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Context to the nugget

How did Amish Tripathi go from being a banker to a bestselling author? You might think that making this transition would have involved a life altering event. But sometimes, unknown to you, the seeds of transition might be nurtured in your life, through your lifestyle, habits, hobbies or the even the milieu around you.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): Where the seeds of this transition were sown?

Amish Tripathi (AT): If you are looking for the seeds in my childhood, frankly they don't exist. I was never creative when I was young, in fact most of my school and college friends in friends from IIM Calcutta, when they meet me they usually say "*sach bataa actually kisne likha hai?*" I was academically oriented when I was young, I was also active in sports like Boxing, Gymnastics those kinds of things but I never did anything creative. I never wrote anything, I never wrote any fiction before 'The Immortals of Meluha', I never wrote any music, I was the singer of our Band in IIM Calcutta but I never wrote the music, we only performed what others had written, I was never creative at all so, I think the seed had to be found perhaps in an incident that happened 11, 12 years ago, When my family and I we were watching TV and we discovered something interesting and a philosophical discussion ensued and that was the genesis of 'The Shiva Trilogy' it was a philosophical discussion into the nature of evil. My grandfather was a Pundit in Kashi both my parents are deeply religious, so, we have an atmosphere in our family of our mates our scriptures of discussions of debates on it in our family we also read a lot, every one reads a lot. I primarily read nonfiction, but as you know everyone has their own favourite genres, my favourite genre is History, Spirituality, Philosophy, Religion, Science, Politics, I read books in this genre I ready may be five, six books every month and reading at that pace for decades, started reading may be when I was five, six years old, everyone in my family, my siblings, we must have at least a thousand books library at home we all read a lot and we discuss and debate a lot, I guess that was the atmosphere.

DJ: Having a debate to writing a book that still a long journey, so walk us through how that phase panned out for you.

AT: Like I said it was essentially a philosophical discussion on the nature of evil on what is evil, It was based on a, the discussion was based on a TV program that we saw and we discovered something interesting we all know that for Indian the gods are called '*Dewas*' and demons are called '*Asuras*' we all know that, what many of us don't know is that for the ancient Persian not Islamic Persians its Zoroastrians Persians the gods were called Ahuras and the demons were called Daivaas, their pantheon is the exact opposite of the Indian pantheon, Indra the king of gods among the Indian is

one of the cheap demons the ancient Zoroastrian Persians and which take over an interesting discussion in our family that the ancient Indians and the ancient Persians are met we probably be calling each other Evil cause your god is my demon my god is your demon you must be evil. So, who would be right? Would the ancient Indians be right or would the ancient Persians be right? The obvious answer is neither they are just two radically different points of view but neither of them are evil, they are just different evil is something that exist just beyond petty human rivalries so an answer occurred to me to that question to what is Evil? Based partly on some of the *Upanishads* that I have read and that I have learnt from my family and based somewhat on my own thoughts. So, I told this philosophy to my family they liked it and I was encouraged to write it down as thesis so that's how it began actually a pure philosophy thesis an answer to the question what is Evil?

DJ: And when you wrote it, in your mind who was the audience for that? Was it just to as it went?

AT: It was just for me, look I was a banker man, no one wants to listen the banker let's be honest and a banker going with the philosophical thesis 'what is Evil?' they will say, yes, you bankers are Evil. So, I was just writing it for my family and myself that's it. And it was a day addition to my job as a banker. And then of course that thesis got converted into an action adventure book the idea being through hopefully engaging story I will communicating at the wrote of it is the philosophy of a 'what is Evil' and I am trying to communicate that through this adventure through this story and yes that's how it panned out.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: The key takeaway for me was that if you have convection about something even if there is no prior background one could take a plunge and make it work. What's also worth noticing is stuffed that goes on in the background the repository of capability that gets created over a period of time. Amish talks about reading 4 to 5 books a month regularly that about 50 books a year or about 500 books a decade and if it's not just reading these books but debating ideas and views as a family around some of these stories that a wealth of perspective siting in somebodies head. I guess this is a bit like the ten thousand hour rule that Malcolm Gladwell talks about in his book "Outlier" so while it may seems look like a switch got turned on suddenly when Amish was watching a TV program 11, 12 years ago as he says and started writing the sobering reality is that to was possible a more organic process and it was built on the decades of reading that he done and the perspective that he built, the TV program was probably a trigger. Thank you for listening. For more you might want to subscribe to the twitter handle Play to Potential. Thank you.

End of nugget transcription

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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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