



HBR - A BOLD EXPERIMENT!

Happy Book Reading Club – Session XXV

Ajay Balamurugadas & Manu Mantra

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INTRODUCTION

Not all problems are problems. When we face a problem, most of the times we go into a defensive mode or panic. One such problem occurred when I had to pick a book for XXV session of Happy Book Reading Club. Though there were a few book options, it just did not feel right. Time was ticking by and the book was not yet finalized. The easiest option would have been to cancel the session but then I wanted to do an experiment. With eager and willing participants waiting for me to summarize a book. I took a risk of making everyone write a chapter for a book. To my surprise, it was very well received, and this book is the output of an hour's work of passionate book readers.

With no set goals, we started small. We took the baby step of writing the title of our chapter. Once this was done in less than 10 minutes, we took the next step of writing three key points of the chapter. This was the easiest part of this book. Then we spent the next 40 minutes, expanding the three key points into a one-to-two-pages chapter. There were quite a few edits done as well. While some of us were very happy with the output, some of the perfectionists in our club spent some more time refining the chapters. After a week's effort, the final output is for everyone to see. This is a live example of what looked like a problem, turning into a wonderful opportunity.

No wonder, all problems are not problems.

Enjoy the book!

Ajay Balamurugadas
Founder, Happy Book Reading Club



CHAPTER ONE

EXPERIENCE IT BEFORE YOU NEED TO EXPERIENCE IT

Ajay Balamurugadas



Ajay Balamurugadas goes by the handle 'ajay184f' in the testing community and is continuously re-inventing his testing methodology.

He co-founded Weekend Testing – a worldwide movement for skilled testing authored six small books under the theme "What If" downloadable at his blog: EnjoyTesting.blogspot.com.

His friends associate the terms – 'Change Agent, Idea Man, Motivational' to him.



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- **Life is too short to wait for the opportunity. We have to create it**
- **There is too much competition. You can get a head start if you experience it before you experience it.**
- **It exposes your comfort zone limits and stretches you.**

When we hear the passing of a close one, we think that life is unfair. It shouldn't have happened to that person. We also hear people saying - "He was too young to die.". The tester in me asks - too young compared to whom? Is there an age after which we are fine with death? The only certainty in life is death - strange, isn't it? With death being the only constant, shouldn't we be more prepared to play this game called life?

By the time we wait for an opportunity to present itself, it is often too late. We have either lost the interest to pursue or we are busy with something else or the worst - we are unprepared! We see the opportunity drive past us, and we are helpless. What if we don't wait for the opportunity but we go ahead and create one? What if we nurture the environment to an extent where the opportunities feel nice to come back to us again and again. Am I dreaming? No, let me give you three simple ways to create such an environment:

- Treat every task as a first step to a greater opportunity
- Identify and understand your strengths and weaknesses
- Consciously step out of your comfort zone (if needed, in a fail-safe environment) and stretch your limits. Do something that you do everyday in a different way.



CHAPTER TWO

THE LAST LECTURE - BY RANDY PAUSH

Shubhodaye



Shubhodaye is a great team player, friendly and easy to work with kind of person and she always keep you alive. She always has the aim of breaking the code and is successful most of the time.

She is fully enthusiastic about current technology trends and she use to attend test seminars and is dedicated and eager to learn new things.



[shubhodaye-h-g](#)



[shubhodaye](#)

- What is this book about?**
- How it changed my life ?**
- Realizing my childhood dreams**

This book is written by Randy Paush a computer scientist, who was a professor at Carnegie Mellon University. This book is about realizing his childhood dreams like being a part of a football team, writing in encyclopedia, experiencing zero gravity excitonically, it was his last lecture , he was suffering from the last stage of cancer. The enthusiasm which Randy brings in by this lecture is amazing. Randy shows in spirit of life and the reader will empathize with Randy and be impressed by his dark humor even in the difficult times.

I read this book when I was in dilemma to start my testing career or go back to academics. I always wanted to pursue a postgraduate in Physics. I realized my passion lies in Physics but there is a way to continue the study. This book came as a boon. It changed my perception about my life and my dreams. I am working as a software tester, but I know Soon I will go back to realize my dreams.

My childhood dreams are:

1. Own 2 acre of agriculture land and practice farming
2. Do MSc in Theoretical Physics
3. Zero waste kitchen
4. Minimum 5 patents
5. Travel all over India by train.
6. Kailash Mansarovar yatra bore 4years