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PLATFORM POST

The Work Goes On

Five TEDx stages, four unpublished talks, and what a view count does not record.

By **Ravi R. Iyer, MD**



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Before I walked the halls of All India Institute of Medical Sciences and then the laboratory floors of Harvard Medical School, Mass. General Hospital Cancer Center & the research presentations of Childrens Hospital, Boston. Before I served the health of 3 and 4 star Generals and ambassadors at Falcon's Landing on Algoinkian Parkway of Virginia, I walked the dark dorm rooms of a small student gang ridden medical college in Patna, Bihar. The campus was riven by age-old caste and tribe divisions. I navigated my years not by conflict but by helping the gangster students learn medicine and pass their exams. I taught and lit a lamp of future possibility through the disseminated message of education.

Two events stand out.

Once a rival student pulled a gun on me and demanded that I hand over my notes in Endocrinology or else.... I calmly burned the notes in front of him with the statement that he has no ability to permit the existence of my creative work.... as its creator I am the only person who can destroy and recreate it as many times as I choose.

The second event was when two students from a rival gang asked to attend the lectures I was giving. There was a huge uproar. Guns were brandished and threats to life and limb flew thick in the air. I declared that I either I teach all comers or I teach no one.... I stood my ground and eventually I was allowed to have my way.

The time has come to teach the same lessons once more.

Mentioned: THE WORK GOES ON

I've spoken on five TEDx stages. Four of those talks were unpublished. Three of the four had each passed half a million views before they came down.

I'm saying that openly because the story would be easier to tell if I stopped at the view count. When the links stopped working, I had to ask myself what I was speaking for.

I was glad those talks reached so many people. A view count records a moment of attention. The distance I care about begins after that moment. Did someone give a difficult conversation their full attention? Did someone keep a promise when it would have been easier to forget it?

TED built its reputation on "ideas worth spreading." The way its rules were applied to my talks left me hearing an unspoken qualification. Ideas are worth spreading as long as TED can decide how far they go. TED can answer for how it uses that power.

Taking down a talk makes it harder for the next person to find. What a listener already took from it is still theirs to use.

My thinking has continued to evolve since I delivered those talks. There are things I can say more clearly now and ideas I can take further. Follow me here and wherever I continue to speak and write if you'd like to stay in the conversation.

As I return to each idea, I'll ask myself the question I now ask before I speak.

What could someone do differently tomorrow because of what I say today?

> That's the measure of impact I live by.
> The Work Goes On · Boardroom Reflections

#BoardroomReflections #TheWorkGoesOn

Advait Kothuri Srinivas Kothuri Gina DiMedio Marrazza Moitheri Hanese McKenya Dilworth Smith, D.Mgt (ABD) Shreyash Katkam Sayali Patil Cesar Cervantes

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ravi R. Iyer, MD is a physician-scientist, entrepreneur, author and five-time TEDx speaker who has spent four decades exploring a deceptively simple question: what makes human beings, and the organizations they create, perform at their best? A Harvard-trained physician, corporate strategist and the founder of multiple healthcare and performance ventures, he is the creator of Neuroalignment, a framework for building high-performance organizations around the realities of human cognitive diversity. His work sits at the intersection of biology, leadership, technology and human behavior.

THE AKAASHIK RECORD

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