Record of Bibliophile’s Book Club

Meeting of November 7, 2018 being primarily the discussion of the book “Memories, Dreams, Reflections” by Carl G Jung as told to Aniela Jaffe.

The assembled Book Club members’ opinions of this book were quite varied with the exception of the almost universal observation that Jung demonstrated a terrific intellect and a broad mastery of classical learning.

Several people commented that they either doubted Jung’s memory (at age 81) to accurately recite early childhood dreams or that they considered his memories and reflections on those dreams to not necessarily reveal much about his early childhood mental state.

However, there were numerous comments about this personal “state of mind” biography being much more revealing of the true individual than the typical life story biographies of facts and events that are more conventional.

Several people commented that they were not able to read the book in its entirety because it seemed at times tedious or an overwhelming display of a single individual’s personality and intellectual fervor. Others found the entire work to be rewarding and thought provoking.

There were also several comments that the reader planed go on to focus again on certain parts of the book or even finish certain areas that they had abandoned in their initial effort.

Similarly, several people commented that they were aware of Jung’s stature in his professional and academic fields and concluded they would gain by reading some of his other works as a means of better understanding this book.

There were several discussions wherein it was stated some were very skeptical about the value of some of his philosophical and historical observations and others thought the same were very noteworthy and a source of new understanding of the relationship between the human mind and long held philosophical and religious views.

This report should be viewed as a brief abstract of the comments at the meeting on this lengthy and comprehensive book. Feel free to criticize or add to these comments if that is your pleasure.

The next meeting will be held on January 9, 2019 at 11:30 at Spezia for our further business of selecting a new book and discussing our next book: “Educated” by Tara Westover.

Bob Hamer.