

## Mohnish Pabrai's session with students at JNV Bangalore (Rural) on December 23, 2022

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**Mohnish:** It's a pleasure to see a bunch of future doctors. Does anyone want to become a dentist? Does no one want to be a dentist? One dentist. What about a veterinarian? Who will take care of the animals? Does no one want to be a veterinarian? What about psychologists, and psychiatrists? We've got a few psychologists and psychiatrists. What about cancer specialists?

It's the first time I'm coming to JNV Bangalore Rural. It's wonderful. I think you guys are the first batch over here, which is wonderful. We'll see what you have in your mind. If you can give us your name and where you're from when you ask your question, that'll be great. First question?

**Mrunali:** Namaste sir. I am Mrunali from JNV Bargarh Odisha. It's a very great pleasure to have the founder of Dakshana Organization here with us today. I would like to know the purpose behind this visit.

**Mohnish:** The purpose behind the visit is very simple. COVID had messed up a bunch of my plans for a few years, but I've always wanted to meet the scholars we have in Dakshana. I should be able to meet them at least once while they are students with us. I would go to the campuses either every year or every other year, and then with COVID, I couldn't do that. I have not been for more than four years. I don't really have any particular objective other than to meet you all to say hello and have some time to interact with you. That's the reason for the visit. Next question?

**Mayuri:** Good morning. I am Mayuri Mujalde from JNV Khargone Madhya Pradesh. My question to you is, well-known foreigners also contribute to Dakshana for Indian student studies, are they really interested in doing so? Is that difficult for you?

**Mohnish:** That's a good question, please have a seat. Dakshana was founded in the United States. We have a US Foundation called the Dakshana Foundation. Then we have an Indian Trust, Dakshana India Educational Trust in India. A few years back, we opened to people outside my family to give money to Dakshana. They have been very generous. I would say that a good amount of the money, even if it is coming from outside India, a good amount is of Indian origin people.

For example, we have Prem Watsa, who's in Canada. He went to IIT Madras. Prem gives us \$1 million a year, about eight crores a year. When he had started to give money to Dakshana, he said that he would give a million a year for five years. That's what he had committed. When the five years got over, I did not tell him the five years were over and the money has continued to keep coming every year. I think he forgot about the five years, so I wasn't going to remind him. It's been probably like eight or nine years now that he's been doing that.

But in that case, if you look at someone like Prem Watsa, he went to IIT Madras and clearly saw the benefits of what an IIT education did for him. He has done a lot of things to give back to society.

We have another large donor in India, Mr. R.K. Damani, some of you may have heard of DMart? He's the founder of DMart. DMart themselves gives us money. The Damani family also gives us money. In that case, it's coming from India.

We have a few donors who are not actually Indian. They actually love the cause. They love what we are doing. Recently, I had an email exchange with Warren Buffett. Some of you may have heard of Warren Buffett. Mr. Buffett was looking at our Annual Report, and he saw that there was a large number of donors in the Annual Report. He mentioned to me that these people who are supporting Dakshana, they're supporting people who they will probably never meet, right? He said, his exact words, "That they are planting trees that shade other people who will sit under and enjoy, but they will not enjoy the shade." He asked me, "Maybe you should talk to the Dakshana students about them supporting Dakshana or another cause when they become successful." I told him, that when Dakshana was started in 2007, at that time, we used to tell the students that they should, once they start earning and doing well, consider giving 10% of their income to help society. Not to Dakshana, but to whatever cause they want to give to. I realized after a few years that maybe that was the wrong time to talk to the students about that. Most of the scholars are so poor that they really cannot think about these things right now because they have so many problems with their family, finances, and all these things going on in their head. We don't want to add more things to that. We stopped doing that. We said it in 2007, and by 2008 and 2009 we stopped talking about it.

Now you'll notice that actually in your two years at Dakshana, nobody's really going to come and talk to you about, "Hey, you know, you should do something for society or something," because we think it's the wrong time. Now, what I decided we would do is that when some of you are in your 40s, like maybe 20 years from now, there will be some of you who will be very, very successful, wealthy, and so on, and we will know who you are. At that point, we will tap you on the shoulder and say, "Hello. Do you remember?"

That's kind of like the Harvard University model. Harvard provides a lot of resources and subsidy to the students who go there. The students are not even aware that they're getting these subsidies, but Harvard goes to the richest of the alums in their 40s and taps and says, "Hey, you know, maybe you want to give something to the school?" Of course, the alumni are very generous and this has worked out well for Harvard.

I don't know what our situation will be 20 years from now or 25 years from now, I don't know what the situation will be. We may be doing extremely well, and we may not have a way to use more money. That'll be a good problem. We may have some endeavors which may require some of you to help. I've always felt from the beginning that Dakshana eventually will be run by the alums. It'll be managed by the alums. It'll be funded by the alums. You'll be taught by the alums. The alums will do everything. We've already started seeing that happen. We have people like Ravi who's an alum of Dakshana and we have many faculty members who are alums of Dakshana as well. Eventually, I think that people like me will disappear from the scene, and it'll be all of you who will really run and manage everything, which will be great. Next question.

Anjali: Hello, sir. Good morning. I'm Anjali Kumari from JNV Lohardaga Jharkhand. How do we come to know our destiny, as the deepest desire? Is it to dive in the path with hundreds of people who are crossing over at the same time or to dive in new, making another path for those people? Thank you.

Mohnish: There is a quote in the Upanishads. There is a particular paragraph, and since my Sanskrit is not good, I will say it in English, "As is your wish, so is your will; As is your will, so is your deed; As is your deed, so is your destiny." And then they bring it all together by saying, "Your deepest desire is your destiny."

What she is asking is, how do we know what our deepest desire is? Well, it will become obvious. It may not be obvious right now. One of the things that happen with all of you is you have been put on a very straight and narrow path, right? You are going through NEET coaching, it is demanding, and it requires you to do many things. There is not a lot of room for creativity or a lot of other things. There's also probably not a lot of room for exploring what your desires are or what your deepest desires are. We are hoping that many of you have a true love for medicine. We are hoping, but it may end up being that you may discover that your deepest interests lie elsewhere. I would say that right now you don't have too much of an opportunity to explore a wide range of things. But I would say that once you go to med school and beyond you should start exploring different things.

For example, we have had students at Dakshana who used to sit in the back of the class and write Urdu poetry for two years. The guy wrote poetry, he's supposed to do JEE prep, but he actually had so much interest in Urdu poetry that he spent a lot of time with it. It was very clear to me that this guy was

very deeply interested in Urdu poetry. Of course, when the JEE results came out, he did not make it to IIT. He had come to our award ceremony as we invite everyone to come. I asked him, "How long would it take you to write a poem for this occasion?" He said, "Five minutes, sir." I said, "Can you write a poem for me to say about our ceremony and all that?" He's like, "Yeah, I'll give it to you right now." Immediately he wrote a very nice poem and gave it to me, which I was able to say to people and all of that. Clearly the guy was very talented, but then he was feeling very sad. All his friends were going to IIT, and he was not going to IIT. He comes to me and says, "Can Dakshana support me for one more attempt? I want to try this time; I want to study for IIT." I told him, "It's the wrong thing for you. You really don't have an interest." This would be like our parents would love for you to go to IIT but probably not the right thing for you. I encouraged him to try to get admission in a place that will allow him to flourish as a poet. That's a very difficult thing to do because it's very hard to make a living as a poet, right? But to me, it appeared that engineering is probably not the right answer for him.

This notion of deepest desire, you have to go through life and sample many things. You may try different sports and you may find you like some sports better than others. You may try different games. You may like certain games better than others. You may read different books, certain books better than others. Even in terms of how you spend your days, whether you want to have private practice or work in a hospital or be specialized, all these different things have different experiences. I think it's an exercise where you must see which glove fits the best. It's hard to tell what your deepest desire is unless you sample many things. You must try to always be willing to sample different things. I have tried to do that in my life. What happens is that sometimes you try something, and you really love it a lot.

For example, when I was, I think, 23 years old, accidentally I was introduced to the game of Bridge. It's a card game. I really love the game. Even now I probably spend at least 10 hours a week playing bridge and it gives me a lot of pleasure. I've been playing Bridge for like almost 40 years, 35 years, and I've really enjoyed it. That was by accident because some people started playing the game, I played with them. I really liked it. I wouldn't have known that I'm going to like this game.

Similarly, I became an investor accidentally, I read a book. I got interested with that book, kept reading more books. I thought that worked well. I think we must sample many things.

Even Dakshana, for example, I never wanted to start my own foundation. It's too much work. I wanted to just write a check to somebody, they run it, and they do everything. I ran into Super 30, Anand Kumar in 2006 and I tried to scale up Super 30. I told him, "Let's make Super 30, Super 300 and I'll fund you." He said, "I have no interest in even going to 31. I want to stick to 30, and I don't want to scale up. I just want to run it. I don't want to take any outside

support.” I said, “Okay. Do you mind if we copy your model?” He said, “No, no. This is a good thing. You should copy the model.” Dakshana got created because I didn't have a choice. I really wanted to just write a check, right?

But what ended up happening is that it became a very fun exercise. One of the things about Dakshana that I enjoy the most, which I didn't know when we started, is every year I visit some scholar homes in different states. Like one year I visited scholar homes in Kerala. Another year I visited scholar homes in Bengal. Before the pandemic in 2019, I went to Ladakh. We visited a bunch of scholar homes in Ladakh, which was a lot of fun. What I found is that the scholar home visits were even more enjoyable than visits like this because it's more one-on-one. I get to see the family and get to see parts of India I never saw. To me, every year, the one week I spend visiting the scholar homes is like playing bridge. It's a lot of fun. I would not have known ahead of time that I was going to enjoy scholar home visits as much as I enjoy playing bridge.

I think what you have to do in life is you have to sample many things, and you have to be a critical judge. If you don't really love something, let it go, go sample something else. If you keep sampling different things, then you'll find things that you really love. You should increase that time of that in your life and decrease the time you are in a place where you do not fully enjoy yourself. Always end up in a good place. Next question.

**Chulbulle:** Hello, sir. Good morning. I'm Chulbulle Nika from JNV Papumpare Arunachal Pradesh. My question to you is, sir, you provide us with JEE and NEET coaching? But when we end up being Dakshana co-workers, how do you feel?

**Mohnish:** Okay, well, that's a great question. I think it's a wonderful result. We want you to pursue what you are most excited about. Some of you will be very excited to be in Dakshana. If that's the case, then that's wonderful. I think that in the end it's like Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln said, "For the people by the people." Dakshana should be, for the alums by the alums. With the alums funded by the alums. Everything with the alums is great. We also don't want to push you, so it has to come from you inside. If it's something that you're truly interested in, then that's wonderful too. Next question.

**Anam:** Hello, sir. I'm a Anam Biyu from JNV. My question to you, sir, is it natural when the person tends to start something new and big, the fear of being a failure is always there. I know that it may be in your case also. Sir, I would like to know how did you overcome that fear?

**Mohnish:** Okay. Yeah. There's a message in the Geeta where, you know Lord Krishna is talking to Arjun, and he said, "It is our duty to do what we are put on Earth to do." All we are supposed to do is our duty. We don't really have a right to look for a reward, right? It is basically being a Karm yogi, which is you focus on your duty, don't worry about the outcome. What you will find in life, and I've noticed this multiple times, that failure is a blessing. Usually what happens is

that when we are successful, we don't really learn anything, and we don't really have growth that takes place. What happens is that when we fail, we are forced to look at why the failure happened and how could we have prevented the failure. What can we learn from it? All these things, which you don't do when you're successful. In many ways, failure is a blessing.

There's a Roman philosopher, he was one of the last Roman kings Marcus Aurelius. I don't know if you guys have seen the movie, The Gladiator. Did you see the movie? No, maybe? When you're in med school, you can see the movie. Anyway, Marcus Aurelius was a Roman Emperor, and he had a very difficult life. His whole life was spent on the battlefield, and he had a lot of injuries. He had a lot of sicknesses, and he had a very tough time throughout life. He came up with a philosophy which is known as the STOIC philosophy. Later, when you're done with med school, you can study the STOIC philosophy. If I just sum it down very simply, it is to encounter misfortune and overcome good fortune. We should be grateful every time we stumble, and we should be grateful every time we fail because the failures are going to teach us. I can point to so many times in my life where very clearly, I failed. I could not see it at that time. From that failure came a lot of learning and growth.

For example, in 1999 there was this huge frenzy for creating dot com companies. The internet just started, a lot of people were creating a lot of different dot com companies, pets.com, chemical.com, whatever. People thought everything about the world will change with the internet. I also thought the internet is very big and everything will change. I formed a company which was going to do all this digital stuff and I personally put in about \$2 million into that company There was also outside investors that put in about \$2.2 million, so a total of \$4.2 million. It all went to zero. The company failed. Not just my company, but thousands of other companies failed at that time. I felt terrible. I said, "It's okay. I lost my money. It's okay. But I did not want to lose other people's money." But these other people actually were kind of professional investors. They told me, "Don't worry about it. It's okay." They just brushed it off. But to me, it was a big setback. It was a large amount of money that was gone.

What happened after that is when I started Pabrai Investment Funds, which was middle of 1999, I had been through this failure, so the real mountain of failures was about nine months ahead. My company had failed before that, but there was an avalanche of failures coming from March 2000 onwards. I could see probably three to four months before anyone else could see it. The reason I could see that is because I had been through all that already. I had already been through that failure, and I saw it. The rest of the world had not failed yet, so they couldn't see what I could see.

Pabrai Investment Funds made a lot of money in that period when almost everybody got wiped out. When I look back, basically what happened is that

we lost like \$4.2 million. But we probably made more than \$50 million because of the lessons I learned that could be applied. I could not tell at the time that the failure occurred in the future that could help me, I could not tell. But what I've noticed is that more recently, I think in 2015, I bought an insurance company. You know, it was a pretty large amount of money and I bought this insurance company. I realized less than two, three months after I bought it, that I made a mistake. This was not the right thing to do, so I tried to reverse the situation. I tried to sell the company, get rid of it, and be done with it. And I was able to do that. Basically, I was able to sell the company for a little bit more than I bought it for. There was no loss. We did okay. But this tie is when I knew that the lessons that come out of this will help my future. I saw a bunch of things that were not visible to me before.

Many times, when I make investments, they don't work. When those investments don't work, that's really good because they usually teach me some things. I think failure and success are two sides of the same coin. If we succeed at something, there's no problem. Life is good. If we fail at something, there's also no problem because the payback will come later. Like Steve Jobs was saying, "We can only connect the dots looking back, we can't connect it looking forward." Some of these things only connect when you have some time that goes by. Generally speaking, I think that I'm really not afraid of failure. I think that if you try different things, for sure, some things will not work or many things will not work, but you will learn from that.

Even when Thomas Edison invented the light bulb and someone asked him, "How did you invent the light bulb?" He said, "I invented the light bulb only by figuring out 3,000 other ways in which a light bulb doesn't work." Basically, Thomas Edison had a very, strong perseverance in the lab. He would try something, it wouldn't work. He would try something else; it wouldn't work. But he had faith that in the end, he'll make it work., He kept on tinkering over and over. Each time something failed, he learned something from it. I think we should never really look down on failure. Failure is a blessing and failure can really help us. Next question.

Ankita: Good morning. I'm Ankita from North Tripura. My question to you, is starting such an organization, what was your idea, or was it inspired by someone else?

Mohnish: Okay, that's a good question. Dakshana was started because I did not have a choice. I really was in a situation where, so some of you will do very well in life financially, and you'll do so well that you will have more money than you can spend, which is a good problem. If you end up with more money than you can spend, then there's only two things you can do. Like my dad used to tell me, "When anyone leaves planet Earth, they cannot even take a pin with them." When we come to this planet, we come with nothing. When we leave, we leave with nothing, right? Whatever is here, stays here.

When we die or when I die, there are only two possibilities of what can happen to the extra wealth. One is I can give it to my gene pool, I can give it to my kids, my grandkids, my family, and so on. The second is I can in some way recycle it back to society. Those are the only choices, and you can do some combination of the two if you want. But these are the only two choices. The problem with giving it to your gene pool or giving it to your kids is that large inheritances will do more harm than good. Basically, it's kind of become like an IV drip. If you give someone a very large amount of money, they don't have much incentive to work hard, they have no incentive to find a job, and it can become a wasted life, right? We see a lot of examples of that.

Buffett has a quote. Jesse Owens was a very famous sprinter in the 1940s Olympics. He won gold medals. He says, "Look, if you are Jesse Owen's son and you are allowed to start 100-meter dashes at the 40-meter line, you'll not become a great sprinter." If everyone else starts at zero and you start at 40, you are not going to become the best sprinter even if you win that race. He said, "It's okay to start at the 10-meter line, but not the 40-meter line. If you want to give your kids and grandkids little push in life, that is okay. I don't think that has any problem. But if you drown them in money, probably will do more harm than good." I did not want to do more harm than good. I talked to my kids and my kids themselves told me, "We have no interest in this money. Please, find something else to do with it."

My older daughter, her name is Monsoon. She has a tattoo on her back with the Dakshana logo. You have succeeded as a parent when your kid tattoos your company's logo on their back. She said, "Look, I don't want anything from you. What I do want is I want to be involved in Dakshana now and even after you are gone." I said, "That's fine. I need help." She's very excited about being involved with Dakshana, which is fine. But doesn't want the money. Neither of the kids wants the money, which is good because I'm not planning to give them money anyway. We are all in sync and I think they'll both have really good journeys because they'll be able to create their own path and what they want to do and all of that. It'll work out fine.

The reason Dakshana was started was that I did not have a choice. I knew I have to give the money away. I tried to give it to Anand, and write a check, but he refused. Then here we are trying to do it another way. Any other questions?

Neha: Hello, sir. Good morning. I'm Neha from JNV Gopalganj, Bihar. My question to you is it mandatory? Should we always be honest with our parents about our studies? Thank you, sir.

Mohnish: This is a very difficult question. Maybe you should have Gokul answer that. What do you say, Gokul? Should we always be honest with our parents? Pardon?

Gokul: I think so.

Mohnish: Sometimes it's not easy. Were you always honest with your parents? I think so.

Here's the way I would put this. First, there are a lot of benefits you will get in life by being truthful, not with your parents. I'll get to the parents in a second. But with everybody in life, because if you are truthful people will know eventually that you can be trusted. Trust is a very, very important thing to have in life. Trust can take a lifetime to build, and it can go away in five minutes. One small negative behavior can erode trust and it can take a very long time to build trust. I think what happens with your parents is I can think of some instances when I probably lied to my parents, and I probably lied to them because it was either awkward or too difficult to say the truth, because you are in teen years or whatever else. But one thing I found a little strange in my life is my father, my impression of my father was that he was always a very strict person. We had to be well-behaved and whatever else. He didn't have too much patience for stupid behavior, whatever else. I was always a little bit scared of my father because I just thought this is an intimidating person, you know? But something happened, and I still don't know. Now, my father's passed away, so I never got a real chance to have a conversation with him about this. When I turned 16 and my brother turned 17, he sat us both down and he said, "Look, here I keep my wallet, my purse My purse always has plenty of money in it. Anytime you need money for any reason, you can go to the purse and just take the money. You never need to tell me how much money you have taken, you never need to tell me what you did with it or planned to do with it, and I'm never going to ask you." I found this whole exchange strange. I said, "Okay." This guy's a strict guy and at this time when I was 16, I had just started dating this girl, which my parents didn't know about. And I said, "This is awesome." Now, when we must go on a date, I don't need to talk to someone, just go to the wallet, take the money, go to a movie, whatever else, no problem. I did that a few times, and nobody asked me anything. My father never asked me anything. This is actually true; it was very strange.

I noticed also about my father after that point, after that age of 16 when he was interacting with us, he was not interacting as a father with a son. He was interacting like we were friends, which I found strange. Suddenly this guy has changed like used to be this intimidating guy, and boom, it's like, it was a complete 180. It was very sudden. As it happened, I should have asked my dad why he did this. I think I know the answer. I think the answer is that probably knowing him, I would say that he probably always wanted the relationship to be one of the friends. But he found that some of our behaviors when we were small did not live up to that standard. He probably thought at some point parenting was needed and at another point, parenting was not needed. The thing that dawned on me was that my father had given us, from my point of view, an enormous amount of trust. I felt this was a very high amount of trust he had placed on us because he never, ever questioned or

asked even once. It was never questioned, how much money is gone or what happened here, what happened there, whatever, never questioned it. From my point of view, one of the things that was clear is that I don't believe even five rupees was wasted. I went to a movie with my girlfriend, but there was good value for that. It wasn't wasted on some drugs or some stupid things. It was actually a fun experience for everyone.

I never felt like I took the money and spent a large amount buying some expensive thing or something that I never did. When my daughters were, I think 12 and 13, I decided to do the same thing with them. I said, "Okay, he did this at 16. I want to try it a little earlier, see what happens." When they were 12 and 13, I sat them down. I didn't tell them to go to my wallet. I gave them both credit cards. I gave them American Express credit cards, with no spending limit, and unlimited spending. I said, "Look, anytime you need anything, you want to buy a dress, or you want to go somewhere with your friends or go to a restaurant, whatever else you want to do, you spend as you want. You don't need to ask me or anything." Normally in the US, all their friends were on tight allowances. The parents would tell them, "Okay, look, if you do the dishes and if you clean your room and this and that, I'll give you \$25 every week. If you do all these things, I'll give you--" It was conditional, right? If you do x, I'll give you y.

In our case, there were no conditions, it was just the card given to them. Basically, with that credit card, they could've spent \$50,000. It had no limit. They could've spent a huge amount. What ended up happening is of course one of the negatives, which I didn't want, but in this system unlike my father's, I could see the credit card bill. Now my father could not see anything because he just put cash and there was no record. But I wasn't really trying to keep track of them, I didn't want to have cash. Cash is more cumbersome. The credit card is easier. But just the side effect was that I could see what's going on. Every month I can see how much they spent. And every month, what I felt is that they spent too little. I used to tell them, "Listen, don't be shy about this and that." When I talked to them, they found it very strange. They would like go to some clothing store with their friends and their friends would look at some dress and say, "Oh, I really wish I could buy that dress." They would say, "You want to buy it, go buy it." The friend would say, "My allowance is not enough." I found it very strange because they felt if they really wanted a dress, they would just take the card and buy it and be done. They found it strange that all their friends were on these tight leashes and the friends' parents were well off. They were not poor or anything.

The difference was that in our case, again, learning from my father, I gave them complete trust. I mean, at 12 or 13 there was complete trust given to them. I never saw any charges ever that gave me any reason to question. They found it strange when their friends would go here and there, they'll say, "If you want to buy this, go tell your dad or mom, and buy it. What's the problem here?" They'd say, "No, no. I can't do that, this, and that." I felt that what I

copied for my dad helped my relationship with my daughters because it built a lot of trust both ways. They knew I could trust them, and I knew that they could trust me. It worked out well.

Going back to your question, the parents with the lies, I think it's hard. I think you should try as far as possible to say with the truth, but it may not be a 100% possible. Some things may be too hard. What you can do is you can lie and five years later tell them. “Hey, by the way, I lied to you about that”, just to clear your conscience. Then what you want to find is they'll say, “Oh, this was so irrelevant. You could have said the truth to me right then.” Any other questions?

**Bindushree:** Hello sir. Good morning. I am Bindushree S from JNV Mysuru Karnataka. My question to you is, how can one stay determined to get distracted towards their home while studying? How can one eradicate home sickness? Please help us with the ways of maintaining consistency in our performance. Thank you.

**Mohnish:** Okay we're going to make this the last question. There's a book when you guys get to third year medical or something you can read. It's called, *No Two Alike*. I think the author is Judith Harris. Basically, the premise of the book is that humans are very heavily influenced by really two things, especially when we are kids. Number one is our genes and number two is our peers. Parents have very little influence on us. Whatever influence they had, they just gave through their genes. After that, the influences ended in all your cases. What has happened is that you have spent large amounts of time away from your parents. Actually, that's a very healthy thing. Even though it may seem to you that you are in a boarding school and your parents are not with you, and you would have more love and different things, but actually, you will learn the most from your peers. In your case, because of being in a boarding situation from the time you were like 12 years old, the peers have driven a lot of the learning. I think what's going to happen with you is even after you finish 12th standard, when you go to college, you'll again be in boarding. Boarding will continue from the age of 12 to maybe 23 or 24. It's a long period of time. One thing to keep in mind and you may not realize this, but if all your peers were taken away from you and only your parents are put with you, you would hate that. That would be so useless in three days, you'd be done with them. Like during the pandemic, right? What happened? You got an overdose of your parents. What I noticed; kids will always make excuses. “Oh, my stomach is hurting, I don't want to go to school, this and that.” After the pandemic, they all want to go to school. Nobody wants to stay home. They saw what home is like. Home is useless. Do you agree? Home is useless. Yes, home is useless. You have no friends, only parents.

In general, I would just say that parents are overrated. Just don't tell them that. But I'm telling you that they're overrated. And the other thing I would just say, the Buddha said, “The key to happiness is the elimination of desire.”

The more desires you have, the less happy you're going to be. You just said that I miss my parents. That's a desire, okay? It is hard to eliminate desires, but the more desires that you eliminate, the better off you're going to be. It is natural for us as humans to have a lot of cravings and to have a lot of desires and have a lot of things that we want. The more you can cut that list, the happier you're going to be. You look at someone like Buddha, like sitting under a tree, nothing going on. Really happy. If you really want to get a Nirvana state, then you really don't want to have, and it's a little harsh, but deep desire for another person is healthy in many ways, but it's a negative as well.

In general, I would just advise you that whether it's people or things or activities, less is more. You can be very happy with very little. That can work out well.

I enjoyed the session with all of you. It was great to see everyone. Now you don't have too much time left. When are the NEET exams? One person? May 7<sup>th</sup>. It's only four months. Are you ready?

All: Yes sir.

Mohnish: All right. Am I going to get a veterinarian or two? You know, someone needs to take care of the animals. You might enjoy that a lot, hanging out with dogs and cats all day. That'll be a lot of fun. I wish you all the best.

All: Thank you, sir.

Mohnish: Are we going for pictures? Okay, so let's go. Thank you.

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