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## **Myself and Other More Important Matters**

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**: Myself and Other More Important Matters** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Myself and Other More Important Matters*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Charles Handy, GuruBy John W. PearsonAbsolutely fascinating. Charles Handy, often called the "Peter Drucker of the United Kingdom," (though he's much more than that) has penned a page-turner autobiography. If you're over 50, it's must-reading. In between his short, crisp management meanderings, he dispenses wisdom on the "portfolio" life--why your middle and later years might be better invested on your own versus at the whims of an organization. (Attention all wanna-be consultants!)Under 50? Then I'd suggest it's required reading. You'll be shocked--and educated--when you discover that Britain had no books on management in the 1950s (none). And no business schools until he co-founded the London Business School in 1967 (after a year at MIT's Sloan). "Business...was long seen by the British as a lower status occupation, definitely inferior to the armed services." His thoughts about America, flavored with his peculiar "cultural Christian" insights (his father was a Church of Ireland minister) will intrigue you.While paradigm-changing concepts like the shamrock organization, the sigmoid curve, "doughnuts," and the "portfolio worker" elevated him to management guru status, his humility is remarkable. He said that Drucker "once quipped that journalists only came up with the word [guru] because `charlatan' was too long for a headline."Handy's written 14 books, including his classics *Understanding Organizations*, *The Future of Work*, *Gods of Management*, and *The Age of Unreason*. While this book is autobiographical, his professor/consultant bent pops out on every page. His early employer, Shell, became big fans of Douglas McGregor's 1960 book, *The Human Side of Enterprise*. Of McGregor's two styles of leadership, Theory X (people need to be told what to do) and Theory Y (people can act responsibly on their own initiative), Shell decreed that "they would be a Theory Y

organization, unaware, presumably, of the confusion they caused by using Theory X to implement Theory Y. Old habits die hard." That's just one anecdote in a feast of memorable management stories, with wisdom and dry wit thrown in at no extra charge. I can't resist adding one more. Later in life, he limited his speaking engagements to five per year for fees and five for expenses only (never in the summer). Handy's wife, Elizabeth, handled his bookings. When asked to speak in Calcutta for the British Council, the proposed fee was minimal. "Pay him nothing," Elizabeth suggested. "But you must have all the right connections, so could you arrange for us to have an hour alone with each of the four most interesting people in Calcutta?" The result?" So it was that we met privately and personally with the chief minister, who turned out to be a jovial Marxist, with Mother Teresa, surrounded by her nuns, the vice-chancellor of the university and a prominent local artist. Money can't buy that kind of experience." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thought provoking By Guy Evans Charles Handy writes well in all his books. In "Myself and Other Important Matters" I was able to easily relate to what he wrote and share many, if not all, his passions, pains and views. It took me a while to read - not because he is difficult to read, rather he provoked a consistent degree of thought and contemplation concerning aspects of my life. Recommended reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Toward a better understanding of this man's world and his world of ideas By Henry Neidermeier - Thought provoking retrospective of an intelligent man as he journeys through the changes of his life - Concepts developed over time and from experience are integrated with personal reflections and feelings.