

Book Review for 2/20/04 by Debasish Banerjee

Title: "Learn or Lose"

Author: William G. Perry

Publisher: The Learning Net

Length: 219 pages.

Reading time: 3 - 4 hours

Reading rating: 10 (1 = very difficult; 10 = very easy)

Overall rating: 4 (1 = average, 4 = outstanding)

First of all I need to mention that the author of this book is a colleague who I have known for several years. I have also had many of his students tell me how greatly he believes in the paradigm "learning to love to learn." And that is exactly what this book is all about.

To quote from the book, "The elders simply passed on, through example, what the next generation needed to know. The rules have changed long since." Perry continues, "If you do not adopt an active paradigm for learning you are sentencing yourself and your loved ones to a second-rate future." Once, when I asked him what he had to say about his book he said, "An individual must commit to life-long learning or settle for a quality of life that is less than might be desired. A passion for learning is among the best gifts that a person can give him or herself."

Through these extremely effective words Perry explains why you do not have a choice but to learn and never stop learning. "Take control of your future. Learn how to reach your goals and become a winner. What's the secret? You must develop a passionate desire to learn. It's the most valuable gift you can give yourself. Casual learning is not an option any more. You must learn to compete or lose."

We all know that effective communication is one of the keys to success. But what is the secret to being a good communicator? To be a good communicator one has to be a good listener. Perry also stresses the importance of learning to interpret body language.

The author answers questions such as, how do you build a better career, how do you make better decisions, how do you manage your money, etc. These are all very practical questions a person faces (at some point) in life.

This book is a must read, especially for teens and young adults who stand much to gain from it.

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