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Context to the nugget

Dheeraj discusses his perspectives on how students and young professionals should think about choices and learning. He underscores the criticality of having unfettered curiosity across disciplines similar to Da Vinci who showed equal curiosity to matters of art and science across disciplines.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): How should people think about education and careers for the engineer that's coming out of an IIT or another engineering college, If you want to sort of distil that back to the point of choice, whether it's an educational choice or career choice, how would you think about that?

Dheeraj Pandey (DP): I will connect it back to life and computer science both together because when I say computer science I mean software more than anything else obviously machine is doing everything now increasingly doing a lot more and I look at this between man and machine if you look at these three relationships between these two things is a man to man relationship and when I say man I mean human being, so there's a man to man relationship, there's a man to machine relationship and the machine to machine relationship so coming out of the college, I would, if I were to come out of the college right now I would say do I understand the three things very well? The man machine interface is about design like its all about reducing friction and the boundary of man and machine its about user experience but user interface, its about there's a very popular principal called MAYA principal which says Most Advance Yet Acceptable like google glasses was not and therefore it failed because society didn't accept somebody actually wearing glasses that could record a conversation without you getting know, so man machine interface is really important for anybody to start a business Machine-Machine is about APIs how does components of the software talks to other components at arm's length with advertiser, APIs, SLAs and interfaces that are well understood its really important for people to know what do we even mean by APIs actually, where machine is talking to machine and we need to have clear separation of a concerns and responsibilities and advertised SLAs and the responsibilities and the last one is Human beings and Human beings so all these have to reduce friction is at the core of our career is reducing the friction, If you say am I really good at reducing friction between these three interfaces I think you will be one of the most amazing professionals that the industry is actually seeing you constantly think about the Man Machine interface how do I reduce friction how do I make sure that we have designed it the best with the one click paradigms and thinking about the consumer as oppose to and thinking about the power user and so on Machine Machine interface, how do you reduce the friction between the two compounds of software and then Man Man interface, am I good enough to deal with people and conflicts and what does it means for me to have authentic relationships and things like that I think its an easy way to remember if you are conducting as well every day and are you constantly evolving in

the world of design in the world of APIs and in the world of people actually respecting if who you are.

DJ: How one should think about Diversity of choices?

DP: There is a wall street journal article that came last week about Leonardo da Vinci and the whole thing about him was that he didn't box himself into any one thing and the best companies in the world and the and the best people in the world are nondescript, you cant put them in a class, like when Steve Jobs you would come and talk about, look who's apple? Apple is at the boundary of Arts and Technology and that's what makes Apple – Apple and that's what makes a professionals special that they are learning about everything, they learn about arts, they learn about science, they learn about computer science, they learn about design, they learn about humans and they bring it all together into what business should, I think those are the most successful people in the world and the most successful businesses in the world I mean think of Amazon, it was selling books to selling everything in the world now selling computing they did not walks themselves into saying that hey we are only a book selling company and our only goal is to go and disrupt mounts and global, I think all decade for the operating system had two or three levers convenience and ubiquity and simplicity saying look if we can make these things work across anything and price obviously, they said we can make this across any walk of life we become a joint company, so I would actually say that if people coming out of college they should not try to box themselves from different walks of life and bring it altogether into one.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: Couple of things were interesting here. First is the reference to Da Vinci. One of my earlier guests was Abhijit Bhaduri who has written a book - Digital Tsunami. In that book, he talks about the fact that in the Digital world, we need to start seeing things as AND and not as OR. How people marry perspectives from multiple disciplines will make a difference to how they learn and grow. The Wall Street Journal talks about how Da Vinci instructed himself to investigate diverse things such as the placenta of a calf, the jaw of a crocodile, the muscles of the human face, the glow of the new moon and the edges of shadows. The second thing that struck me was around the point Dheeraj makes around the three interfaces. In a lot of ways, when we think about education, we are thinking about man machine and machine machine interfaces. But the whole man-man interface is often a muscle that we build over time as we go through life. Some leaders are willing to acknowledge that and actively build it and scale up on that dimension as they grow. A lot of the deceleration post mid-career often happens due to the limited scaling up on the man-man interface. People that take off like a rocket post campus on the back of their technical skill set start getting into all kinds of inter-personal issues and are not willing to acknowledge it and work on it.

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End of nugget transcription

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Dheeraj Pandey - 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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