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Context to the nugget

Dheeraj talks about his childhood and how his parents have given him an interesting mix of resolve and humility. He talks about how he thinks about parenting given his context. He also talks about how he processed the trade-offs when he retook JEE in 1993 despite getting in 1992

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): What are the two three things that got baked in you in your formative years, that still form of core part of who you are and that have helped you in the journey what would you say?

Dheeraj Pandey (DP): There was a part of me that was a little bit stubborn I would probably use the word resolute, when I was four my elder cousins used to call me Atal, Atal is resolute, for probably some reasons that they would be aware of but I think there was a level of resoluteness that actually helped me in later life as well a big part of my Psychic is probably the combination of both my mom and my dad and this is not a clique like when I analyse myself I am like what do I really learn from my parents, one of them which is my mom's resoluteness is deeper, I mean I have seen her go through the adversity of life and what is been to really have go through in English medium school or stay in Patna in a part of the world that was highly corrupt and the government was dysfunctional and my father was a government employee and lots of things that they actually had sacrifice to even have a stay in Patna and go to a good English medium sort of schools, I think there was this resoluteness in her, we have lost a lot, I mean she lost actually everything to have us get educated my brother and I and so on and I think my father had this thing about humility which was very unique about him so my mother's fears resolve and my father's humility is this amazing combination that I have tried to practice throughout life so when I was coming out of my high school I am one of those people who settle ok it's like I have to go to IIT but at least I should have an option, like have an optionality and then sort of figure it out and the fork in the road and so on and I was getting better and better at math and probably fairly good at chemistry and so basically natural science in general I was getting better and better at first I started to realize look maybe that path I would take. Even though in the early years I was like maybe I am not connecting to engineering but the thing that made me sort of choose things in life all was based on this thing that said the worst is not bad enough to take that step if the worst is not bad enough. So you have always thought about the worst case and if the worst was not bad enough the risk will worth it that's the way I took to my early years so I went to IIT in 1992 but I had a rank of 1420 and I realized that to get a brand change I would be lesser probability than I were to quit and go back and take JEE one more time and get CS the probability go higher that way, and the probability was from the inside, I was there for two months, I was there till October and most people like what are you doing? You have a great thing going here and by the way

worst case you will get EE and that's a good enough and so on and I said I just haven't tried hard enough, let me just give it a trial because the probability is way better there and I knew that worst case I will just do physics, maybe do St. Stephen and do physics and there still be a path from there or something like that, if the worst is not bad enough then I will just take that so I think I have used at throughout life actually, if the worst is not bad enough then just go do it.

DJ: Going back to your childhood, you come from the humble background but cut to the present given where you are, and let's say if you reflect on your kids growing up how do you think about instilling some of these trades in them given that they grew up in a very different environment in terms of comfort and in terms of what's taken care of? How do you think about that?

DP: Well, there is a sense of nostalgia about how we grew up and I do know that anything that we have today if femoral and it can vanished so there is a sense of some paranoia as well about some of that and I teach them about we have three children the eldest is 7 and we have tween girls who are 3 and a half and these simple things that we teach them and I teach them about always about three things because there's something about three that is powerful. So like couple of that trilogies that I teach them about, one is don't waste food, don't waste water and don't waste energy so like all of sudden they understand that what is the energy and this is energy, you switched the light off before you leave the room and so on the other one is focus, listen, respect so when I drop my son to school I would just say three animal, what those three things need and so on and so forth I think it helps to actually have that sense of paranoia that these things actually so matter.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: The notion of "take the risk if the worst is not bad enough" is an interesting way of thinking about situations. I remember Raghuram Rajan, during one of his convocation speeches saying that graduating from a place like IIMA was possibly the best insurance policy one could have in terms of taking risk. But strangely enough, people at the time of graduations and possibly even later in life have a risk averse approach to decisions and they often miss out on pursuing something that might have seemed riskier at the outset but possibly more fulfilling and rewarding in the journey ahead. So just ensuring that you don't fall into those trap might be helpful as you navigate through your life. Thank you for listening. For more please visit playtopotential.com. If you want to listen offline either during a car ride or a plane ride, you could find the podcast on iTunes, Stitcher or one of the other Podcast apps.

End of nugget transcription

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Dheeraj Pandey - Nuggets

- 19.00 Dheeraj Pandey - The Full Conversation
- 19.01 Dheeraj Pandey - Early formative years (including retaking JEE)
- 19.02 Dheeraj Pandey - Building optionality during early career
- 19.03 Dheeraj Pandey - Relationship between Co-founders and Company
- 19.04 Dheeraj Pandey - Evolving as a leader with the company
- 19.05 Dheeraj Pandey - Building an anti-fragile culture
- 19.06 Dheeraj Pandey - Perspectives around career choice
- 19.07 Dheeraj Pandey - Hiring senior leaders into Nutanix
- 19.08 Dheeraj Pandey – Work,life and success
- 19.09 Dheeraj Pandey - Leadership Development in a turbo-charged environment
- 19.10 Dheeraj Pandey - 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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