LEAN
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To continually examine our processes to provide greater value to our customers without waste.

The Lean Line

Lean Thinking According to Dr Seuss

Achieving a Lean culture is a never ending educational journey. As one strives to tune the mind and culture towards Lean thinking, countless time is spent in learning the tools and practice. The majority of the learning process is after the classes have been taken and books have been read. Through it all, something may end up being overlooked or missed. What is missed is not necessarily what Henry Ford or Toyota taught us, but rather what Dr Seuss tried to instill in all of us as we were first learning how to read. In "*On Beyond Zebra*", Dr Seuss wrote the following:

Said Conrad Cornelius O'Donell O'Dell
My very young friend who is learning to spell
The A is for ape, the B is for bear,
The C is for camel, the H is for hare
The M is for mouse, the R is for rat I know all 26 letters like that
Through to Z is for zebra, I know them all well
Said Conrad Cornelius O'Donell O'Dell

Now I know everything anyone knows
From beginning to end, from the start to the close
Because Z is as far as the alphabet goes
Then he almost fell flat on his face on the floor
When I picked up the chalk and drew one letter more
A letter he had never dreamed of before

And I said 'You can stop if you want with the Z
Most people stop with the Z, but not me
In the places I go there are things that I see
That I never can spell if I stop with a Z
I'm telling you this 'cos you're one of my friends
My alphabet starts where your alphabet ends
My alphabet starts with this letter called YUZ
It's the letter I use to spell yuzza ma tuzz
You'll be sort of surprised what there is to be found
Once you go beyond Z and start poking around
So on beyond zebra explore like Columbus ....'

This may be a simple quote from a children's book, but it holds a profound message for those who are trying to find a better way. If we stop the thought process where tradition has told us it ends, we will seldom make great advances in improvement. To consistently move forward, we must occasionally contemplate: What is after Z for Zebra?

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