

Why Great Leaders are in Short Supply

James Rosebush attributes this to the changing context of leadership. Formerly, leaders had

- Privileged Access to Information while today there is instantly accessible information on all subjects
- The Reflected Glory of their Institutions while today because of a multitude of reasons, many institutions have lost their credibility and even their reputation, and the practice of 'spin' has created a cynical public
- Broadly Shared Foundational Principles that everybody previously subscribed to so that it was clearer what was right and what was wrong while today people see decisions taken for the political or economic opportunities that can arise, not because 'it was the right thing to do'.

As school leaders, we see this too in our classrooms and our schools.

- That's why we tell our teachers and ourselves, '*Don't be a sage on the stage but a guide by the side*' because the reality is we don't hold all the cards and must not pretend we do
- That's why we should keep asking ourselves what reputation we should be building for our schools – ephemeral wins or good memories; top 'this' and top 'that' or a sense of inclusiveness and family; valuing getting ahead or valuing getting along
- That's why we need to check our decisions to see that they are really value-based and not taken because they were convenient or got rid of a problem

Rosebush ends with a challenge that I think leaps at all of us

If institutional reverence cannot be assumed, it only means that leaders have a greater responsibility to engage hearts and minds. In an era when character is not a given, the leader who consistently displays integrity will have a real impact.

For the original article, here's the link

http://blogs.hbr.org/cs/2012/03/why_great_leaders_are_in_short.html