

Why don't the good people have more power?

It's a question most of us have asked at some point

When we watch a meeting go the way of the loudest voice. When we watch a kind colleague get passed over. When we watch the news. The philosopher Robert Hartman asked it openly, and devoted his life to answering it.

We think it's the most important question there is

By good people, we mean the empathic, the conscientious, the considerate – people who think about others as well as themselves. The ones who glue teams together, notice a shift in the energy, remember the birthdays, do the invisible work that others depend on. These are the people the world needs in power.

They are also the least likely to be in power.

There are three reasons for this, and none of them are their fault

1

Others don't see them as credible.

Kindness is mistaken for weakness. The qualities that make someone a strong people-leader – asking questions, listening, showing concern – are read as signs that they aren't tough enough. So they get passed over for people who are more dominant and self-promoting.

2

They were brought up to put others first.

They learnt to keep their heads down and were never taught to assert their opinions, show authority, or exert power. When they look at the people who do rise, the rising looks undignified.

3

They avoid power.

They have seen how an addiction to it causes conflict. If power corrupts, the cleanest thing is to stay clear of it.



What we are doing about it

Each of these reasons is a triumph of the Taker Economy: a world that rewards taking, not giving. That codes kindness as feminine and feminine as weak. The Taker Economy has devalued the very language of care – kind, nice, gentle, helpful – until these words sound almost embarrassing to say out loud in a professional setting.

This is the world that empathic people have inherited. And, if all of this is true, why hasn't anyone fixed it? Well, they've tried. There have been countless initiatives down the years that attempt to teach people to care who, fundamentally, don't care. You cannot train someone to care.

EMPLIFY TURNS THIS OLD PROBLEM ON ITS HEAD.

We can't train someone to care. But we can find the people who already do. We can help them learn to hold their ground, to be recognised, to embrace power and use it for the benefit of others. They become Empathy Powered Leaders – empathic people who lead without losing what makes them good.

If you recognise yourself in any of this – if you have ever wondered why the good people don't have more say – you are not wrong, and you are not alone.

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**Good people should have more power. We are here
to make that possible.**

Emplify.

Good people should have more power
Emplify is here to make that possible

