

Synopsis of 'Fillossofee: Breakfast with Grandpa' by Robert Gately

Ever wanted to write philosophical thoughts to be passed down to children and grand-children? That's what the author did when he wrote this book, which expresses his views of life in a world of discovery, and discontent - a philosophy book for children of all ages and whose subjects range from history (Copernicus, Pythagoras, the Gnostics, etc.) to physics (The Big Bang, The Big Crunch, Relativity, etc.) to logic and religion (The Trolley Problem, reincarnation, radical movements, etc.). It's a trip the mind might want to take when the world seems confused, or the soul needs feeding.

Today, modern technology keeps our youth engaged in a myriad of social networks that can reduce one's natural curiosity about life's imponderables like life, death and other, less important issues. Although the book might be a bit pedantic, it's intent is not to badger my offspring to think like I do, but rather to think for themselves.

The book includes interesting tidbits as you take a journey of discovery. For instance, the moon is retreating from us at a rate of 1.48 inches a year, which is about the same rate our fingernails grow. Not much to concern ourselves with now, but just wait a few million years! (lol)

In hopes to inspire, the author searches for truth in hidden places and he intends to lead us, and our children especially, into seeking the hard-to-reach conclusions in life like, 'Who is God?' and 'What is our place in the universe?' Or practical issues like, 'Is killing another human being wrong?' He explores exclusions like, 'It's okay to kill in self-defense, or capital punishment, or war, or abortion' but that doesn't mean we can't attain absolute truth about other things in life, or abandon our search if we do have an exceptions. The fact is, we all opine about everything under the sun, and it's important we push our psyches to the limit or to conclusions that ultimately define us. Someone might ask, for example, 'where do I stand on the abortion issue', and if we haven't thought thoroughly about it, we just might shrug our shoulders in ignorance.

It's important we have a position on such matters. It defines us, but the authors supposes we could take the predictable route on important matters in dispute, and vote, and abide by the 'majority rules' philosophy, like on capital punishment, which allows for the killing of human beings under certain conditions. For those who might disagree on the matter, they have other avenues to resolve their disputes in a peaceful, legal way, if they so choose to follow those paths.

The theme hammered through the pages of this book is that the search for truth is what really matters. It's a journey we take in which mistakes are to be embraced, not avoided. We might dodge dangerous acts, but explore the universe fearlessly, never afraid to stumble and weave through the muck of uncertainty. Some say we'll blow ourselves up in the process. The author here says we'll come to an understanding of not only who we are, but why we are here, and we might even save ourselves, and the planet, in the process. This is his legacy to his progeny, and to them he says, "Happy Reading!"