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Context to the nugget

Vijay talks about the notion of “paying it forward” and how that attitude towards life got shaped in his early childhood given the influence of his family. He talks about how some of the things that his parents and relatives did when he was young have had a profound influence on how he goes about thinking about giving back to the wider society. He talks about a specific anecdote where he learnt a lesson about giving from his uncle.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): Clearly you have moved till long in the journey to give back to the wider society whether it's through the you have enrolled whether the ambassador of the peace or through the Vijay Amritraj foundation. So, give us an insight into how this journey took place in your life?

Vijay Amritraj (VA): Oh no it was just a growing up. You know, not being able to do what normal children would do from a physical stand point because there was health issue and then having the kind of dedicated parents that I have had and every parents does the best that they can do for their children there is no question there no arguments there. Both mother and father are something that a child needs as you growing up and some are blessed with that and some have had hardships without that and that's the one that you feel sorry for but I think through that period in time where the parents are asked to do more than just being a parent then you start to trigger things in your mind that saying may be at some point in my life if I will get to a point where I will be able to lend a helping hand to someone else, you wouldn't think twice. Here is the great anecdote from my late uncle my father's elder brother who was a professor and a teacher and so on and didn't have a much way of money but a little nephew came and said to him one day can I borrow ten thousand rupees from you? And I will give it back to you in six months as a loan he didn't have it he barely had it to be able to give him that money eventually he pulled it together and he gave him the ten thousand rupees and he said don't give it back to me but when you get older and someone comes and ask you for it make sure you give it to them. Now that is the very good lesson that I never ever forgotten it always at the back of my mind where you are blessed with the people who are able to do things for you. And the question is if you have to get into that capability of being able to help others, would you be able to do it? Sure, there are a lot of other outside elements that come in to it, time, schedule, events so on and so forth and all of that but taking all of that into consideration would you be able to say yes? And that was the Idea and I was very fortunate to serve this Messenger of the peace for UN and seen the world the way I never saw it as a tennis player travelling the world and I went to the places I never thought I have been as a tennis player, I have not been. So, that was the real eye opener for me, how well these people and the agencies, UN agencies or 60 other agencies

on the ground and what the UNDP does? So, that gave me a lot of inspiration as well from learning how to be able to serve others? It's not an easy thing to be able to do it in the right manners as well so that was the time when I finished my time at the UN, that was initial start of my foundation.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: As a parent of two young kids, it was fascinating to hear Vijay Amritraj talk about the impact of role modelling while bringing up kids. There's enough that's been written about this but to note that what somebody does when they turn 40 or 50 is traced back to childhood was really powerful to know. While much has been written about building culture in an organization, of all the stuff I have read I really like Clay Christensen's take on the topic how will you measure your life where he talks about how one should think about building culture in a family and compare some of that to how you build culture in a company. Thank you for listening. For more, you could follow the Twitter handle Play to Potential.

End of nugget transcription

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Vijay Amritraj - Nuggets

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About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock human potential of senior executive's / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

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