

Mr. Harsh Mahadeshwar and the Seven Transformations of Leaderships

By Tanya Jagan

According to the Harvard Business Review, each leader is defined by their “action logic,” or how they understand and react to their situation. The rarest identified action logic is that of The Alchemist, the leader who sparks personal, organizational, and social transformations that have a long-lasting impact. On February 27th, 2021, a filmmaker and leader who perfectly embodies the aforementioned traits, Mr. Harsh Mahadeshwar, spoke to us about how to follow our passions and transform into effective leaders.

While Mr. Mahadeshwar is currently known for his beautiful films, his initial career path originated elsewhere -- he started out as a biotechnological researcher, working in esteemed institutes like Harvard medical, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Baylor College of Medicine. Despite his immense success in this field, Mr. Mahadeshwar felt drawn to his former passion for filmmaking, so he spent his daily lunch break reading up on the art of films for months upon months. This was both surprising and inspiring to us YLDP students -- rather than using his break for purely leisurely activities, Mr. Mahadeshwar had directed his efforts towards a productive interest, one that he eventually transformed into his sole career.

After recalling his journey in becoming a filmmaker, Mr. Mahadeshwar enlightened us on the various situations and obstacles he experienced and continues to experience as a filmmaker and leader while constantly emphasizing the importance of perseverance and adaptability. Out of all of his anecdotes, one stuck out to me more than the others: when Mr. Mahadeshwar arrived at the hospital set of one of his films, he was shocked to find that the set didn't have any furniture or decorations -- it was a bare hospital. In response to this, Mr. Mahadeshwar immediately devised the plan for everyone to quickly grab furniture and props from their homes, and with these efforts, the hospital set was completed and ready to be filmed. While some leaders may have thought to leave the problem to a set designer, Mr. Mahadeshwar didn't hesitate to insert himself into the situation, adapt to his conditions, and resolve the problem.

Listening to Mr. Mahadeshwar provided us with great insight on how to pursue our passions and serve as successful leaders. We often hear complaints of not having enough time to enjoy our interests; however, as shown by Mr. Mahadeshwar, you must make time for the interests that are truly important. With time and dedication, these dreams will be within reach. Furthermore, Mr. Mahadeshwar's actions as a leader reveal that great leaders are those who are willing to get their hands dirty and adapt to any given situation for the success of the overall group. Overall, Mr. Mahadeshwar's words and actions exemplified that of an Alchemist and sparked the motive within all of us at YLDP to follow our passions, evolve into leaders, and create ever-lasting change.