



Rich Dad, Poor Dad – What the Rich Teach Their Kids About Money, That The Poor And Middle Class Do Not! By Robert T. Kiyosaki With Sharon L. Lechter, C.P.A.

The first thing that will catch a potential buyer of this book is its title. Simple yet full of meaning. Then, looking at the subtitle, one's curiosity would probably begin to swell as the unique differences between the haves and have nots, is elaborately described by its author, Robert Toru Kiyosaki, a Hawaiian-born multi-millionaire, in his world best-selling first-of-a-trilogy.

The story revolves around the author's personal journey to what he coined as 'financial freedom' with the indefatigable guidance of his "fathers", his 'rich dad' and his 'poor dad'. Mr. Kiyosaki's book aims to educate the reader about the monetary aspects of life and encourages everyone to become 'financially literate'. According to him, in order to understand what makes a rich person become richer, one has to know how to differentiate between an asset and a liability. It has also a lot of points to ponder on (there were 6 major lessons to 'drill into one's skull') as it carefully narrates in detail how young Robert's biological father, his 'poor dad' offered him the simplistic answer when he asked how he can get rich: learn to make money through education. To this, the author goes on to saying that, like his best friend's father which he called his 'rich dad', he does not believe in the infallible power of education to gain financial freedom. For him, knowledge is power, but one has also to know how to interpret his own financial statement proficiently which, unfortunately, is not being taught in schools. That explains, he says, why a lot of people are always struggling to 'make both ends meet' because most of them just work for the money. As Lesson Number One pointed out, "The Rich Don't Work for Money", they make their money work for them. Radical ways of thinking such as these challenge anyone's conventional wisdom about money and how they handle their financial affairs.

The book has been co-authored with Sharon L. Lechter, a certified public accountant, and therefore has the backing of a professional together with his consultants in the fields of business, accounting and economics. Straightforward illustrations on 'cash flow patterns' of the rich, poor and the middle class effectively gives the reader an overview as to what is actually happening on these people's money-movement without necessitating to undertake a crash course in Accountancy 101. In fact, Robert Kiyosaki encourages parents to teach their children how to handle their own money at an early age of 7! (In this regard, he also mentioned his publishing of a book entitled "Rich Kid, Smart Kid" and has developed board games such as CASHFLOW for Kids.)

Rich Dad, Poor Dad has raved a lot of interesting reviews from various critics and had sold 11 million copies throughout the world. But as with major accomplishments, negative feedback accompanies this literary jewel. Criticisms such as the actual existence of Kiyosaki's 'rich dad' was never been proven, or that his net worth was all blown up and in fact overstated can be seen from some roguish reviews. But whether these were all fictitious or not the important thing is that by coming up with this book, Robert Kiyosaki provided the budding entrepreneur or the business tycoon a guiding light or an experienced insight which any one can choose to adopt in their own circumstances in life to make it far more better than just being contented cows.

I already recommended this book to my 'poor dad' and to all those who feel the need to handle their money matters more efficiently and watch out vigilantly for the pitfalls on their way to success and financial freedom.