



Leadership Skills for the Transformational Age
(Robb Smith presentation, 2020)

- We have to grow in **discernment** – a shift **from being insulted to being informed**. We are going to get exposed to more and more perspectives and opinions than ever before. Not all of them are right, but all of them are something we can learn from. So rather than have our self being scared when exposed to otherness, we need to lean in when we encounter otherness and other worldviews so we can become informed by them and make better choices.
- We have to grow in **mindfulness** – an internal shift **from scared to sacred**. Moving to a self that isn't terrified of life. That doesn't believe the myth that we're a skin-encapsulated ego in a terrifying, cold and lonely world. All the great contemplative traditions tell us that by going within we can go beyond the narrow confines of a self that feels so small and helpless.
- We are going to have to grow in **humility** – a shift **from standing out to kneeling down**. We're teaching our children that exceptionalism is the new average; that

to be average they have to be extraordinary. This is an insidious myth which at its core is about narcissism. And, it robs us of the dignity which is actually true – that we are unique with unique contributions to make, and we don't need to stand out in some extraordinary way to be important. Greed and financial success are not measures of our inherent self-worth and can't protect us from what we fear.

- We are going to have to grow **sustainability** – a shift **from ego-nomics to true eco-nomics**. The paradox of this is by recognizing the genuine scarcity of the planet, we can actually move into a mindset of abundance and start taking care of each other. We can start building businesses that are conscious and that are not just for the profits of a few. This is going to be a moral and pragmatic requirement of this generation.
- We are going to have to grow in **empathy** – a shift **from looking at each other**, to getting into the shoes of each other and actually **looking as each other**, in one another's footsteps.