

PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ :
The Hallmark of Leadership

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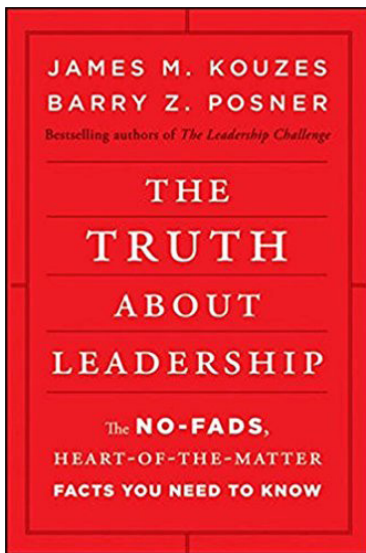
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FOREWARD FROM EDITOR

James Kouzes and Barry Posner, authors of the highly regarded leadership classic *The Leadership Challenge*, have studied leaders all over the world since the last 30 years. They understand leadership. Over these years they have concluded that while the context of leadership has changed dramatically, “the content of leadership has not changed much at all. The fundamental behaviors, actions, and practices of leaders have remained essentially the same since we first began researching and writing about leadership over three decades ago. Much has changed, but there’s a whole lot more that’s stayed the same.” That is probably the fundamental truth of leadership development.



Based on thirty years of research—more than one million responses to their leadership assessments—Kouzes and Posner have gathered together in *The Truth About Leadership*, the ten truths that have stood the test of time. These ten truths hold true both globally, across generations and different settings of leadership. They apply to teams, departments, small companies and large organizations in different areas like sports, business, society, government, religion and politics. A leadership truth is something about leadership that just does not change much over time, if at all, and it needs to be understood for what it is—the truth. They wanted to record these enduring leadership truths that they have learned over the years. The lessons included in *The Truth About Leadership* withstood not only the test of time but also the analysis of statistics. They studied the reams of data that had piled up over three decades and isolated those gems that were soundly supported by the data. This is a collection of

the real thing—no fads, no myths, no trendy quotes—just truths that endure.

These truths should form the basis of any leadership development program. Even more, they are the motivation behind the right kinds of behaviors that go into the formation of good and sustainable leadership.

However, a critical analysis of this great book and other popular western literature on leadership reveals an interesting weakness despite its many obvious strengths. These enduring truths are indeed supported by many different examples and leaders across different geographies and times. But there is no single role model as the reference hallmark of leadership, no one person in the history of mankind that exemplifies the well articulated truths of leadership. Perhaps this is what the Islamic history has in the person of the last and final Prophet and Messenger of Allah (SWT), Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. And that is the main motivation in this book. We thought of the obvious approach of synthesizing the advanced knowledge in modern leadership science with leadership examples of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the history of the generation of the Companions. We decided to chose this one main reference of modern leadership rather than combine the many other excellent references available.

Kouzes and Posner have presented a bare bones list of what you need to be a great leader and how to achieve it. The subtitle: “The No-Fads, Heart-Of-The-Matter Facts You Need To Know” tells it all. The book is -supported by facts. It uses solid data to come to conclusions.

While the context of leadership has changed a lot, the real content has not. The ten truths about leadership that have not changed are;

- 1. You believe that you can make a difference.**
- 2. Credibility is the foundation of leadership.**

- 3. Your values drive commitment from your team.**
- 4. You focus on the future (long-view).**
- 5. You know that you can't do it alone.**
- 6. Trust rules - it's the social glue that holds individuals and groups together.**
- 7. Challenge is the crucible for greatness. Change involves challenge and challenge tests you.**
- 8. You either lead by example or you don't lead at all (our favorite).**
- 9. The best leaders are the best learners.**
- 10. Leadership is an affair of the heart. If you don't love what you do you won't work hard enough to become great.**

In our book we provide examples and facts from the history of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and his Companions that relate to each of the ten truths. Each truth is arranged as a separate chapter which we conclude by suggesting (Tips to apply) how you, our esteemed reader, can apply each truth in your quest to become a better leader.

May Allah (SWT) give us the strength to always search for knowledge and wisdom in improving ourselves as leaders. May Allah (SWT) affirm in our hearts and practices that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is our true role model as a leader. This study humbly shows how he ﷺ exemplifies each of the truths of leadership that has not changed over time.

Dr. Azman Hussin