

KRISH'S CORNER



Speaking Slowly and Loudly

I was getting ready to deliver a speech at a convention when a man walked up to me and with a hint of recognition asked me a question. Speaking slowly and loudly he queried if I was the speaker for the evening banquet. Slowly and loudly and with considerable care to make the words roll off my tongue, I responded that indeed I was the speaker for the evening festivities. He looked perplexed as he retreated, and worried as he pondered the absolute misery that would be the next couple of hours--the duration of my keynote address. He had set himself up to hear a person from another country opine on success principles but had a communication filter to contend with. He made the error of judging the book by its cover.

When I was finished he came over to apologize for the mis-perceptions he had about who I was and what I could do. I laughingly reminded him that when speaking in one language to a person who supposedly does not understand the nuances of that language, speaking slowly and loudly does not change anything. In fact, you become intrinsically annoying as you are now emphasizing in agonizing delay the fact that difficulties exist. My recommendation for communication excellence is threefold:

Practice the enunciation and pronunciation that would enable you to have geographical effectiveness. Since most accents are geographical this is a learned trait. I remember when I introduced my son to some people in Dallas and they were amazed that he did not have an accent. I reminded them that he was born in Denton County, Texas, and in all likelihood the surroundings had allowed him to assimilate. This is a constant challenge, but the adjustments will pay huge dividends in a global marketplace.

Eliminate words that people insist you repeat. In my early days in the US I would pay close attention to the numerous times when people asked me to repeat something. In outside sales it was cumbersome to halt a presentation because someone did not get the gist of what I was saying. It became frustrating and annoying and eventually I had to make a choice. I decided to eliminate words that people were having difficulty understanding. I searched my vocabulary for words that had a British or an Indian flavor and spelling and found suitable replacements. Remember that we are free up to the moment of choice and then the choices we make control the chooser. I had chosen to go to a different country and make a living by choosing a profession where communication effectiveness was essential.

Practice and preparation make up for a lack of many things. Early in my professional speaking career I would practice a lot. I tried my best to alter the pace of my diction and strengthen my vernacular and oratorical outbursts by reciting poetry and memorizing renditions of famous speeches. This gave me the necessary confidence as I was now able to internalize and personalize the different outputs required of me. One day when my son observed me preparing for a sermon, he asked why I would still practice, as church was a non-profit organization that would not pay me for my output. I said the following to him: “The day you practice for something you are not paid to do is the beginning of the journey that will take you to the place where they pay you for what you have practiced.”

Communication is an art form that when practiced and delivered effectively will allow you to reap some excellent rewards and scale some unimaginable heights.

Some exciting news in our world. The following appeared in the Dallas Morning News

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LEWISVILLE-FLOWER MOUND

CONGRATULATIONS

Public speaking group to honor local resident

Flower Mound resident Krish Dhanam has been selected to receive the Toastmasters International Communication and Leadership Award in May. Mr. Dhanam, vice president of Zig Ziglar Training Systems, is one of 75 leaders in the world to receive this award from Toastmasters, a non-profit organization that helps improve public speaking skills and develop leadership skills. Mr. Dhanam is a professional speaker who has delivered his message of hope, humor and balance in more than 40 international venues and throughout the United States.

The new logo of our company



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This week:

1. Thank God for the opportunity and the privilege of work.
2. Participate in servitude and lift someone else up.
3. Give your mind a workout and read a book on a subject that you do not get paid to know.
4. Call your loved ones and thank them for their role in your life.