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Context to the nugget

Vishy talks about his take on the parallels between the Chess board and the world of business. He mentions that in both contexts, the notion of “what got you here won’t get you there” might apply if you are not willing to take a fresh look at yourself and your approach to sport or business. He talks about the importance of tracking what changes in you when you encounter success or failure and ensuring that we cope effectively with the ups and downs whether it is running a company or playing a sport.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): Are there big parallels you see between the chess board and let’s say the world of business, are there two three lessons about approach to risk, approach to judgement, approach to decision making that can sort of translate to the world of business?

Viswanathan Anand (VA): I find in chess it is very easy to get into this mentality of saying this is what I am good at therefore the work I do in this area it’s like let me the most productive and therefore I will work on what I am good at but then there will come a time when you have to work on things you are not good at because you don’t know, which is going to be the most successful area in a couple of years and there are many examples of businesses which didn’t change their focuses and in time or didn’t adapt to some new trend and they kept getting better and better what they were good at and suddenly they lost the plot completely and it’s very easy to get into a situation where you used to seeing the world in a certain way and then you are unable to break free of that, that both in chess and in the business can be a big danger, in an organization of course you think that there are a lot of people working but even organizations can get into this thinking in a certain way that process is not very difficult, they are different from an individual and I think both chess and businesses how you respond to success how, how you respond to the failure not so much what happens then but what the changes that triggers in you those kinds of things are very important to keep track of and if you can develop a culture of responding in the right way to evince then overtime it makes that easier so when I say culture even in chess people who work regularly on things people will thinking have better results than people who simply do it from time to time so it has to be something that feels natural.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: I am reminded of what Marshall Goldsmith says in his book ‘What got you here won’t get you there’. It’s quite an interesting concept that is so true at so many transition points. Whether it is a company that is transitioning from a start up to a scale up or a leader who is transitioning from a

CXO role to a CEO role, these situations often require a certain fundamental rethink in the approach for the path forward. Sometimes these points of transition are discrete and visible and sometimes we could experience this like a frog in hot water where the temperature is slowly rising. To borrow from Satya Nadella, I guess the key is to keep Hitting Refresh proactively for us to stay relevant as a player, as a leader or as an organization

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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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