**BECOMING A CRITICAL THINKER**

**BY ROBERT TODD CARROLL**

**The author begins with Socrates. I found the narrative fascinating (though the outcome, for Socrates, was quite depressing). Carroll generously sprinkles famous quotes throughout the book to give it added flavor.**

**The discussion of attitude was extremely important to the development of critical thinking skills. Some karate students only use their new skills to bully others, and fail to learn the philosophy behind Eastern martial arts. Likewise, those who only memorize a list of logical fallacies with which to bully others, and fail to develop a proper attitude, will fall short of achieving all the benefits that come from rational thinking.**

**Normally, I do not quote the author in my book reviews. However, this brief statement was so important to the argument as to why we all need to develop our critical thinking skills that I will break my rule this one time:**

**"*Human beings have been using language for thousands of years. One would think that by now we would have no trouble communicating clearly. Experience demonstrates otherwise. What’s worse, some people are often intentionally unclear. They use language to conceal the truth, to mislead, confuse, or deceive us. They do not use language to communicate ideas or feelings; they use it to control thought and behavior. Manipulation, not communication, is their goal*."**

**THAT is why we all need critical thinking skills.**

**If you want to become a critical thinker ...**

**this book is where you begin.**

**GRADE A**

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