

Post 25th May, 2015

As I said earlier, I am quite encouraged by the number of requests that I have received over the last few days, for getting connected on facebook. Now that we are connected, we should be constantly chatting, may not be every day, as that may not be possible, but possibly off and on. Let me engage you all into something interesting, which is this.

Some time back, I was reading somewhere, that 'life is not measured by the numbers of breaths we take, but by the moments that take, but by the moments that take our breath away'. I found this to be very true and interesting. These are moments that we remember throughout our lives as we go through the ups and downs of life. Each one of us goes through such events in our personal and professional lives.

I suggest you think about it and individually share those moments in your professional lives that took your breath away. This will be very interesting reading.

Can you all do that?

25th May 2015

Hello Arjun, good to read through your interesting analysis, which I am sure will inspire others to go down their memory lanes and share their experiences. That is, experiences that took their breaths away.

I address the following reply to you all who are reading this:

Let me make it easier by first explaining it and then sharing one of my own experiences.

First of all we are referring here to experiences that compelled us to think, get lost in those moments, realize and inspire us to change the way in which we think about somethings. Such moments are unique and are difficult to forget. You might recall climbing up a hill and from there looking at the view around, or a balloon ride you may have taken over a picturesque expanse or over snow clad mountains. Such situations could definitely take your breaths away. But what I was referring to is a bit different. I was referring to those experiences in your professional lives that made you think differently, and every time you think about it, it brings a smile on your face with a sense of pride, your heart skips a beat, and your breaths are irregular.

With me, it happened back in early 2001 in Calgary. Sometime during the month of December 2000, my boss suggested to me that I should start making presentations to prospective clients, in the hope of getting projects and generating some revenue for the company. I had made presentations before at ONGC, and so I was not totally averse to that idea, but what was making me nervous was the thought of speaking in front of a Canadian audience. I am not sure how, in the heat of the moment one day, I called the lady who was in-charge of the CSEG (Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists) Luncheons, and expressed my desire to deliver a talk at one of the forthcoming luncheons. My idea here was to give my first talk to a bigger audience, rather than to give many talks to smaller audiences in local companies. She was kind and immediately assigned the January 2001 luncheon to me. For one complete month I prepared very hard – getting up early, rehearsing my talk, coming back from work, again rehearsing, and also improving the content so as to make it more interesting. From my side, I did not leave anything that could make my talk lose points on any count.

Finally, on the big day, Brian Russell introduced me, as he was the only person I knew outside the colleagues in the company I worked for. As I got up to speak, for the first 45 seconds my heart was beating fast, my breathing was irregular, but after that I took a deep breath away from the microphone, and off I went. My talk went super smooth. I did not stammer anywhere, explained everything clearly and stepped down very satisfied. After the talk, I was handed a memento as is customary and received many compliments. My boss complimented me and so did my colleagues. That was a turning point in my life. I could now stand in front of a Canadian audience and speak confidently and effortlessly. Of course you need to know well the subject you are speaking on.

Now when I look back and imagine myself on the stage about to give my first talk, my heart still skips a beat and I still breathe irregularly. But that experience has kept me in good stead till now. I am sure this experience of mine will inspire you to go ahead and think of taking on similar or bigger challenges in your professional lives.

So, go ahead and share some of your experience now.