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Context to the nugget

In this fast paced, interconnected world around us, we often have less time and space to think quietly and listen to our inner voice. In this nugget, Papa CJ shares his perspectives around preparing for success and how one needs to grow in the dark so as to play to potential.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): If you had to reflect on your journey and really say what the two–three tips are, you would give to people to play to their potential, are there some underlying principles that stand out from your journey?

Papa CJ (CJ): One of the best pieces of advice that I got when I was starting out was, it's very important for you to grow in the dark because the second you hit the limelight, you don't have the freedom to screw up. I find that, nowadays, people are in too much of a hurry to get famous or to get rich or to get opportunities. But if you get an opportunity that is too big for you and you fail, it might be a while before people look at you again. So, for me, what I love doing is, going away back into the dark, experimenting, growing, trying to come up with something new and then coming out to present that. I find, nowadays, people are trying to learn the tricks of the trade before they learn the trade. It's very important for you to focus on your trade, find the passion, get involved in it, and become good at it.

Today, for example, I have comedians who say, what's the secret, how do I get ahead? I tell them, see, if you want to compete as an international comedian, you need one hour of bulletproof good material. Now, a new comedian does five minutes, I tell them, the second you've got five minutes, that's brilliant. You don't have to go to every show and be brilliant for those five minutes. You take those five minutes and you stick them away in a bank. Then, you create another five, then another five, until you've got that bulletproof one hour. Then, you come out and announce yourself to the world. Similarly, with achieving your potential, you have to first focus on realizing that potential before you put yourself in a situation where somebody can push you down and you think, you know what, maybe I don't have what it takes.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: The interesting thing to note I guess is that in a world with proliferation of social media, it has gotten much harder to find a dark spot for us to sharpen our axe and to re-invent ourselves. I know of some people who take electronic holidays, which is basically Banvaas 2.0 to re-invent themselves. I know of a leader who was arguably one of the most successful investment bankers in the country, who quit on a high and went to Vipassana to discover his inner voice before figuring out what next. He had several people throwing options at him but he said, if I don't listen to the inner voice, I would never be able to make sense of the options that are in front of me. The key question worth reflecting upon is "what is your dark space" where you grow!

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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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