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Context to the nugget

Dr. Guha speaks about how Gandhiji straddled multiple careers concurrently (including that of a Politician, Social Reformer, Prophet and Writer). He talks about the fact that he saw his life as one indivisible whole where he emphasized each facet at a different point in time.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): Ram, in one of your speeches you talk about possibly having five different careers in his lifetime, I am curious about how he saw himself how did his identity evolve over time?

Dr. Ramachandra Guha (RG): I think his best to read out just three paragraphs of my book to explain how Gandhi himself saw his multiple callings, so here I am reading out Gandhi what I say about Gandhi and then there is quote of Gandhi in between "To deliver India from British rule was by no means Gandhi's only preoccupation the forging of harmonious relations between India's often disputatious religious communities was the second the desire to end the pernicious practice of untouchability it his own Hindu faith was a third and impulse to develop economic self-reliance for India and moral self-reliance with the Indians was the fourth these campaigns were conducted by Gandhi in parallel all were to him of equal importance, in 1933 he wrote to a close friend that "My life is one indivisible whole, I cannot devote myself entirely to untouchability and say neglect Hindu-Muslim unity or Swaraj all these things run into one another and are interdependent, you will find that one time in my life an emphasis on one thing at another time on another but that is just like a pianist now emphasizing one note and now another but they are all related to one another" and this is what I say in the end for Gandhi political independence meant nothing at all unless it was accompanied by religious harmony, caste and gender equality and the development of self-respect in every Indian, other patriots had used the Hindi word Swaraj to signify national independence. Gandhi made Indians aware of its true or original meaning Swa-Raj or self-Rule. So that is Gandhi in his own words and that is also as I told you a little while ago I don't believe in saying this is the most important thing the only cause just a one route to success, Gandhi conducted his multiple careers and saw them of equally importance and at different times different aspects of his work came into the forefront others receded and those came into the forefront and so on.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: It is interesting that Dr Guha uses the metaphor of a Pianist who emphasizes different notes at various points in time. Bringing this back to our lives a lot of the discussion around how we should think about work and life has moved from the notion of striking a balance, indicating a trade-off to that of Harmony where we weave elements of work and life so that we lead one full life. In that

context, I am excited to share that I will be speaking with Prof Stewart Friedman of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the founder of Wharton's Work/Life Integration project and is one of the world's foremost thinkers on how we could lead a fuller life by harmonizing across multiple dimensions. If this topic is of interest, do sign up to be notified when I upload this conversation. This is likely to happen by end February 2019.

Thank you for listening. Apologies for the audio being a little noisy. Dr. Guha and I had this conversation in the outdoors in the pleasant Bangalorean winter. But we couldn't put the construction worker at a neighbouring site or the birds on mute. Hope that didn't come in the way of the listening experience. For more podcast content curated by theme, please visit playtopotential.com and visit the Curated Playlists section. To know more about the Coaching and Transition Advisory work I do, please visit transitioninsight.com

End of nugget transcription

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Identity: Identity refers to the reputation, characteristics etc. of a person that makes the individual or the people around him/her think about them in a certain way. To put simply, how do we think of ourselves and what to the others think of us. Identity is a key element that we need to wrestle with during pivotal transitions. Herminia Ibarra shares her insights on how we should treat Identity as a Work in Progress that gets influenced by the journey we go through and the choices we make. Ram Guha speaks about the multiple identities of Gandhiji. Atul Kasbekar speaks about how he saw his identity evolve from being a photographer to a producer. All this and more in this playlist. You can access the playlist [here](#).

Work and life: Leaders talk about how they think of work and life and manage to juggle the two. No universal answer here but a glimpse into how different people have framed this in their heads and have dealt with it. We all need to find what works for us individually. You can access the playlist [here](#).

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Dr. Ramachandra Guha- Nuggets

- 39.00 Dr. Ramachandra Guha - The Full Conversation
- 39.01 Dr. Ramachandra Guha - Path to becoming a Historian
- 39.02 Dr. Ramachandra Guha - Being a historian - what it takes
- 39.03 Dr. Ramachandra Guha - Key career choices
- 39.04 Dr. Ramachandra Guha - Multiple identities of Gandhiji
- 39.05 Dr. Ramachandra Guha - Settling in a new context
- 39.06 Dr. Ramachandra Guha - Gandhiji's personal life
- 39.07 Dr. Ramachandra Guha - Being vulnerable
- 39.08 Dr. Ramachandra Guha - How Gandhiji made decisions
- 39.09 Dr. Ramachandra Guha - Inner journey
- 39.10 Dr. Ramachandra Guha - In Summary - Playing to Potential

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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