

The 9 Keys of Synchronicity

Foreword by

David L. Cooperrider

Philip Merry is a world leader in the application of the science of synchronicity to leadership. And with this book he takes us on a wonderful tour de force, an intellectual and spiritual tour of appreciating the amazing powers of *synchronicity* and the life-changing *and* leadership-enlivening potentials of opening our hearts and minds to a deeper way of being in the world.

Make no mistake, this *is* a leadership development book that's well researched, filled with insight, and its brilliance lies not only in the "how" of it but its compelling (for me irresistible) invitation. Written with so much ease and remarkable clarity, one realizes the truth of it: this is a book that will invite and cause you to look into your own life's mirror and to realize the vast potentials that are incredibly within your grasp.

Indeed, we are in an exciting period of time and science, as Philip Merry traces it all, where synchronicity and other phenomena which were previously seen as fringe are now being understood scientifically vis-à-vis discoveries in quantum physics, neuroscience, the positive psychology of human flourishing, studies of collective consciousness and living systems—all pointing to our fundamental connectedness not separateness.

We've all had them. Whatever you call it, the basic dynamic of synchronicity will be readily recognized. Something you needed comes to you—a person, an answer, an opportunity, a resource, life-changing doorway--without you causing it to be delivered. It's the kind of thing we've all experienced where you find yourself saying... "what are the odds" or... "this is so out of the blue"... or... "how could this have happened?" Indeed, these events are not paranormal for one simple reason: their pervasiveness in everyday life. What's not normal or beyond our normal understanding is the proposition, threaded throughout this book, that we can live our lives in ways that nurture extraordinary synchronicities, the kinds that elevate our own and others wellbeing, promote the good life, help us realize our higher purposes, and expand our career and life potentials for becoming a better person and a better leader.

First coined by Carl Jung, synchronicity is the experience of attracting out of the blue events or people that provide answers to life's questions and open doorways to a full life. It involves fortunate coincidences that are meaningfully powerful but are not causally connected. The non-causal element is crucial. That's where so much mystery lies.

For me, reading this intellectually alive volume was a delight. It helped me realize that so many of the most growth promoting and life-altering happenings in my career were indeed synchronicities. As I reflected on these, I realized that this book-- **The 9 Keys of Synchronicity**—is one I have been longing for, and without quite realizing it, wanting for a very long time. This book involves a treasure trove constellation of *original scholarship* (a study of

the lives of executives and leaders across every continent), an *interdisciplinary synthesis* of science, and a priceless set of *practices and principles* that emerge from the *poetic voice* of Philip Merry. The function of the poetic, argued Aristotle, is to open the world to new possibilities.

In that spirit I invite you to read Philip Merry's book with high expectations.

- Expect that you will want to experiment with the ideas that will flood your mind.
- Expect to find yourself wanting to tap into more of your intuitive capacities.
- Expect to consider that maybe there is a benign energy that envelopes and conspires to do us good.
- Expect to look at life with the gift of new eyes.
- Expect more answers to your most meaningful questions.
- Expect that you will get better at connecting the dots and that beyond our capacities of logic we also, in so many complex moments, need to listen to the feeling in our heart.
- And expect that synchronicity will happen more and more when your goal or vision is linked to creating positive outcomes for others and our world.

With this seminal book Philip Merry has provided each one of us a gift, a guide, and a new confidence. As the author concludes,

“Behind every synchronicity is the miracle waiting to happen.”

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