leadership to take advantage of this school.

And there are many **other Spirit retreats, workshops, and programs** which many of us are finding helpful. For example, the best of the Western Buddhist resurgence provides many helpful programs. Other helpful psychological and Spirit trainings are being explored by many of us. We are developing wisdom for making appropriate recommendations to each person.

Our ongoing **reading and solitary disciplines** remain an essential component in our leadership development. A host of suggestions are now available for these activities.

**Following and watching others lead** may be the most instructive of all leadership development processes, giving both mind and body the feel and the images of leadership.

Finally, **venturing into doing leadership roles** is also a process without which leadership competence cannot come into being and mature. We need to encourage one another to lead, both before we are able to lead and as we become more and more able to lead.

These five things are like prayers. We do them, and then we wait patiently for leadership power to grow in its own good time. The need is urgent, but the growth will be slow.