

Book review “Chanakya in you” by Radhakishnan Pillai

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Abstract

“Learn from the mistake of others... You can't live long enough to make all yourselves:

Chanakya

Chanakya is the greatest known kingmaker, strategist in the history of our nation. The author of the book Radhakishnan Pillai has tried to explore the wisdom of the Chanakya and the practical applicability of his teaching in our life. It is a story of a young child who is influenced by his grandfather – who was a master storyteller who inculcated in him the habit of reading and most importantly the urge to read “Kautilya Arthashastra”. This book is the journey of an aimless youth to the richest man in the world; it's an inspirational story of how with the wisdom of Arthashastra he realizes his dream to become a noble businessman. The book gives a lot more importance to strategic thinking as according to Chanakya “Wars are not fought in the battlefield, but in the minds of generals”. The review of “Chanakya in you” unfolds the truth of Chanakya's teachings and how it is an important guide to teacher's, leaders and to the students. Further, few sutras from the Kautilya Arthashastra are also referred to get the better insight of the Chanakya Niti. This book also deals with aspect of wealth creation, management and distribution does giving the insight of modern day corporate social Responsibility. The essence of this book is it persuades you to reflect on your life and how to take decisions that would further enhance it. It's all about discovering One's Spiritual calling.

Keywords: *Kautilya Arthashastra, Noble businessman, Sutras, Chanakya Niti, Corporate Social Responsibility*

Review

Chanakya in you (2019) published by Jaico Publishing House, Mumbai by the best selling author Radhakrishnan Pillai of Corporate Chanakya and Chanakya's 7 Secrets of Leadership all the books were based on the adventures of a modern kingmaker

“Chanakya” till date more than 2 Lakhs copies were sold worldwide.

Chanakya in You is a fiction book and it's a journey of a modern day devotee of Chanakya who tries to seek the wisdom of the Arthashastra. The entire book has 60 Chapters each chapter is small and easy to understand. This book is charming,

optimistic and yet has a profound tale of an aimless youth to the one becoming the richest man in the world.

Chanakya a wise man, whose teachings and scriptures are relevant even today. He was the greatest known kingmaker, strategist and the thinker in the history of our nation. His name by birth was Vishnugupta but was later known as Chanakya and Kautilya. He groomed a person with potential but was ignorant of it to become the first Mauryan emperor Chandragupta in his rise to power. This book Arthashastra and Chanakya Neeti is a treasure of wisdom and its practical applicability is relevant even today.

The initial chapters of the book is all about the ancient Indian tales, History of India and also about the young protagonist, who is inspired by his grandfather, who is a master storyteller and who inculcated in him the habit to read and most importantly urge to read "Kautilya Arthashastra". This book talks about the four ultimate goals of Hindu traditions Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksha. Our judicious ancestors and the priests gave us a kind of code of conduct to follow in order to live a fulfilling life. When we are born only one thing is certain and that is DEATH and hence a wise man said the best way to look at this certainty is by living a fulfilling life.

Further in this book, importance is also given to logical thinking, unlike animals we human are given the most

important blessing i.e. to Think and hence it's very important to Think Logically. He also spoke of Strategic Thinking "Anvikshiki" and planning and how important it is. Strategy is the most important part in preparation of Wars because,

"Wars are fought in the minds of generals first and not on the battlefields."

The excellent way to build up strategic thinking is by playing games! Because in any games there will be winners and losers, but at the end both will be learners...

It is important to think and at the same time Act. Because, as aptly said "Only Analysis, analysis and analysis will ultimately lead to paralysis" Hence, it's important to know when to Act and When to Think.

This wisdom of Rishis and Sages is passed to many generation due to its documentation and these documents are very much relevant even today. It's better to learn from our mistakes but more it is also important to learn from the mistakes of others. Hence, it's rightly said by Chanakya, "wise is person who learns from the mistake of others... because we can't live long enough to make all ourselves"

The book beautifully describes, the relationship between the grandparents and grandchildren's by the following saying

"The main reason why grandparents and grandchildren's are so close to

each other is because they have one common enemy in between....

And as small children, they know that no one in the whole world would attempt to objective any of their pranks... and not even their own parents”

Other relations in the life of protagonist, such as Parent-Child, Teacher-Student, Boss-Employee, and wife-husband are also portrait beautifully. As the young child the seed to read Arthashastra was sowed by his grandfather, which further blossomed and his urge to study “Kautilya Arthashastra” was realized through Guru-Shishya. The Guru-Shishya relationship is a divine one. It is better explained with following line

“If students becomes a good human being that's what makes guru the happiest and not merely when he gets the first rank”

The book highlights the importance of education and the same time talks about spirituality. That where the importance of Parent-child relationship is portrayed. It's important to have cordial relation, the right guidance and support to your children when the need it the most.

The first five years of a child are very important hence love them unconditionally, then for the next ten years it's very important to discipline them and then consider them as your friends (Chanakya Niti)

Further, very important piece of advice given is “It's extremely

important to give your children's Values first and later provide them with valuables”

The first half of the book is all about the child, an aimless youth and his pursuit to study “Kautilya Arthashastra” and how he realizes his dream to study Arthashastra through Guru-Shishya (One Student, One Teacher) Model.

The second half of the book is an inspirational Story of how the aimless youth went to become the richest man in the world. His inspiration, “The Noble Businessman”, though it sounds contrary to many but yes this combination does exist. The protagonist in his way to realize his dream to become the richest man in the world draws inspiration from this Noble Businessman. He learns the most important meaning of money, i.e. to give spiritual status to it. Because if we do not give spiritual status to money, it can make you arrogant and greedy. Hence, “Money can liberate you” only if managed properly. Thus teaches you the most important concept of Wealth Management.

The protagonist, in his pursuit to become a noble businessman and to follow his dreams starts searching for a job. Most importantly, not for salary but for experience.

A job gives pride to many; hence one should never disparage it

His study on Arthashastra impressed none other but the chairman of this huge corporate. He learned a lot from

him especially developing patience, how to do business and last but not the least how to Identify wealth. This experience helped him in his own venture to become a successful entrepreneur.

The author explores the bonding between protagonist and his wife, the respect his has for his wife is shown by the way he address her the way he respect her profession.

In the entire book one of the interesting things is not a single character is with a name. The book can be read by everyone irrespective of the age, or the profession. This book is a fantastic book; it makes one think and helps to discover the Chanakya in You! Further, the book impart the real life experience which everyone can implement it there life and try to make it fulfilling one.

References

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