

Desis of Silicon Valley Speak: An Oral History

Ranjan Dey Interview

00:00:01.560 --> 00:00:19.640

Interviewer (I) Okay. So good afternoon, Mr. Dey. I'm Mantra Roy from the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library of San Jose State University Library, and we're going to do an interview with you for the "Desis of Silicon Valley Speak: An Oral History"

00:00:19.650 --> 00:00:23.449

(I) archive. So thank you very much for giving us the time.

00:00:24.850 --> 00:00:28.140

Ranjan Dey (RD) You're welcome. Thank you for including me in this journey.

00:00:28.660 --> 00:00:37.539

(I) Sure. So we'll get started with the first question, and that is, tell us about yourself. Describe your journey up until now.

00:00:40.350 --> 00:00:41.510

(RD) You're breaking up.

00:00:42.230 --> 00:00:45.599

(RD) You're actually breaking up. So I don't know.

00:00:45.640 --> 00:00:48.200

(I) Oh, I'll turn off my video then, just to be...

00:00:50.770 --> 00:00:58.009

(I) Okay. So I would like you to tell us about yourself and your, if you can describe your journey up until now.

00:00:59.930 --> 00:01:09.449

(RD) So my journey has been an amazing journey, and it started in India in Kolkata.

00:01:10.130 --> 00:01:13.690

(RD) And right from the beginning

00:01:14.580 --> 00:01:24.019

(RD) of the journey, it was, it was by chance that this all happened. When I'm talking about a journey, I'm talking about

00:01:24.670 --> 00:01:36.779

(RD) being in the hospitality industry, because there's so many different kind of journeys. When I was 14, I was in class nine or ninth grade.

00:01:37.680 --> 00:01:43.209

(RD) I definitely thought, my mother is not going to betray me. But she did.

00:01:43.410 --> 00:01:46.760

(RD) She told my dad I am already smoking.

00:01:47.370 --> 00:01:51.529

(RD) So my dad called me by my nickname, which is Babu,

00:01:51.590 --> 00:01:57.330

(RD) and right at the onset I knew I'm in trouble because he just called me "Babu!"

00:01:57.380 --> 00:02:06.059

(RD) I knew I was in trouble. "So you have started smoking?" I was like Dad! Like "Just shut up, listen to me."

00:02:06.290 --> 00:02:12.369

(RD) "I work for the central government. So we do not make a lot of money."

00:02:13.100 --> 00:02:17.029

(RD) "So you're not going to waste my money smoking cigarettes. Go get a job"

00:02:17.610 --> 00:02:19.130

(RD) "and smoke with your money."

00:02:20.030 --> 00:02:22.360

(RD) So [inaudible] uncle,

00:02:22.520 --> 00:02:32.500

(RD) like a far relative uncle who used to work as a sous-chef, which is second-in-command in the kitchen, in the Park Hotel in Kolkata.

00:02:32.950 --> 00:02:43.600

(RD) And I approached him, and I said, uncle, can I have a job? I want to buy my mother some gold bangles. I didn't tell him I went to smoke.

00:02:44.130 --> 00:02:51.249

(RD) And I just want to, you know, make my mother happy. And how could he not

00:02:52.000 --> 00:03:00.510

(RD) help me, right? So I was, I was studying in the high school in Fort William across

00:03:00.770 --> 00:03:05.539

(RD) the Maidan, which is like the Golden Gate,

00:03:05.650 --> 00:03:07.860

(RD) you know,

00:03:08.100 --> 00:03:11.990

(RD) the Golden Gate what it is called...

00:03:12.290 --> 00:03:13.400

(RD) the...

00:03:13.780 --> 00:03:19.089

(RD) the Botanical Garden almost, and come to the Park Hotel

00:03:19.220 --> 00:03:24.169

(RD) and work their weekends, cleaning the floor of the kitchen,

00:03:24.320 --> 00:03:28.789

(RD) filling the potatoes and the onions, and doing everything which nobody wants to do.

00:03:30.060 --> 00:03:37.500

(RD) But that is kind of what helped me, because that peaked my interest in the hospitality industry.

00:03:37.510 --> 00:03:45.220

(RD) So after high school, I went into a competitive exam to get a seat in the

00:03:45.330 --> 00:03:54.820

(RD) you know, hotel management, catering technology, applied nutrition institute, which is a three-year course, a full-fledged course which makes you

00:03:55.040 --> 00:03:59.249

(RD) really, really skilled

00:03:59.330 --> 00:04:12.140

(RD) to get a job in a hotel or a hospital, or a cruise ship, or any kind of food industry or hotel industry or hospitality industry.

00:04:12.150 --> 00:04:20.129

(I) And this was in India?

(RD) It was in India. In those days there was like only four institutes. One in Kolkata,

00:04:20.320 --> 00:04:23.419

(RD) one in Mumbai, one in Chennai,

00:04:23.620 --> 00:04:26.689

(RD) and one in Delhi.

00:04:27.110 --> 00:04:34.369

(RD) There was 2,000 applicants, 40 seats, and 28 of us graduated. So

00:04:35.300 --> 00:04:42.230

(RD) with the blessing of WhatsApp, now we are in touch with 23 of them. We keep on

00:04:42.420 --> 00:04:59.829

(RD) you know, just going back into our school days. Because you can't, you know, when you have those group of friends, and I totally believe pure friendship happens in school like the colleges, and that's where you don't expect anything from anybody, and it's just pure friendship.

00:05:00.480 --> 00:05:04.450

(RD) And then, you know, every, every Monday

00:05:04.690 --> 00:05:09.540

(RD) in the evening, we will be on our WhatsApp

00:05:10.070 --> 00:05:18.780

(RD) and talk to each other from all the corners of the world. So that's how it started, then I kept on working in this industry,

00:05:19.130 --> 00:05:33.629

(RD) worked through it. Ashok Group of Hotels, some Oberoi Group of Hotels, airlines catering, Taj Group of Hotels. Then I started the Sheraton chain in Delhi, the Marriott Sheraton.

00:05:34.730 --> 00:05:45.410

(RD) And in 1977, after opening that, I left for Hong Kong because my mom and dad got posted in Hong Kong.

00:05:45.970 --> 00:05:53.420

(RD) And over there I was just taking a vacation for three months.

00:05:53.520 --> 00:05:58.570

(RD) But within three weeks my dad came and said, son, I have a job for you.

00:05:58.580 --> 00:06:03.799

(RD) And I'm like, Dad, I'm good. I don't need a job, I'm really really good.

00:06:03.810 --> 00:06:14.909

(RD) Like, no, this is a foreign job. It's like, no, I'm good Dad. Like, but he was talking to the owners of this group of restaurants,

00:06:15.290 --> 00:06:21.879

(RD) and they had the worldwide franchise of Gaylord Restaurant chain. There's 200 Gaylords in India.

00:06:21.910 --> 00:06:29.910

(RD) And they had 35 Gaylords in 12 countries, other than the ones in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka.

00:06:30.900 --> 00:06:35.280

(RD) And so I joined them. I worked for them

00:06:36.410 --> 00:06:45.930

(RD) for four years. I opened another chain for them, called Viceroy of India, and then I left and opened New Delhi Restaurant in Hong Kong.

00:06:46.310 --> 00:06:49.659

(RD) So I had five New Delhi Restaurants in Hong Kong.

00:06:50.200 --> 00:06:52.520

(RD) But I met my wife

00:06:52.670 --> 00:06:57.300

(RD) while I was opening this Viceroy of India.

00:06:57.940 --> 00:07:05.839

(RD) Next door was a pub called Prince of Wales pub, and Kodi, my wife,

00:07:05.930 --> 00:07:23.159

(RD) she is Caucasian American. Her mom and dad worked for U.S. Navy. They were posted in Hong Kong. And she was managing this pub called Prince of Wales pub next door to this chain of restaurant called Viceroy of India, which I had just opened for the Harilela group.

00:07:23.200 --> 00:07:28.570

(RD) So I can truly claim I met my wife through Viceroy of India

00:07:28.600 --> 00:07:31.510

(RD) and Prince of Wales. Right?

00:07:31.550 --> 00:07:32.570

(I) Yeah.

00:07:34.000 --> 00:07:41.740

(RD) And this is my story. I'm sticking to it. The first time she saw me, she was totally taken by me.

(I) Okay.

00:07:43.140 --> 00:07:53.860

(RD) It was my skill in throwing dart in the pub, because I could hit everything but the dart board.

00:07:55.450 --> 00:07:56.840

(I) Okay.

00:07:57.400 --> 00:08:04.850

(RD) But, you know, being in a marriage or your relationship

00:08:05.260 --> 00:08:14.980

(RD) and then mixed marriage where two cultures are coming together, two ways of looking at it, two ways of human being,

00:08:15.220 --> 00:08:18.870

(RD) I felt it enriched my life so much more.

00:08:19.340 --> 00:08:29.640

(RD) And it is continues and it continues to do it. So when we are expecting our daughter, Sarah, that's when we decided that we

00:08:30.500 --> 00:08:40.769

(RD) would love to raise our daughters in America, because we felt there would be lack of sense of belonging if we raise them in Hong Kong.

00:08:41.120 --> 00:08:45.509

(RD) She won't feel Indian and she won't feel American.

00:08:45.560 --> 00:08:49.460

(RD) And China was taking over Hong Kong in 1997.

00:08:49.540 --> 00:08:56.319

(RD) So we left to open this restaurant in San Francisco in 1988,

00:08:57.530 --> 00:09:02.579

(RD) and once we established the restaurant,

00:09:02.640 --> 00:09:10.230

(RD) New Delhi Restaurant, in San Francisco in 1988, within three years I sold everything else.

00:09:10.900 --> 00:09:13.440

(RD) And just

00:09:14.040 --> 00:09:17.409

(RD) made my motto

00:09:17.570 --> 00:09:21.660

(RD) less is more, that way I can enjoy myself

00:09:21.930 --> 00:09:24.020

(RD) focusing on just one.

00:09:24.580 --> 00:09:28.560

(RD) Whenever I am running many, many restaurants,

00:09:28.920 --> 00:09:31.950

(RD) you are juggling, you're putting out fires.

00:09:32.000 --> 00:09:35.909

(RD) But when less is more and you are just in one place,

00:09:36.010 --> 00:09:42.239

(RD) you can really, really focus and enjoy the whole experience. And that was

00:09:43.700 --> 00:09:46.859

(RD) a huge change, a huge shift.

00:09:46.930 --> 00:09:50.650

(RD) I became totally focused in my community.

00:09:50.720 --> 00:09:58.800

(RD) In 1988, it was not a style or the ongoing thing to do anything nonprofit.

00:09:58.830 --> 00:10:15.620

(RD) But that is how we wanted to do business. We wanted to focus on enriching the community from day one. So we created this thing called "Compassionate Chefs Cafe" which is a nonprofit charity

00:10:15.640 --> 00:10:23.769

(RD) which helps 300 kids in Tenderloin, which is one of the worst neighborhoods in San Francisco Bay Area.

00:10:23.820 --> 00:10:33.340

(RD) And, of course, very similar all over U.S. or all over the world. And then we connected 3,000 kids from across Gandhi Ashram

00:10:33.700 --> 00:10:34.680

(RD) with

00:10:34.880 --> 00:10:46.959

(RD) the whole idea of making them global citizen. So what we say is, we help kids across the street and they cross the ocean to become global citizens like you and me.

00:10:47.300 --> 00:10:53.610

(I) Hmm.

(RD) But that is how my journey started. Being in San Francisco

00:10:54.740 --> 00:10:56.300

(RD) for over

00:10:56.510 --> 00:11:06.140

(RD) 35 years in the same location, we are now the oldest Indian restaurant in San Francisco. We are also a legacy business.

00:11:06.190 --> 00:11:09.299

(RD) So the city of San Francisco considers us

00:11:09.460 --> 00:11:18.929

(RD) a historical entity which really, really makes what is the city of San Francisco.

00:11:19.200 --> 00:11:23.220

(RD) That is because, you know,

00:11:23.540 --> 00:11:27.079

(RD) we are deeply, again, committed

00:11:27.230 --> 00:11:37.770

(RD) to enriching the community. One of the thing was, we just had our Pride Week happen, and the week before the Pride Week on 17th,

00:11:38.200 --> 00:11:46.180

(RD) we were able to do a Pride celebration of South Asian trans community in the Bay Area.

00:11:46.240 --> 00:11:48.540

(I) Yeah.

(RD) And

00:11:49.790 --> 00:11:57.080

(RD) for me, I believe every human being has a divinity in them, and we are all

00:11:57.350 --> 00:12:03.389

(RD) same. And we have the right to enjoy our life to the fullest,

00:12:03.640 --> 00:12:11.959

(RD) because the life passes in a blink. And that's what I love about being a part of New Delhi Restaurant.

00:12:12.210 --> 00:12:18.840

(I) Wow, that's a great story. So now that you have

00:12:18.920 --> 00:12:24.920

(I) lived and worked, and you know, created this legacy second institution, the New Delhi Restaurant,

00:12:24.970 --> 00:12:30.100

(I) right? So, so you've seen Silicon Valley change a lot.

00:12:30.230 --> 00:12:37.780

(I) And I'm guessing that in the late 70s, early 80s, the Indian population

00:12:37.940 --> 00:12:43.320

(I) was not as great in numbers as it is today.

00:12:43.490 --> 00:12:44.750

(I) So

00:12:46.350 --> 00:12:57.420

(I) how, would you like to comment on that? Like even, even your the people who visit restaurant today, compared to who were visiting earlier, like how has that evolved?

00:12:59.890 --> 00:13:04.189

(RD) The whole machine, which is called

00:13:07.830 --> 00:13:11.300

(RD) the digital machine of Silicon Valley,

00:13:11.700 --> 00:13:20.610

(RD) which is computer driven and driven digitally, have made

00:13:20.720 --> 00:13:23.480

(RD) world a smaller place.

00:13:25.260 --> 00:13:30.579

(RD) Also has made world a very impersonal place.

00:13:30.990 --> 00:13:40.039

(RD) One of the things, which is the oldest human

00:13:40.150 --> 00:13:43.039

(RD) nature of this human race, has been

00:13:43.630 --> 00:13:47.029

(RD) to go out,

00:13:47.270 --> 00:13:49.300

(RD) hunt, gather,

00:13:50.140 --> 00:13:55.309

(RD) bring the food, cook it around the fire,

00:13:55.830 --> 00:13:59.510

(RD) then sit around the fire and share the stories.

00:14:00.200 --> 00:14:00.910

(I) Hmm.

00:14:01.220 --> 00:14:04.499

(RD) That is how the oral history started.

00:14:06.380 --> 00:14:09.070

(RD) That is how it keeps on going.

00:14:09.580 --> 00:14:10.310

(I) Hmm.

00:14:11.050 --> 00:14:13.840

(RD) That is a modern version

00:14:13.880 --> 00:14:16.369

(RD) of what is a restaurant today.

00:14:17.870 --> 00:14:21.410

(RD) However, when you look at tables,

00:14:21.440 --> 00:14:22.840

(RD) they are not speaking.

00:14:23.330 --> 00:14:25.000

(RD) They have their head

00:14:27.050 --> 00:14:28.880

(RD) into the smartphone,

00:14:29.180 --> 00:14:35.310

(RD) and if they want to say something to the guy sitting opposite, they will text.

00:14:36.150 --> 00:14:46.689

(RD) What kind of a communication is that? Yes, we do have every kind of information at the tip of our finger.

00:14:47.350 --> 00:14:54.690

(RD) That is why you don't even ask your aunt what you should do if you have a baby, you just go ask Google.

00:14:54.840 --> 00:14:55.880

(I) Hmm.

00:14:56.440 --> 00:15:05.340

(RD) That is where the disconnect comes. Yeah. I do an intense amount of keynote speaking.

00:15:05.560 --> 00:15:18.040

(RD) Just the other day I was speaking at the Imagine Talk, and it was all about how do you connect, how do you create your network?

00:15:18.960 --> 00:15:19.790

(I) Hmm.

00:15:19.960 --> 00:15:27.520

(RD) And one of the question everybody asked me is well, would you like to scale up?

00:15:28.590 --> 00:15:33.149

(RD) What I mean, how, what you have done is a legacy.

00:15:34.080 --> 00:15:40.650

(RD) And, you know, we are the only Indian legacy business on that registry.

00:15:41.110 --> 00:15:49.349

(RD) The whole history of San Francisco. And that question was, how do you look forward to scaling up?

00:15:50.870 --> 00:15:53.459

(RD) And to me scaling up

00:15:54.840 --> 00:16:06.300

(RD) is not about creating many, many restaurants and doing. I have done it already. Still helpful for me is my core staff of six,

00:16:07.030 --> 00:16:08.270

(RD) with whom

00:16:08.560 --> 00:16:16.359

(RD) I have worked for 27 years. That is what is scaling up. Because that is where the real

00:16:17.250 --> 00:16:21.440

(RD) depth of relationship

00:16:22.610 --> 00:16:28.880

(RD) can be measured. You can't measure it when it is so shallow.

00:16:29.430 --> 00:16:34.990

(RD) That there is a ChatGPT who can actually answer for you

00:16:35.140 --> 00:16:41.070

(RD) and collect all the information from the net and predict what you're going to answer.

00:16:41.560 --> 00:16:42.440

(I) Hmm. Right.

00:16:43.080 --> 00:16:44.620

(RD) That is

00:16:45.740 --> 00:16:53.380

(RD) going away from hospitality. That is going away from what is the human connection.

00:16:54.860 --> 00:17:02.279

(RD) So to me, yes, I love what digital revolution has done.

00:17:02.550 --> 00:17:03.560

(RD) But

00:17:04.430 --> 00:17:20.210

(RD) I would love to see the human connection be at the epicenter of it, so we can truly help each other, truly understand each other's problem. It is not a trend. It is not a, another,

00:17:20.530 --> 00:17:36.530

(RD) you know, information gathering and coming down to what the solution should be. Because each and every one of us have a different fingerprint, and each and every one of us have a different eye scan.

00:17:36.700 --> 00:17:42.119

(RD) And each and every one of us have different needs.

00:17:42.800 --> 00:17:47.020

(RD) And we have to listen to each other and connect. Less is more.

00:17:47.050 --> 00:17:51.400

(RD) We don't have to solve the world problem. If we can

00:17:51.730 --> 00:17:54.330

(RD) connect with just a few

00:17:54.560 --> 00:17:56.580

(RD) and enrich our life,

00:17:56.600 --> 00:17:59.839

(RD) you will be living a fantastic,

00:18:00.130 --> 00:18:03.390

(RD) like really enriched

00:18:03.590 --> 00:18:08.149

(RD) life, which is full of taste, full of texture,

00:18:08.580 --> 00:18:09.590

(RD) full of

00:18:10.140 --> 00:18:15.899

(RD) spices, you know. The flavors will come in there, then you will enjoy it so much more.

00:18:16.410 --> 00:18:20.670

(I) Right, and so that is a difference you notice in the

00:18:20.690 --> 00:18:24.270

(I) people coming to the restaurant today, compared to say 30 years ago.

00:18:24.410 --> 00:18:30.200

(I) The lack of connection.

(RD) Absolutely, absolutely. There is a few people who come in,

00:18:30.210 --> 00:18:34.210

(RD) a few groups of people who will come in. They have

00:18:34.420 --> 00:18:40.989

(RD) rediscovered, you know, the cycle of life is always going around. Like, they will come in,

00:18:41.070 --> 00:18:44.500

(RD) they will ask for a little bread basket from us.

00:18:44.600 --> 00:18:53.600

(RD) Then they will make sure everybody puts their cell phone in it, right, and it stays in the middle of the table.

00:18:54.000 --> 00:18:57.059

(RD) And so they are now forced to talk to each other.

00:18:57.900 --> 00:19:02.169

(RD) And the thing is, whoever picks up their cell phone first,

00:19:02.210 --> 00:19:03.690

(RD) is going to pay the bill.

00:19:04.660 --> 00:19:15.509

(I) That's great. So you know, because you've already talked about technology, so my next question is, what does Silicon Valley

00:19:15.570 --> 00:19:16.750

(I) mean to you?

00:19:19.600 --> 00:19:22.210

(RD) Silicon Valley means

00:19:23.870 --> 00:19:25.660

(RD) so many things.

00:19:27.050 --> 00:19:29.160

(RD) I am

00:19:29.930 --> 00:19:32.130

(RD) proud to say I'm Indian.

00:19:33.240 --> 00:19:39.240

(RD) Silicon Valley almost is very synonymous with Indians.

00:19:39.790 --> 00:19:40.600

(I) Hmm.

00:19:41.290 --> 00:19:52.260

(RD) You know. It is a place where Indians have played such an amazing role in bringing the digital revolution

00:19:52.550 --> 00:20:00.250

(RD) and that digital revolution has touched everybody all over the planet, and beyond,

00:20:00.520 --> 00:20:01.589

(RD) and beyond.

00:20:02.920 --> 00:20:05.310

(RD) So what it means to me

00:20:05.620 --> 00:20:14.280

(RD) is just like, once upon a time there was the medical revolution. Once upon a time there was an industrial revolution.

00:20:14.610 --> 00:20:21.580

(I) Hmm.

(RD) Digital revolution is something which is happening right in our lifetime.

00:20:23.340 --> 00:20:26.570

(RD) And we just have to learn from other revolutions

00:20:27.290 --> 00:20:31.279

(RD) and make sure we don't get carried away.

00:20:31.890 --> 00:20:33.550

(RD) And equal values

00:20:33.840 --> 00:20:36.940

(RD) stays center and most important.

00:20:37.460 --> 00:20:45.500

(RD) And that's what I would love to tell the great pillars of Silicon Valley

00:20:45.900 --> 00:20:48.200

(RD) that, you know,

00:20:50.120 --> 00:20:51.180

(RD) just

00:20:51.310 --> 00:21:02.330

(RD) just, just making it fantastic is really, really good in the sense you are bringing in so many ways to enrich the human life.

00:21:02.520 --> 00:21:07.449

(RD) But human life means going back to one on one

00:21:07.590 --> 00:21:10.080

(RD) and keeping the connection.

00:21:11.220 --> 00:21:12.070

(I) Right.

00:21:12.590 --> 00:21:18.509

(RD) And so is the hospitality. The hospitality if you look at today, especially after pandemic,

00:21:18.530 --> 00:21:21.379

(RD) have gone through huge changes.

00:21:21.580 --> 00:21:22.420

(I) Hmm.

00:21:24.580 --> 00:21:26.239

(RD) Once upon a time,

00:21:27.460 --> 00:21:29.789

(RD) when you went to restaurants,

00:21:31.280 --> 00:21:36.019

(RD) you will go enjoy your experience. Then you will tell your friends.

00:21:36.250 --> 00:21:44.680

(I) Hmm.

(RD) Your friends will tell somebody else in the family. Then you will come to this restaurant again. That's called word of mouth.

00:21:45.160 --> 00:21:45.930

(I) Hmm.

00:21:46.370 --> 00:21:56.680

(RD) Doesn't happen anymore. Everybody looks at a review on Google for deciding how they're going to come to which restaurant and why.

00:21:56.770 --> 00:22:04.860

(RD) And leaving these reviews, you have no idea whether they really really came for the experience or what.

00:22:05.360 --> 00:22:08.340

(RD) So as a restaurant owner,

00:22:08.400 --> 00:22:14.019

(RD) my focus was always, has always been to

00:22:14.410 --> 00:22:20.679

(RD) you know, present you amazing food and fantastic service to create an experience.

00:22:21.870 --> 00:22:34.530

(RD) Beyond that, today I have to make sure I go to the tables and ask them, would you please give us a review? Because this will help us get back up from pandemic.

00:22:34.790 --> 00:22:38.410

(RD) I never had to do that before.

00:22:38.810 --> 00:22:41.560

(RD) So this is the shift of Silicon Valley.

00:22:41.580 --> 00:22:42.660

(I) Hmm.

00:22:43.160 --> 00:22:46.630

(RD) The other shift is, you know,

00:22:47.360 --> 00:22:52.839

(RD) the Grubhub, the DoorDash, the Uber Eats of the world,

00:22:53.760 --> 00:22:57.250

(RD) which takes away from an experience,

00:22:58.070 --> 00:23:04.609

(RD) you know. And now you have cloud kitchens, and now you have things where

00:23:04.930 --> 00:23:16.560

(RD) one of my friend actually came from India. He and I started the Sheraton chain. His name is Manjit Gill. He just retired as the corporate executive chef, and he is one of the

00:23:16.910 --> 00:23:24.039

(RD) OGs in the...you know, culinary world in India.

00:23:24.210 --> 00:23:33.999

(RD) And he kept on working for the ITC, which is the Indian Tobacco Company, and I left and came to Hong Kong.

00:23:34.300 --> 00:23:35.390

(RD) So

00:23:35.790 --> 00:23:40.820

(RD) he was here because there was a cloud kitchen platform

00:23:40.830 --> 00:23:55.819

(RD) where they are getting chefs from all different places in India and abroad. Famous chefs. They invited me to go there to do this thing too. And they were going there to create

00:23:57.850 --> 00:23:59.890

(RD) digital

00:24:00.820 --> 00:24:05.270

(RD) enhanced dishes. So he was cooking three dishes.

00:24:05.370 --> 00:24:08.750

(RD) The way they were cooking was they were

00:24:09.130 --> 00:24:24.079

(RD) gathering data so that a machine can cook that dish for them, and they can take that recipe and send it anywhere in the world to reproduce that. The way they were doing it was

00:24:24.250 --> 00:24:35.450

(RD) this, this burner was on top of the weighing machine. So when you're cooking a sauce and as it reduces down,

00:24:35.830 --> 00:24:54.779

(RD) you can start with a measurement and then it will reduce down to a certain texture, and it will measure because of the weight difference. And while it was happening, they were actually mapping out all the heat distribution to a camera, and all of that was being done.

00:24:55.400 --> 00:25:05.509

(RD) So this is Silicon Valley, right?

(I) Wow. (RD) And now, you take that recipe, now this digital recipe in so many different ways, and you send it.

00:25:05.540 --> 00:25:07.709

(RD) To where? Maybe Tibet.

00:25:07.740 --> 00:25:10.790

(RD) And the kitchen there can reproduce the same thing.

00:25:11.260 --> 00:25:21.870

(RD) And then you have Manjit Gill's "dal bukhara" being served over there and served over here. And in the San Jose.

00:25:22.230 --> 00:25:25.510

(RD) And in San Francisco. Or in China.

00:25:27.790 --> 00:25:36.719

(RD) It takes away the whole human element. Puts the machine forward than the human element, you know.

00:25:37.350 --> 00:25:50.649

(RD) Of course, there's going to be a little difference, but not much. You know. Water, spices, the intensity, this, that. But what, maybe 5 or 10, 5 or 8% difference, you won't even know unless you are...

00:25:51.220 --> 00:25:53.979

(RD) So this is what is Silicon Valley.

00:25:54.710 --> 00:25:57.029

(RD) I love Silicon Valley, but

00:25:57.210 --> 00:26:00.180

(RD) certain parts of Silicon Valley,

00:26:00.390 --> 00:26:11.010

(RD) it's just like human creativity, you know. Once you have the creativity focused on positives, it's amazing, but when it is focused on negatives

00:26:11.130 --> 00:26:12.630

(RD) and stuff

00:26:12.690 --> 00:26:19.810

(RD) to create human destruction, the same intelligence takes away

00:26:20.320 --> 00:26:26.629

(RD) all the things which is in trouble, which is all about this one race which is human race.

00:26:27.170 --> 00:26:34.530

(RD) And everybody forgets and gets really focused on destroying the same race which is a human race.

00:26:34.880 --> 00:26:35.860

(RD) So

00:26:36.420 --> 00:26:40.350

(RD) that is why I think human

00:26:40.960 --> 00:26:45.909

(RD) relationship should stay front and center.

00:26:47.240 --> 00:26:55.640

(I) Yeah, I'm sitting in Silicon Valley with your experience, I think that carries a lot of weight, because it's so important.

00:27:25.790 --> 00:27:29.250

(RD) I do, absolutely. The...

00:27:32.060 --> 00:27:42.979

(RD) the registration plate on my car, it says, Mr. D E Y S I, because my last name is Dey.

00:27:46.560 --> 00:27:57.690

(RD) So it's Mr. Desi. However, the whole plate, the whole frame holding onto it, on the top it says, "Driving"

00:27:58.400 --> 00:28:01.309

(RD) then it says, "Mr. Desi"

00:28:01.410 --> 00:28:06.790

(RD) and the bottom it says, "around."

(I) Okay.

00:28:09.120 --> 00:28:15.500

(RD) Because it all happened because Kodi, my wife, was driving me one day.

00:28:15.760 --> 00:28:23.040

(RD) And I looked at her, and I said like, this is like Mister, driving Mister,

00:28:23.710 --> 00:28:27.669

(RD) "Driving Miss Daisy," that whole movie, you know.

00:28:28.740 --> 00:28:35.299

(RD) And she said, no, no, no, it's like "Driving Mr. Desi."

00:28:35.620 --> 00:28:39.250

(RD) And that's, that's when I said I have to have this plate.

00:28:39.290 --> 00:28:45.809

(RD) So, being Desi, I am proud to be a Desi.

00:28:48.150 --> 00:28:53.450

(RD) If you look at the ancient civilization, you know, like Mesopotamia,

00:28:53.680 --> 00:28:59.290

(RD) doesn't exist anymore. Egyptian civilization, doesn't exist anymore.

00:28:59.600 --> 00:29:03.640

(RD) Even the Chinese civilization, doesn't exist anymore.

00:29:05.010 --> 00:29:12.800

(RD) But the Desi or the Indian civilization, the ancient Indian civilization, is still

00:29:14.070 --> 00:29:18.759

(RD) and it's existent. And it's glorious diversity.

00:29:19.030 --> 00:29:27.589

(RD) And it's, and it's deep knowledge. Yes, some of them has been lost because of our, you know,

00:29:27.810 --> 00:29:34.570

(RD) the British Empire, which you know, tried to take it all down, but they were not able to.

00:29:35.760 --> 00:29:46.909

(RD) And I love that we grew up with tolerance and diversity as our center to enjoy this life.

00:29:47.040 --> 00:29:59.049

(RD) Whether it's religion, whether it's food, whether it's language, whether it's color, or whether it's taste, or it's the art, or everything else in between.

00:30:00.230 --> 00:30:12.239

(I) Mhm.

(RD) So I am proud to be a Desi. I am also proud to be a global citizen, because my Desi culture tells me to be a

00:30:12.570 --> 00:30:13.970

(RD) to become

00:30:14.270 --> 00:30:15.830

(RD) part of

00:30:15.880 --> 00:30:19.710

(RD) the global citizen. And I'm proud to be in America, you know.

00:30:19.780 --> 00:30:22.660

(RD) I am an American. And I feel

00:30:24.030 --> 00:30:30.229

(RD) you know, when there is a conversation, people say America is the youngest. One of the youngest

00:30:30.630 --> 00:30:35.730

(RD) superpower. Only, you know, like almost 300 years old.

00:30:36.020 --> 00:30:37.339

(RD) I disagree.

00:30:37.830 --> 00:30:41.249

(RD) I agree. I...say

00:30:45.160 --> 00:30:51.830

(RD) America consists of the oldest civilization, because it is made out of people from all over the world,

00:30:51.870 --> 00:31:01.540

(RD) representing every kind of things you can think of on this earth. Therefore, it has the richest diversity.

00:31:01.860 --> 00:31:09.559

(RD) Whether it's from Iran, whether it's from India, whether it's from Japan, or whether it's from China, it's all right here.

00:31:09.880 --> 00:31:16.699

(RD) So I'm proud to be an American and I'm proud to be a Desi.

00:31:17.480 --> 00:31:24.430

(I) So, of course, you run a restaurant called New Delhi Restaurant, and you have

00:31:24.450 --> 00:31:31.499

(I) an amazing experience with Indian food and in your hospitality and everything. But I will still ask you this question.

00:31:31.670 --> 00:31:38.149

(I) How do you think being Desi helps you succeed in your work in Silicon Valley?

00:31:42.250 --> 00:31:47.920

(RD) Success is a definition which is very subjective.

00:31:53.000 --> 00:31:56.190

(RD) Success, as a businessman, if you want...

00:31:59.860 --> 00:32:02.409

(RD) to know what is, what

00:32:02.460 --> 00:32:12.130

(RD) what is it which keeps it going. For example, on our 30th anniversary, it was like, everybody is like, tell us what keeps you going.

00:32:12.160 --> 00:32:28.800

(RD) What is it which keeps you going? How come you're still interested and excited to come to work every day? And you go to each and every table. You greet each and every guest, and you are right there. I can do it because I have only one restaurant, and I love doing it.

00:32:28.970 --> 00:32:30.260

(RD) You know.

00:32:31.530 --> 00:32:42.599

(RD) I said, hey look, 30th anniversary. I have this speech I wrote. It took me two weeks to write it. You don't want to hear that? They're like, no.

00:32:42.790 --> 00:32:45.930

(RD) No, tell us what keeps you going.

00:32:46.230 --> 00:32:58.599

(RD) So I had to take a few moments and come back with two things. Two things which keeps me going. First, as a chef owner,

00:32:58.710 --> 00:33:08.240

(RD) I make life my secret ingredient. When I make life my secret ingredient, then you know,

00:33:09.310 --> 00:33:12.059

(RD) I'm open to the possibilities.

00:33:12.890 --> 00:33:21.070

(RD) Every moment, I'm looking forward to it. But the second is the most important, which is

00:33:21.390 --> 00:33:25.099

(RD) every day in the morning, I look forward to

00:33:25.210 --> 00:33:31.649

(RD) embracing the chaos which is coming towards me, and I just do my best and I'm happy with it.

00:33:31.810 --> 00:33:42.610

(RD) That way I don't beat myself up. I didn't do this or that. No, I did my best. I can't do anything better than that. So tomorrow, I'm equally excited.

00:33:42.940 --> 00:33:47.420

(RD) But to go back to

00:33:49.260 --> 00:33:50.280

(RD) what

00:33:50.570 --> 00:33:54.139

(RD) is the success. You know, it's like...

00:33:57.770 --> 00:34:01.249

(RD) success in...business,

00:34:01.360 --> 00:34:03.760

(RD) I'm a businessman in business,

00:34:04.350 --> 00:34:12.740

(RD) is to stay in power. You have to have the tenacity. Every disaster has a seat of opportunity.

00:34:12.980 --> 00:34:16.339

(RD) To find that and pivot yourself

00:34:17.050 --> 00:34:20.370

(RD) and keep on going. Keep on going.

00:34:21.550 --> 00:34:25.550

(I) And how does, how does being Desi help you do that?

00:34:26.630 --> 00:34:28.890

(RD) Just being Desi?

00:34:30.510 --> 00:34:31.699

(RD) No.

00:34:31.969 --> 00:34:32.880

(I) Hmm.

00:34:34.080 --> 00:34:44.220

(RD) Every individual is different. Just because your Desi doesn't mean anything. Doesn't mean suddenly you are going to become a success because you're Desi. It's just like

00:34:44.400 --> 00:35:03.010

(RD) every community, you have people who are successful, people who are not. People who come up with amazing ideas, people who are just coming up with stupid ideas that never works. People who are there every day getting up and doing it, then you have people who are lazy who don't want to do anything.

00:35:03.520 --> 00:35:10.240

(RD) So just labeling that Desi works. No, it doesn't.

(I) Hmm. (RD) It is you.

00:35:11.100 --> 00:35:14.270

(RD) But the quality

00:35:14.450 --> 00:35:21.279

(RD) of me being Indian, where I have, you know, like really really enjoyed and embraced the different

00:35:21.410 --> 00:35:27.500

(RD) diversity which my ancient civilization provides me. I have learned from it.

00:35:27.590 --> 00:35:29.380

(RD) I applied those.

00:35:29.700 --> 00:35:35.540

(RD) You can, if you are a Japanese, and you immerse yourself

00:35:35.740 --> 00:35:42.170

(RD) in Indian culture, and there are many Japanese who does, they have the same thing.

00:35:42.490 --> 00:35:48.110

(RD) It's no, no, you can't label it like, okay, Desis are...

00:35:48.290 --> 00:35:52.829

(RD) No.

(I) No. (RD) Every thing, this comes down to you.

00:35:53.240 --> 00:35:54.050

(I) Hmm.

00:35:54.170 --> 00:35:55.649

(RD) Yeah, otherwise

00:35:56.500 --> 00:36:11.689

(RD) we won't have that Desi foreignness in India, right? (I) Yes.

(RD) We won't have all these things going on, Desi things in India which creates so much problem. So it's all about

00:36:12.100 --> 00:36:18.890

(RD) a person, who looks at a situation and then decide what

00:36:18.950 --> 00:36:30.670

(RD) to do, either for that particular moment, in that situation is a success or not. Sometimes it could be an immediate success, but it could be a huge failure in long run.

00:36:31.100 --> 00:36:32.240

(I) Sure.

(RD) So we don't know.

00:36:32.800 --> 00:36:34.750

(I) Right.

(RD) We don't know.

00:36:34.760 --> 00:37:00.829

(RD) We can't stick a label like all Desis are this or that.

(I) Oh, no, of course, of course. So I'll ask you another thing. So I moved to the West, to California very recently. So, and you know, like there are Indian communities everywhere, right? You know, in universities, in professional lives, and in communities. And, you know, there are music classes, there are dance classes, there are Indian restaurants, and they're this and everything.

00:37:00.830 --> 00:37:07.640

(I) But after coming here, and you know, I have a small child. So raising him, you know, I'm taking him to different places.

00:37:07.640 --> 00:37:17.630

(I) So, I notice one thing though, that the in terms of the numbers, in terms of the density, in terms of the quality,

00:37:18.220 --> 00:37:23.349

(I) of the services provided, even the food. A) the variety,

00:37:23.500 --> 00:37:31.169

(I) B) the quality, the very high quality of Indian food. Music classes, the very best of teachers are teaching here.

00:37:31.230 --> 00:37:40.759

(I) The, you know, some of the best of the dancers are teaching here. So, what is it about this place, about Silicon Valley that

00:37:40.960 --> 00:37:43.950

(I) makes Desi culture so vibrant here?

00:37:44.670 --> 00:37:49.559

(RD) I think the Silicon Valley, the Bay Area,

00:37:50.950 --> 00:37:52.120

(RD) is

00:37:53.690 --> 00:37:59.230

(RD) a very tough place to be. If you're not good,

00:37:59.620 --> 00:38:01.789

(RD) it's very hard for you to survive.

00:38:02.450 --> 00:38:03.300

(I) Hmm.

00:38:04.230 --> 00:38:08.579

(RD) And it shows in how everything is so pricey.

00:38:09.150 --> 00:38:10.000

(I) Hmm.

00:38:10.900 --> 00:38:11.890

(RD) So

00:38:12.210 --> 00:38:17.440

(RD) you, just to survive, you have to be really, really, amazingly good.

00:38:17.780 --> 00:38:22.690

(RD) And you have to be the best of the best to be on the top of your game.

00:38:23.650 --> 00:38:34.150

(RD) And that's because not just the Desi, because of this whole culture of the Bay Area, where you have to be the very best.

00:38:35.630 --> 00:38:46.840

(RD) And that's one of the reason I decided to settle here, instead of settling in New York or Chicago or LA, because I love the people in the Bay Area.

00:38:47.340 --> 00:38:48.760

(RD) They are the best.

00:38:49.290 --> 00:38:52.550

(RD) They are truly, in my mind,

00:38:53.310 --> 00:38:57.020

(RD) global citizens. They have

00:38:59.670 --> 00:39:07.379

(RD) very amazing intuition about the whole world, the world culture, and what is happening.

00:39:08.020 --> 00:39:10.340

(RD) And also,

00:39:10.730 --> 00:39:13.989

(RD) they are the best of the best.

00:39:14.810 --> 00:39:15.670

(I) Hmm.

00:39:16.670 --> 00:39:27.380

(I) So you think the, you know, the hub of tech innovation, right, that is what Silicon Valley means to most people. So the

00:39:27.490 --> 00:39:42.279

(I) competitiveness in a positive way, right, with which people go and work and, you know, are at the forefront of several innovations. So do you think that kind of translates into every other

00:39:42.630 --> 00:39:54.189

(I) path of life that they may, you know, walk towards? So, you know, say somebody does music classes in the evenings, because you know, they are an engineer by the day.

00:39:54.200 --> 00:40:00.610

(I) So they bring that same level of excellent competitiveness to

00:40:00.790 --> 00:40:04.610

(I) teaching and expecting of the students. Is that how it translates?

00:40:06.280 --> 00:40:07.989

(RD) Yes and no.

00:40:08.340 --> 00:40:12.600

(RD) When you are really successful in something which you do,

00:40:14.000 --> 00:40:15.779

(RD) you do have

00:40:17.070 --> 00:40:18.520

(RD) extra income.

00:40:18.780 --> 00:40:19.650

(I) Hmm.

00:40:20.400 --> 00:40:24.660

(RD) And you can afford to take a music

00:40:24.800 --> 00:40:25.520

(RD) lesson.

00:40:25.860 --> 00:40:34.349

(RD) And when you take the music lesson, that's something which could be, something which would have been really drawn to you for a very long time.

00:40:34.850 --> 00:40:40.590

(RD) And if you're really competitive in your nature, yeah, you will do

00:40:40.740 --> 00:40:45.289

(RD) be doing the same thing. But everybody is different.

00:40:45.300 --> 00:40:52.710

(RD) Like you can, I want to do things, I want to do things because I really love to enjoy it.

00:40:52.920 --> 00:41:01.310

(RD) There are certain things I wanted to do, you know, and slowly but surely as I'm getting older, I want to

00:41:01.860 --> 00:41:12.720

(RD) kind of like hit those bucket list. And one of them was to do like singing lessons.

(I) Hmm! (RD) So I

00:41:12.760 --> 00:41:15.750

(RD) you know, being Bengali and growing up

00:41:15.790 --> 00:41:31.820

(RD) because we, my mom, was a singer and so we took singing lessons, but never, I never had like really like classical voice lessons.

00:41:32.400 --> 00:41:53.850

(RD) So I have started taking classical voice lessons. Not only in Hindustani, but also pop music. I play my drums. I do tabla. I play dhol. I do pakhawaj. And then I decided to take classes for playing drum set, so that

00:41:53.890 --> 00:41:59.670

(RD) I can, because I love playing pakhawaj. So

00:41:59.700 --> 00:42:11.070

(RD) does that mean, I'm going to be the very best in it. No, I don't want to be the very best in it, because I don't want a career in that. I just want to enjoy it. But I want to do it really well.

00:42:11.560 --> 00:42:12.760

(RD) You know.

00:42:12.960 --> 00:42:13.980

(RD) So

00:42:14.730 --> 00:42:19.440

(RD) each and everybody's standard of what you want to do,

00:42:21.670 --> 00:42:32.849

(RD) which is determined by what you are doing, it's going to be very different.

(I) It's going to be different. Mhm. (RD) Yes, again, it becomes individual choice.

00:42:33.030 --> 00:42:48.819

(RD) You know, there is no one thing you can say that, okay, all the Desis because they are successful, they are good at it. But how do you know they're all successful? We don't know.

(I) Yeah, we don't know, that's true. (RD) We don't know. You know, there is a mass of

00:42:48.890 --> 00:42:53.489

(RD) Indians here, but how good are they at their work? I don't know.

00:42:53.550 --> 00:42:54.630

(I) Hmm.

00:42:55.380 --> 00:43:18.329

(RD) I don't have that data really. (I) Yes.

(RD) But I do know that the community, it's a big community there. There's a lot of things happening, and we do it. I mean, for example, we have created the first night market in San Francisco, and it's called Bhangra & Beats Night Market.

00:43:18.410 --> 00:43:23.009

(RD) There has never been anything Indian. But after pandemic,

00:43:23.400 --> 00:43:29.020

(RD) a group of us approached the City Hall to create a night market with Indian flavor.

00:43:31.330 --> 00:43:38.909

(RD) And we are doing it like every quarter this year. So we did the first one in March. The second one is coming up July 14th.

00:43:39.010 --> 00:43:57.739

(RD) And we are taking over the cross section street on Battery and Clay. When we launched it, there was 5,000 people who came for it. This time, I think it's going to be at least 10,000 people. It's a non-stop bhangra, non-stop dance music. There is

00:43:58.090 --> 00:44:05.160

(RD) Indian food. There's Indian spices. There is saris. There's everything all around. And

00:44:05.530 --> 00:44:20.760

(RD) we are creating this experience. But the experience we're creating is to bring the community together and see each other face to face and enjoy each other's company.

00:44:21.060 --> 00:44:27.260

(RD) Going back to the same thing, again, its all about the human experience, you know.

00:44:28.120 --> 00:44:31.499

(I) Yeah.

(RD) So, you know, it's all about

00:44:32.750 --> 00:44:38.600

(RD) really, really supporting a community and bringing the diversity and bringing

00:44:38.810 --> 00:44:41.699

(RD) enjoyment and the experience.

00:44:41.860 --> 00:44:56.469

(I) Yes, and so do you think that investment in enjoying oneself, one's life. Like you know, people work very hard. You make good money. You do a lot of good things. But then, at the end of the day, you should be able to enjoy it,

00:44:56.540 --> 00:45:06.469

(I) right? (RD) Absolutely.

(I) There is a sense that I get because I still consider myself as a newcomer to this area, you know, it's just been about four years now. Right? So

00:45:06.890 --> 00:45:13.279

(I) what I do, I do get this distinct sense that there is a mad rush

00:45:13.720 --> 00:45:27.019

(I) among a lot of people, you know, who are probably here for the say the last 5 to 10 years, or a little more than that, but not as many years as you say you, you know, with all those years of experience.

00:45:27.020 --> 00:45:51.250

(I) But there is this a restlessness that I feel when I interact with people, and they're all like, oh, my son has to go to the best school and go to the most expensive private school. My, this thing, you know, I drive the latest Tesla, I do this. So, you know, and I see that as a vibe around a lot of people. So, but your, the way you are describing it is

00:45:51.250 --> 00:45:59.130

(I) like enjoying every moment is so important. And so that's something, I mean, how would you like to comment on that?

00:45:59.310 --> 00:46:00.910

(RD) I think it

00:46:01.120 --> 00:46:03.019

(RD) is a

00:46:03.900 --> 00:46:15.319

(RD) you know, you have to find yourself. (I) Hmm.

(RD) In this life you have to find yourself first. A lot of the time the whole life passes by, you haven't found yourself.

00:46:15.840 --> 00:46:24.679

(RD) When you haven't found yourself, you're going with the whole herd. Oh, I want to have the latest Tesla. Oh, I have to send my

00:46:24.750 --> 00:46:28.859

(RD) son or my daughter to the best school.

00:46:29.010 --> 00:46:36.899

(RD) Oh, I have to have this latest fashion. Who cares? I don't care. I just want things,

00:46:37.340 --> 00:46:40.800

(RD) to me, money is a means.

00:46:40.980 --> 00:46:43.390

(RD) The only difference

00:46:44.890 --> 00:46:49.279

(RD) in having a lot of money and not enough money is

00:46:49.600 --> 00:46:51.719

(RD) the convenience.

00:46:52.310 --> 00:47:06.599

(RD) You can, if you have a problem in India, you have to buy a ticket, you have enough money to buy the ticket and go now. Or you don't, so it is an inconvenience. Other than that, money doesn't provide you anything else. (I) Yeah.

00:47:07.530 --> 00:47:14.269

(RD) So it is up to you to find yourself, what you want the most, you know.

00:47:14.770 --> 00:47:22.330

(RD) And for me it is, you know, life is my secret ingredient.

00:47:22.340 --> 00:47:27.289

(RD) I'm looking forward, just like I am talking to you right? Sakti Da,

00:47:28.050 --> 00:47:35.210

(RD) you know, referred me and said, oh, he may be a good person to interview.

00:47:36.230 --> 00:47:37.479

(RD) I want to support you.

00:47:38.200 --> 00:47:41.809

(I) Hmm.

(RD) You know. Not because you are Desi.

00:47:42.040 --> 00:47:47.839

(I) Of course.

(RD) Because you are somebody who is amazing.

00:47:48.000 --> 00:47:51.149

(RD) You are somebody who is doing something

00:47:51.280 --> 00:47:54.690

(RD) to create something, and I want to support it.

00:47:55.070 --> 00:47:59.750

(RD) And that's what I am about. I am about

00:47:59.870 --> 00:48:02.210

(RD) supporting my community.

00:48:02.410 --> 00:48:04.049

(I) Hmm.

(RD) You know.

00:48:04.210 --> 00:48:14.040

(RD) What, and I'm good, I'm good at just being that. You know, so for me, my wants are very limited.

00:48:14.850 --> 00:48:15.940

(RD) And

00:48:15.980 --> 00:48:20.119

(RD) I like to enjoy my life. I feel

00:48:20.390 --> 00:48:21.460

(RD) you know,

00:48:21.690 --> 00:48:27.439

(RD) if I can live my life positively, have this circle

00:48:27.530 --> 00:48:39.729

(RD) in which I put people who are like-minded and are supporting each other and enjoying the life, without having to look behind my back to see if we are going to,

00:48:39.810 --> 00:48:49.049

(RD) you know, knife me in the back. I am good. If I feel there's somebody I'm not comfortable with, I just put him outside my circle.

00:48:49.250 --> 00:48:50.190

(I) Hmm.

00:48:50.820 --> 00:48:54.669

(RD) And this way I can enjoy everybody in my circle completely.

00:48:55.110 --> 00:48:55.950

(I) Yeah.

00:48:56.260 --> 00:49:08.420

(RD) There is two ways of living your life. One is when you trust or when you distrust. When you trust people, in general,

00:49:09.630 --> 00:49:12.210

(RD) your shoulder is light.

00:49:12.250 --> 00:49:20.490

(RD) Yeah, you will be taken advantage of once in a while. But then you can put more check and balances, but you don't change your nature.

00:49:20.530 --> 00:49:28.110

(RD) The other one, because of what life has thrown at you, you may be more distrustful.

00:49:29.440 --> 00:49:34.009

(RD) And when you're distrustful, it's very hard for you to trust people.

00:49:35.380 --> 00:49:38.199

(RD) And that's a heavy load.

(I) Yeah.

00:49:39.240 --> 00:49:42.629

(RD) I am grateful to the universe that, you know,

00:49:44.050 --> 00:49:50.989

(RD) I have not had a life where things have gone so wrong,

00:49:51.670 --> 00:49:54.269

(RD) and I have been abused in such great

00:49:54.380 --> 00:50:00.350

(RD) way, that I become just distrustful to human beings.

00:50:01.080 --> 00:50:01.860

(I) Hmm.

00:50:02.070 --> 00:50:10.359

(RD) Certain people don't, didn't have that choice. They didn't make that choice. They just happened to be in situations.

00:50:10.890 --> 00:50:14.410

(RD) But we can help. We can always help.

00:50:16.950 --> 00:50:20.060

(RD) To bring them towards trust more.

00:50:20.070 --> 00:50:25.810

(RD) Because your intention has to be pure. Where intention is pure, the universe helps you.

00:50:27.680 --> 00:50:35.180

(I) Yes. That's, that's real wisdom, Mr. Dey. Real, real wisdom. Yeah.

00:50:35.350 --> 00:50:45.389

(I) So I'm almost nearing the end of my questions. So, when you look back at your journey, how does Silicon Valley influence your identity

00:50:46.100 --> 00:50:47.460

(I) as a Desi?

00:50:49.500 --> 00:51:00.910

(RD) Silicon Valley has influenced my identity as I'm a very proud Desi. You know, I'm proud to say

00:51:01.010 --> 00:51:08.040

(RD) the part of the circle which I call Silicon Valley, and I am

00:51:08.080 --> 00:51:09.460

(RD) within

00:51:09.920 --> 00:51:12.000

(RD) the outer circle of that.

00:51:12.460 --> 00:51:17.820

(RD) I'm not in digital, but I have provided amazing

00:51:17.990 --> 00:51:20.140

(RD) experiences for people

00:51:20.490 --> 00:51:22.249

(RD) who are in this

00:51:22.980 --> 00:51:24.670

(RD) digital world.

00:51:24.680 --> 00:51:28.710

(RD) I've created many, many

00:51:28.830 --> 00:51:32.629

(RD) catering parties to small little private parties,

00:51:33.360 --> 00:51:35.789

(RD) to get glimpse of what

00:51:35.900 --> 00:51:38.720

(RD) is the epicenter

00:51:38.850 --> 00:51:45.010

(RD) of the Silicon Valley digital revolution. I've known people

00:51:46.090 --> 00:51:49.710

(RD) who have created right from the

00:51:49.810 --> 00:51:50.980

(RD) you know,

00:51:51.170 --> 00:51:59.229

(RD) the wafer of your computer. People who have created

00:51:59.310 --> 00:52:04.769

(RD) certain, you know, like...

00:52:05.090 --> 00:52:08.019

(RD) what do you call certain,

00:52:08.200 --> 00:52:13.309

(RD) what is it, it's a...it's a

00:52:13.520 --> 00:52:29.159

(RD) like Facebook of the world. Or, for example, the Pinterest of the world. Different, you know, things which have revolutionized the whole world. They started small a the garage

00:52:29.230 --> 00:52:30.830

(RD) in Silicon Valley.

00:52:31.840 --> 00:52:36.780

(RD) And every big things which has happened, you can always

00:52:37.010 --> 00:52:49.519

(RD) bet to your bottom, there is a Desi who have enabled that to happen. So I am so proud to have lived here

00:52:50.490 --> 00:52:57.610

(RD) from before than when Google started. And be a part of this

00:52:58.420 --> 00:53:07.269

(RD) Silicon Valley, you know. It's been an honor. I am so happy that I have been a epicenter

00:53:07.340 --> 00:53:20.100

(RD) of enabling things where things have happened in my restaurant, where it is been a plan in a, in a paper napkin.

00:53:20.360 --> 00:53:23.169

(RD) Went onto become multibillion dollar business.

00:53:23.660 --> 00:53:24.530

(I) Wow.

00:53:25.380 --> 00:53:27.370

(I) Yeah, that's amazing.

00:53:27.550 --> 00:53:28.760

(RD) Yeah.

00:53:29.120 --> 00:53:37.289

(I) So my very last question. How do you foresee your future or your family's future in Silicon Valley?

00:53:43.080 --> 00:53:45.150

(RD) I foresee it

00:53:46.960 --> 00:53:48.330

(RD) to be

00:53:49.880 --> 00:53:51.770

(RD) the continuing successes

00:53:52.080 --> 00:54:00.000

(RD) in every description of this word. You know, whether it is

00:54:00.980 --> 00:54:04.459

(RD) emotional. Whether it is

00:54:05.700 --> 00:54:14.940

(RD) monetary. Whether it is spiritual. Whether it is, you know, educational

00:54:15.410 --> 00:54:16.819

(RD) or art.

00:54:16.860 --> 00:54:23.049

(RD) In every way, Silicon Valley is going to touch your life.

00:54:24.050 --> 00:54:29.380

(RD) It is going to be something which is going to enrich it.

00:54:31.000 --> 00:54:35.489

(RD) Make the texture of it more delicious.

00:54:36.450 --> 00:54:38.220

(I) Right. That's great.

00:54:38.270 --> 00:54:43.819

(I) Thank you. Is there anything else you wanted to say about Silicon Valley that, you know, I may not have asked?

00:54:44.020 --> 00:54:48.600

(RD) No, I think you covered everything. Thank you.

00:54:48.790 --> 00:54:51.250

(I) Thank you very much. I'll stop the recording now.

00:54:51.440 --> 00:54:52.490

(RD) Okay.