

Dec 07 SUMMARY – The Art of Pilgrimage by Cousineau

Well, our first half-year of reading wonderful travel books has come to a close.

Last Monday, Phylliss, Keith, Barb and I met with Willie as she led us through *The Art of Pilgrimage* by Phil Cousineau. If you did not have a chance to read it, I highly recommend it for your library. Not a book to be sped through, it is to be savored and closed for a while and then opened to enjoy again when so moved.

While some felt Mr. Cousineau belabored his point, (slow down, contemplate, fully experience each location with as many senses as possible), the thread wove through the seven topical chapters of the book. The book was laid out in steps a pilgrim might work through on his way to a desired location. A pilgrimage can be as grandiose as Mecca or Tibet, or as mundane as a trip to the store or around the block. Done mindfully and with the intent to enjoy each portion of the trip, (the good, bad and ugly), is what makes all of us pilgrims.

A contemplative and philosophical book, though not religious, this tome might be better enjoyed while on a trip, especially when in the throws of a meltdown. It could also be used pre-trip especially when approaching a life long goal or a particularly anticipated journey.

The most mentioned item within the group was the quotes that were liberally scattered through the pages and chapters. There were so many, that none of them rose higher than the others. I found that normally the one that I was reading was particularly relevant as I read it.

Willis shared one that she uses with her travel groups and I paraphrase, "the skill of the traveler is to create your own journey by lingering and absorbing each stage" My apologies, as it does not do the original lines justice.

During our meeting, cookies were shared and I am happy to report, the box was nearly empty when I brought it home. Good job guys, because otherwise they all would have ended up in me!

Thanks Willie and group for our conversation.

We also took a look at our book list for 2008. We currently have books scheduled through August of 2008 as follows:

Mon, Jan 8 A Welsh Childhood by Ellis. This will be lead by Jane with topics supplied by Curt. ** I did not order this book, as it is only available in hardback. I found that both Denver and Jefferson County Libraries have 2 copies each for loan. I have one from Jeff Co and it will be returned by Dec 20.

Mon, Feb 11 Eat, Pray, Love by Gilbert, lead by Rose

Mon, Mar 10 Three Cups of Tea by Mortenson, lead by Willie

Mon, Apr 14 In a Sunburned Country by Bryson, led by Barb

Mon, May 12 Don Quixote in China, by Barrett, led by Judi

Mon, Jun 9 Kabul Beauty School by Rodriquez, lead by Phylliss

Mon, July 14 Dark Star Safari by Theroux, lead by Keith *** long book, you may want to start it early!

Mon, Aug 11 The Caliph's House by Shah led by Jane

I will continue to order 3 books when they are available in paperback and have them on hold at the Colfax Tattered Cover. You get a 10% discount on our books because you are part of a book club.

I will continue to advertise for the book club in small local papers and through the Tattered Cover. Please send interested people to the Tattered Cover website or have them contact me. We seem to attract new people, but they don't return. I know this is a busy time of year and no matter what day we pick, someone will not be able to make it.

I sign off wishing each of you a happy and safe holiday season. Keep up the good work reading and finding those interesting books to share.

I will see you in the New Year!

Jane

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