

Title: The Alchemist

Writer: Paulo Coelho

Publisher: Harper Collins

I read this book because my friend recommended it to me. She said it teaches readers the value of life and she learnt a lot from the book. After reading this book, I agree with what my friend said. It is really a wonderful and meaningful book.

The main character of this book is an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago. After realizing his "Personal Legend", he abandoned his sheep and went to find his treasure buried near the pyramids in the desert. Along the way, he met a young gypsy woman who interpreted dreams, the King of Salem, a new friend who later betrayed him, a crystal merchant, and a real alchemist. All of them helped the boy on his way of journey. And finally, the boy achieved his dream.

The book emphasized the phrase "Personal Legend". In fact, what does it mean? I think it is what you have always wanted to accomplish. In another word, it is "dream"

Everyone has dreams when he or she is young but how many people can make their dreams come true? People in early age have numerous dreams. Their enthusiasm is like big waterfall. However, "dreams" are like little ships. They float on broad sea and finally disappear when people gradually grow up.

Why can't people achieve their dreams? After reading this book, I recognize some of the reasons. There are three main reasons. The first one is "Fear". People are afraid that they will lose the things they have. They are used to the way things are. They don't want to change it and don't know how to deal with the changes. For example, a man dreamt of becoming a policeman when he was a child. However, he found a good job with satisfying salary. "Tell your heart that the fear of suffering is worse than the suffering itself." This is a quote from the book. I agree with it. If you suffer and even get hurt when searching for dream, you can continue the journey after recovery. However, if you fear of suffering, you will never begin and your treasure will be buried forever.

The second reason is that people think they don't deserve the dreams, or they'll be unable to achieve them. Undoubtedly, inborn condition may block one's way from searching his dream. For example, a girl wants to be "Miss Hong Kong"

but she is not beautiful or tall enough. In addition, if a child wants to be an astronaut, he probably cannot achieve it because there is only very tiny number of astronauts throughout the world. However, most of the ambitions such as firemen and teachers are not quite restricted by inborn ability. If you have a healthy body and willing to have training, you can be a fireman. If you are not a mute and study hard, you can be a teacher too. In fact, dreams are usually easier to achieve than we expect. Therefore, we should be more confident and believe in ourselves when searching for our dreams.

The third reason is that people are likely to give up halfway. "Every search begins with beginner's luck. And every search ends with the victor's being severely tested." The book says. I agree with this quote. When you play cards the first time, you are sure to win. Yes. Things are usually easier in the beginning. It is called "the principle of favorability" in this book. However, God will test the things we learn along the way of searching our dream. It is not because it is evil, but is to let us master the lessons we have learned as we have moved toward the dream. I think this principle still apply nowadays. For example, people who play piano may find it easy in the first and second year of learning but it will be more difficult later on. Lastly, it will become extremely difficult to pass grade eight examination. However, they will get great satisfaction after their triumph and they will soon forget all the suffering before the exam.

I want to share two meaningful proverbs in the books with you. The first one is "one dies of thirst just when palm trees have appeared on the horizons". The other one is "the darkest hour of the night came just before the dawn." What do you think about these two statements?

This book says that people must accomplish their "Personal Legend" because it is the most important things in their lives. However, I think it is not absolutely right. If a man has a family with a wife and several children, how can he get rid of them and go to find his dream? It is selfish and unfair to his family if he does so. It ruins the right of his children too. Life is sometimes confusing. Therefore, we should deal with it smartly and strike a balance between "dream" and "reality". We should choose a road that is suitable for ourselves so that we will not regret in the future.

This is the end of my book report. Someone says people of different ages would have difficult feeling after reading this book. I hope I will have new comments towards the book too when I read it the next time.