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## Context to the nugget

Dr. Guha speaks about how he has learnt (from Gandhiji) the criticality of using the right language when you engage with people who might have a differing point of view.

## Transcription

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Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): In summary if you had to share a few lessons from your journey how to play to Potential for our listeners.

Dr. Ramachandra Guha (RG): If I were to look at my life and think of what are regrets, I think independence of mind is important. I think doing your own thing in your own way I think taking principled and doing things in your own way, in your scholarship is important as the citizen of this country taking principal stands even if they calls you certain risk is fine but if I have regretted something it is that I occasionally used careless or intemperate language which Gandhi virtually never did, very rarely and I mean I have got one or two examples. I am usually very civil and courteous but there's a difference, Gandhi was never polemical I am often polemical but even polemics is acceptable as long as it's not personal or abusive and occasionally I have transgressed that line and I think that something which not often but, in retrospect it is very important that civility in language is maintained so you know you can be firm and direct without being nasty or abusive and I think that something there have been occasions in which I would say I have lapsed from what I would like to believe is wrong. Firm argument yes, many scholars have a neutral style or a witty style that's fine but I think and also the unconscious self-regard or personal arrogance that sometimes can creep into my writing or any people's writing. So personalising yourself. So in my own writings sometimes I may have said boasted about what I have done, so these are things which I think I feel that one can learn from Gandhi that of course make your point forcefully, directly, without impugning the motives of the person you are debating with or your political opponent and without elevating yourself through some pompous language and that something which I think I would say painful lessons and hard to learn and you are continuously trying to learn them.

## Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: 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](http://playtopotential.com) and visit the Curated Playlists section. To know more about the Coaching and Transition Advisory work I do, please visit [transitioninsight.com](http://transitioninsight.com)

## End of nugget transcription

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### Dr. Ramachandra Guha- 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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