

“Living Virtuously” Presents **INSPIRATIONAL**

EPISODE 4

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*This episode of **INSPIRATIONAL** features a “True Story” from the life of **Mr. Ramesh Ranjan** (Founder & Editor – “Human Engineers”, Former Vice President – HR Services, Schneider Electric India)*

*“A few years back, I was Frustrated, Scared, Unsure, Anxious, Trapped & Unfulfilled. Stuck in a dead-end job. Smothered by society’s expectations. Didn’t have a clue what I wanted to do with my life or how to proceed further. May be it was a case of Mid-Career blues. I was turning 53 years.*

*My work journey and my work/life balance was for most parts great except for the last year or so. The environment was getting political, decisions were being rung in from the Top, without logic or reason, and at the whims & fancies of the Top Leadership, who were far flung from the realities on the ground. Merit was no more the criteria for growth and subservience, political affiliation to a leader was the recipe for growth. I chose not to be subservient. I was no more enjoying the job, the environment or the Leadership. I needed a trigger to chase my dream and this was it. I needed to be pushed outside of my comfort zone.*

*After my review meeting with my Boss and a conversation with the Global CHRO, I realised that I was going no-where and the last straw of juice in me was being squeezed, tighter and tighter. I was getting dehydrated mentally & physically.*

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*Every once in a while, when you start realising that you have had enough of the world caving on you, enough of others pointing out your mistakes, enough of responsibilities that almost drown you and enough of living for others.*

*You hope to break free from this cruel world and live life as it occurs to you in a world, where you gaze at the open skies and enjoy the refreshing breeze, witness the sun shining on your face and soak yourself in the pouring rain. You feel like putting your foot down, shutting yourself from the concrete jungle, and escaping into the unknown, where every turn brings on an adventure and every mile leaves behind an unforgettable memory.*

*I threw away a prestigious Top Leadership Job with one of the ‘Fortune 500’ & ‘LinkedIn TOP 40 Companies to Work For’, with a top draw salary, leading a large team (100 members), crisscrossing the country & the world, partying in cosy 5 star hotels, driving luxurious cars, a comfortable living situation & a great life style, stability (financially & career wise), and a comfortable life to chase a dream.*

***On paper, the decision might look a crazy one-***

*I cared for myself enough to change my life, but I didn’t have the slightest clue where to start. I spent my days wishing that things would change—that I could escape a life that my soul could no longer bear.*

*The worst part of all, I was living the life that society had always told me to live, i.e. ‘**Work in a Corporate Job**’ and your Social Status would depend on where you work and how high you are in the organisation and the lifestyle you lead.*

*I don’t know about others, but it turns out that for me, the ‘right thing to do’ sucked the joy out of life.*

*I had seen it all, been there all and done it all. Off course there is no end and there is always scope for more, but I had reached a point of no return.*

*Imagine feeling trapped in an unsatisfying existence. Wasting your precious time doing things that you really don’t want to be doing. Being afraid to express yourself, with fear of trodding on the superiors. Having fun on the weekends then dreading the upcoming week, few moments of satisfaction drowned out by a constant grind of work that doesn’t fulfil you. Oh GOD it’s a Monday!*

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*Then something hit me. It was a proverbial hammer to my head. I'd heard it before, but it had never sunk in. Then, as if out of nowhere, a voice in my head spoke loudly and clearly: 'What am I doing?, Where am I going?'. I was only adding more zeroes to my bank balance but cutting out precious moments of LIFE.*

*I was reminded of:*

*When you have the time, you don't have the money*

*When you have the money, you don't have the time*

*When you have time & money, you don't have the health*

*History warned that 95% of Start-ups fail and I still chose to take the risk and be in the 5% that succeeds.*

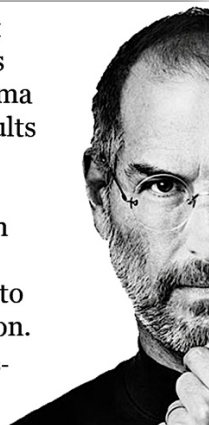
*There are plenty of talented people who never make a choice to do something different, to reinvent themselves, and to pursue their dreams. It's hard to work up the guts to try something new. Nobody wants to feel stupid and start from the beginning all over again.*

*But talent isn't worth a thing without the willingness to take action. It's great to have a dream, but it's better to pursue it. Reinventing yourself and developing a new skill is hard work. Transitioning from corporate to a proud entrepreneur is hard work.*

*I'm not an entrepreneur because it is the hep thing to do now, or because I want to make a lot of money. I can't just be another cog in the wheel, amongst number of thousands of other employees. I couldn't concentrate any more working in an Organisation. I wasn't feeling normal.*

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.

-Steve Jobs-



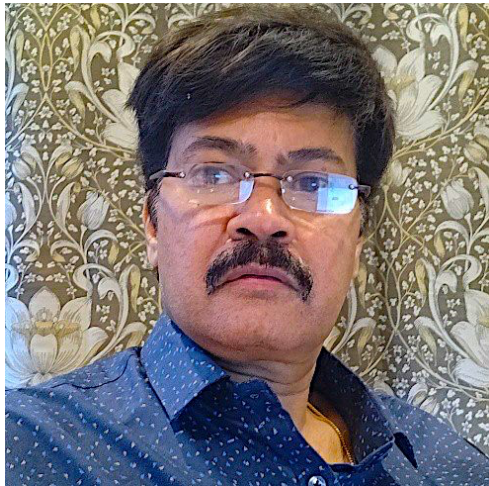
*I know that I gave up a great Corporate Career, but it is something I chose to do. The urge to chase my dream and start something on my own got bigger each day. [www.humanengineers.com](http://www.humanengineers.com) became my obsession, **Human Engineers** is my life, and is something I was ready to throw away a great Career.*

*Entrepreneurship is cool now, and everyone wants to be an entrepreneur.*

*Every newspapers, websites, magazines, TV shows & college campuses, everyone has an idea and a dream..*

***I don't want to be just dreaming to be an entrepreneur, I have to be one!***

*The reason I chose [www.humanengineers.com](http://www.humanengineers.com) full time is passion and dream that I wanted to chase. I'm a English Literature Student, before an MBA. I am very passionate about writing and expressing myself freely. I care about **Human Engineers** more than I could ever imagine I would care about anything. It's all I can think about all day. It's mentioned within a few minutes of every conversation I've had in the past few years. It's becoming less of a company, and more a part of me. I don't know if I will ever be this passionate about another company in my life, and I have to pursue it now.*



*A few years later, when I look back I am happy to have chosen to chase my dream. Happy to have believed in my dream and pursued it relentlessly despite hiccups & challenges.*

*I feel that everyone can look back and see one format of moment one time where they made a choice, they had to close their eyes and jump. And that choice made all the difference.*

*And that choice for me was to become an Entrepreneur chasing my Dream. I had the opportunity to show the world my unique perspective through my actions. The fact is there have never been more choices and opinions than there are today. It's easy to forget that you are in fact riding your own story. This is no easy task and although I know where I am heading, I never really know where I am going to end up. Which way would you choose.*

*<http://www.humanengineers.com> is a community-based platform that brings together Thought Leaders, Business Leaders, Organisations, Employees and the Service providers, to address the People side of Business.*

*The platform aims to create a powerful community dialogue and a deeper understanding of the People challenges we face. We aggregate, curate, report and give voice to People to spread and increase awareness and engagement around People issues. Our team reports on important*

issues impacting our Business communities, give a voice to critical issues, and increase public awareness and engagement around these issues. We strongly believe that Knowledge increases by sharing.

In the last 5+ years we have published more than 14,000 articles, news, videos, etc. We have Management Gurus & Thought leaders like **Dave Ulrich, Dr Marshall Goldsmith, Deepa Prahalad, Devedutt Pattanaik, Abhijit Bhaduri, Dr Pavan Soni, Hema Ravichandar, Kris Shankar and many others** sharing their knowledge and wisdom on [www.humanengineers.com](http://www.humanengineers.com). My venture [www.humanengineers.com](http://www.humanengineers.com) is very well received.

As per the global, **HYPESTAT** website analysis, <https://www.hypestat.com/info/humanengineers.com> & **Alexa Traffic Rank (of Amazon)** – <http://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/humanengineers.com> [www.humanengineers.com](http://www.humanengineers.com) receives approximately 13.3K visitors and 30,615 page impressions per day. [Humanengineers.com](http://www.humanengineers.com) ranks **234,274** globally on Alexa. It is ranked **49,680** in India. It is ranked 50 in the Top100 Global HR Websites/Blogs by [www.feedspot.com](http://www.feedspot.com).

We didn't make any money the first 3-4 years. I have invested from my own savings. I haven't borrowed any money from anyone or banks or financial institutions. People were beginning to ask me what am I doing and started sowing doubts about my HR Portal. I was burning cash every month and had to support my team. Surprisingly the first signs of monetisation started sprinkling during COVID times in 2020 and today after a year, we can proudly say that our website and the idea is profitable. Not only are we break even but also making some profits after all expenses are met. I know we have a great potential to scale it up and monetise it to a larger scale.

It is extremely gratifying to see the kind of growth & patronage and growing day by day in such a short span. It spurs me & my team to grow to greater heights fulfil our dream of becoming the GOTO HR Portal.

We have some very exciting unique plans for the future and are eager to reach greater heights. The path to doing work you love might not look the way you expected, but it can still get you to where you want to go — if you make the choice to try something new. I will continue to chase my dream, I am going to follow my heart. **It's never too late to reinvent yourself.** ”

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**INSPIRATIONAL isn't it?**

**Website Link of this Story: <https://livingvirtuously.in/inspirational>**