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Context to the nugget

Rajat speaks about how he plans to spend time in the coming years. He talks about how he plans to resume his journey of contributing to philanthropic causes and work on some of the intractable issues that the society faces.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): Rajat you have just launched the book, mind without fear I actually wanted to pick up from the last line of the book and you quote you right “The question in my mind is how should I complete this life with tranquillity and with grace” as you take stock now how do you think about what matters in life and how do you plan to spend your time in coming years and in what ways has it shifted let’s say between 2008 & 2016?

Rajat Gupta (RG): Well, you know I have learnt a lot of lessons going through this experience and even more than that it has taught me what is important in life? In many different ways than, I always had some beliefs about what is important in life like for example basically always try to do the right things and with the right intensions and work your best you can and then don’t worry about the results this is been a kind of personal philosophy which is the philosophy of ‘Karm Yoga’ not that you can always perfect it but at least it’s an aspiration how you work but through this time period I think there were few other things that have come to me, one of the things I never quite realised what lay behind it, my father used to always say you can’t always control what happens to you but you can control how you react with. And just mean a reacting to adversity with grace, with gratitude with humility with respect for others with lack of anger is very important and it gives you more inner peace and ability to deal with whatever comes your way. I also learnt a number of lessons about how do you make sure that you are a great lesson is equanimity and how do you kind of take the ups and downs, the so called when you are happy or very sad I mean how do you take all that, pretty much in an even tempered way and life is just a set of experiences, nothing is good or bad and it’s just how you make out of or what you make of it so this is how things that come to you as you go through the type of things I went through.

DJ: As you think about your pie chart of time looking ahead, in your head how you plan to spend time? What sorts of things do you think are going to be filling up time for you in the coming years?

RG: I think it would be a more or less a continuum of what I was doing say from late 90s onwards, even though I was managing partner of McKinsey, I spent a lot of time on philanthropic causes primarily in the education and health, global health. In the late 90s I worked on the initiative to start the Indian school of Business, I also worked to do something in public health in India which called the Public health foundation and I did a whole bunch of things in the global health so what I am

saying there is that it was a journey to give back to society I always felt that business works with the permission of society in as an obligation to give back to society, it actually has an obligation is well positioned because of the skills you develop as a business leader that you apply those skills in solving actually much harder problems than business strategy or the organization you work hard and solving societal issues that are quite intractable but they need the type of skills that business can bring so, I always believed in that I believed in a partnership between government, civil society and business to bring all their respective strengths together to solve the problem so I have been doing that from some time now, perhaps certainly 20 years maybe 25 and so this whole episode in a way interrupted that for let's say six seven years and I want to just resume that journey I would say that what would happen is that I have now much less interest in any commercial ventures of any kind. I am 70 years old, I don't think it's necessarily needed after a 45 years business career, so I devote most of my time to philanthropic things and sometime to myself and with my daughters, grand-daughters, spending time with family and taking it a little easy, I have a bucket list of places where I should go before I die so you know things like that. Perhaps learning something completely new, it won't be related to business, it would something which I don't know what it is but something will emerge.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

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End of nugget transcription

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Rajat Gupta- 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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