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Context to the nugget

Vishy talks about how players need to adapt their style in a world where machines are making the games longer and more nuanced. He specifically talks about the declining relevance of a dogmatic approach due to the machines suggesting more and more combinations which are possibly outside the realm of comprehension of the average human mind. He also refers to the crucial role of fitness to be able to make sound judgments deep into a game that has only gotten longer with the increasing role of machines.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): If I look at the characteristics of a top ranked chess player today as compare to the characteristics of the top ranked chess player 20 years ago are there fundamental differences in the trades and characteristics which lead you to the success today than earlier? And on the fitness part why is it more important today than it was earlier?

Viswanathan Anand (VA): Chess players today are much more flexible they are much less ideological or dogmatic strange word in the chess context but I will explain, in chess we used to grow up with concepts like, bring your pieces out till control the centre don't move the same piece twice till you done with the all of your pieces, once upon a time these were very good roles and we used to call them Laws of chess almost, because they were very good strategies for winning game but as it turns out these are not roles as much as statistical phenomenal, so bringing all pieces to the centre turns out to be a good strategy because is often is correct but the chess players are along so self-rigid, now anything works, modern chess is constantly about moves that I think would offend a pure risk from fifty or hundred years ago, I am sure that if somebody from 100 years ago came and looked at us today he would just say this is ridiculous how can you make such a move? But you have to just wipe the slate clean and learn a new way of thinking so chess players of today will do anything they are so flexible and computer what they shows, eventually they shows me enough exceptions to show that any role is only an approximation it's not a rule, it's not like a law of physics which always works, it's as approximation these are good strategy but now T+O they are much less dogmatic and second thing is now obsessed with fitness because what differentiates you is simply around your ability to play a long game, you can't bring a greater understanding at the table but you can play over a longer then you need to be fit so again the skillset has been evolving.

DJ: And just on the fitness part why is it so important today than it was earlier?

VA: So what happens is as the weight of struggle shifts from the early paths of the game to the later paths of the game, so by the time you get there you get tired so if you are fitter you will be able to concentrate into your fifth eye, into sixth eye, and all of that, so one of the things that happened

was chess players stopped agreeing draws quite so quickly, because earlier the thing which was least probably going to make the best moves, but now we don't have the luxury of getting advantages all the time you have to play the end games till the end and if you do that then it's the fitter ones to do worth, the other thing is I shouldn't, there is a qualitative difference as well, in the way chess players work because now we are following 100 of openings instead of five, our workload has increased enormously and remembering all that putting it all into context trying to recall, what you need at the board, all that is taking energy and during the course of the game it drains you and if you are not fit, you will make mistakes.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: Couple of things that struck me here. One is the notion of how you could possibly get away with a dogmatic approach 20 years back but now there are so many permutations that are possible that the machine points out that you need to be nimble and open-minded to new ideas that might be outside your realm of comprehension. Even when I look at the world of business, when the pace of change was slow, one could possibly think of oneself as an expert in a domain and drive outcomes with a dogmatic approach. But with such a high velocity of change in the world we are living in, humility around new ideas and working with smart inputs from equally bright people is a skill that is a lot more relevant today than it was 20 years back. When I look at some of the leadership choices at some of the leading tech companies today, it is fascinating to see the transition from the flashy, command and control, visionary kind of a leader to a more empathetic, self-aware, collaborative and consensus building kind of a leader.

The second element that struck me was the notion of criticality of fitness in the context of playing longer and more nuanced games today. Even in the world of business, I just feel that a lot of things get done through facilitating collaboration across diverse ecosystems. It does place a much higher emphasis on the leader of today being discerning about how these ecosystems come together and how they can be influenced in moving the organization forward. Mental, Physical and Spiritual fitness is clearly a must-have to ensure that as leaders we have a sound sense of judgment while dealing with complex situations.

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End of nugget transcription

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Viswanathan Anand - 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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