

The banner features the 'play to potential' logo on the left. To its right are contact details: a WhatsApp icon with the number '+91 85914 52129*', a Twitter icon with '@PlayToPotential', and a globe icon with 'playtopotential.com'. Further right, under the heading 'Also available on:', are icons for Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts. On the right side of the banner is a portrait of a man in a suit and glasses, identified as 'Podcast Host Deepak Jayaraman'. At the bottom left, a small note reads: '*Just send us a Whatsapp with your name, number and email and we will add you to our distribution list.'

Context to the nugget

Venkat speaks about how he thinks about his vision – inculcating the spirit of giving in India. He sees it as a journey that gives him a sense of direction. He also speaks about how he derives from Bill Gates who says that if he has managed to solve a problem well, then the odds are people a few years down the line may not remember him. Not being remembered around an issue that exists today is possibly the best measure of somebody having addressed the issue.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): Venkat you have sort of, you know, what boggles my mind is sort of the largeness of the vision, right the sort of... to inculcate a spirit of giving in India. How have you thought about success or impact or just how do you... as you reflect on your journey how do you think about keeping track of where you are in the context of what you are trying to accomplish?

Venkat Krishnan (VK): Yeah, so two things. First is, I think, that vision is extremely, extremely, extremely ambitious and I have no two doubts in my mind that I am not going to achieve that in my life. I am going to die a failure, right? And that doesn't worry me a little bit also I mean. I am perfectly happy being a failure in life. I don't need to prove myself to anybody. So, it's okay to fail and die. I would rather also that if any successes happen, I give the credit off to somebody else because it helps people to get credit, right? I mean, especially people who have family, kids etc. it helps them to have a, you know, your kids think highly of you, your spouse's think highly of you, mere ko kisi se kuch farak nahi padta, the world can think I am a useless guy mere ko kya farak padta hai, it doesn't make any difference to me. So, I am more than happy to die a failure which is what I will be. So, the idea therefore is don't worry about how large the goal is, set that ambitious goal, fail to hona hi hai, it doesn't matter. Why set a small goal and fail, set a large goal and fail, right in that? So that's the thing.

Like I said, I am more than happy to fail. I think it's useful to set... so, I think, the vision has nothing to do with how large it is or not, it has got more to do with what the vision is by itself. So, the vision is very simple, its how do you build a caring society? Now, somebody else may look at it and say how do you build a caring world, right? So, if you look at John Lennon and imagine as a song, his vision is the whole world, and if you look at Vasudeva Kutumbakam as an idea, that's a much bigger vision than what I have, right? If you look at Gandhi's vision of non-violence and peace across the world, it was never... he wrote letters to Adolf Hitler saying don't do what you are doing, right? In that sense I think I have been relatively much more myopic, I am focused on India, I have never bothered about what happens in other parts of the world, not that I shouldn't but mai to chota aadmi hu, to chota socha hai. So, it's just I felt from childhood about the country in a kind of ki yaar kuch karna chahiye. So, it is as simple as that, get people to care, and I think if somebody says my vision is to work for

Bombay, I think it's a brilliant vision to have. I mean visions in themselves are big or small. And I can tell you that somebody who's really passionate and really committed to their vision is bound to fail in their vision; it's not possible to succeed, right? Because the visions are always about being better and better and better. So, there is no end to becoming better, right? When you say I want Bombay to become better that vision can never be fulfilled because no matter how good it becomes it can still become better. So, you want to rid the world of all diseases unless you said, you know, so if you look at Bill Gates, for example, he set a vision saying I want to put an end to polio, woh to ho gaya, but he has other visions. We had a very interesting conversation when we were running GiveIndia, we got Bill Gates to come and talk to some of our people. And so, one young kid asked him, how would you like to be remembered when you are dead? What would you like to be remembered for? And he had a very interesting answer, right? The answer was I think long after I am dead, I would most probably not be remembered and if I am successful, I will definitely not be remembered. So, when you ask why he said... so, he asked this kid about 10 years ago, the kid was about 10-years-old, have you heard of something like smallpox? The kid said, no, what is that, is it something like chickenpox or something like that, right? And the beauty is somebody who worked to eradicate smallpox and the beauty of eradicating a disease is a generation later nobody remembers the disease. So, how will you even remember who eradicated it. So, if I put malaria out in my lifetime or if I put polio out in my lifetime, the next generation would not even want to know what Malaria is and that's the best indicator of success for me.

DJ: And if I were to ask you the question that the child asked Bill Gates, how you would like to be remembered when you are...

VK: I don't want to be remembered, I am very, very clear. I actually... to me an ideal world is the day I am gone the rest of the world continues as if I never existed, zero footprint, right? So, my... why should people remember, I mean, there are so many other wonderful people to be remembered and inspire people, you know, my take away from that and...

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: Thank you for reading. For the entire podcast archive which consists insights from 60+ guests which includes CEOs, Thinkers, Sportsmen, Artists and so on painstakingly curated across 60+ themes, please visit playtopotential.com. You might specifically like the Curated Playlist Views on Success where the leaders reflect on how they thought about success as they went about their journeys.

End of nugget transcription

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Venkat Krishnan - 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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