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For Immediate Release

Action Inquiry

The Secret of Timely and Transforming Leadership

By Bill Torbert and Associates

Action Inquiry: The Secret of Timely and Transforming Leadership brings the nebulous concepts of “leadership” together with concrete and timely action to show how teams and organizations can become more creative, profitable, and sustainable. This book speaks to anyone who wonders what the next step in the evolution of their own leadership capacity may be, to anyone who wonders how one can position oneself to support the next positive transformation in the potential evolution of their organization, and to anyone who wonders what the next step is in developing a social science that makes a difference in our everyday life.

Action Inquiry introduces readers to “action inquiry”—a type of disciplined leadership practice that increases the timeliness of one’s actions. It is the complex, lifelong process of transformational learning that individuals, interactive teams, and whole organizations can undertake if they wish to become: 1) increasingly capable of making future visions come true; 2) increasingly alert to the dangers and opportunities of the present occasion; and 3) increasingly capable of performing in timely and transformational ways.

This is the first business book to give meaning to the word “timely action” by specifying the different time horizons that leadership must interweave by offering a theory of how one’s awareness can evolve toward different experiences of time and a new appreciation for a sense of timeliness, both in moment-to-moment action and over a lifetime. In addition, *Action Inquiry* offers numerous examples of how different people and organizations begin to work with and internalize the practices and fundamental values of action inquiry.

Through short stories of leadership and organizational transformations in business, politics, health care, and education, the book illustrates how action inquiry increases personal integrity, relational mutuality, company profitability, and long-term organizational and environmental sustainability.

Action Inquiry ends by looking at present-day global politics and by envisioning an unexpected future scenario in which a new form of human relationship (based on triangles rather than couples) and a new class of organizations (called Not-for-Prophets and dedicated to adult development as well as profitability) attract a rapidly increasing proportion of the world’s population and wealth.

More...

“Buckle up your seatbelt and enjoy the ride. Torbert is an original and his ideas about life, learning, and leadership will rattle your brain and stir your soul.”

—Charles Derber, author of *Corporation Nation* and *People Before Profit*

“Action inquiry works! As a board member of Trillium Asset Management, Bill Torbert has made significant, valuable contributions to our company’s process, to our mission and vision, to the strategic positioning of the company and, in an important way, to the day-to-day management of people. This book presents fundamental concepts of management and governance that can lead to sustainable companies, families, and communities.”

—Joan Bavaria, CEO Trillium Asset Management and 1999 *Time.com* “Hero of the Planet”

“Action Inquiry provides a fresh and unique insight into the complexity of being simple and the simplicity of being complex, and for those reasons this book is ultimately a pragmatic guide to personal and organizational effectiveness.”

—Pat Canavan, Sr. V-P Global Governance, Motorola

“This book dramatically illustrates how action inquiry can be a path to self- and other-awareness, insight, and positive changes of the sort that can shape a world in the future that we will all want to live in.”

—Sandra Waddock, author of *Leading Corporate Citizens*

“In Action Inquiry, Bill Torbert and colleagues have offered a profound step toward a more integral and comprehensive approach to leadership –including not only what constitutes effective leadership, but field-tested methods for transforming your own approach into more effective, successful, and truly inspiring leadership.”

—Ken Wilber, author of *A Theory of Everything*

BILL TORBERT is professor of management at the Carroll School of Management at Boston College, and was formerly a graduate dean and director of the Ph.D. Program in organizational transformation. A long-time consultant to such organizations as Gillette, PricewaterhouseCoopers, UBS, Volvo, Odebrecht Construction (Brazil), Lego, Pilgrim Health Care, the Danforth Foundation, and the National Security Agency, Torbert is also a founding research member of the International Society for Organizational Learning and of Ken Wilber’s Integral Institute. He is the author of numerous books, including *Learning from Experience*, *Managing the Corporate Dream*, and *The Power of Balance: Transforming Self, Society and Scientific Inquiry*.

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