

The Perfect Moment

Dear Toastmaster of the Day, fellow Toastmasters and my dear guests. Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Hrideep. I often have to say my name more than once as it is a pretty uncommon name which makes it difficult for me to introduce myself to girls at loud parties. I am a born and raised Mumbaikar. A typical townie who believes that travelling to Vashi requires me to go get a Visa!

I finished my schooling from St. Mary's School and I'm currently pursuing a mass media degree.

I, like many of you, am a music lover. I play the drums and have performed at several venues in the past. I recently took up tabla to discover the classical style of music.

Now, music has and always will continue to be a very close part of my life. I'm not sure that I want to be a performer or even take music up as my career. But I do believe that there is something out there for me in music.

So I thought. What is it that I could do in the space of music that would have some sort of impact in my tiny world? Performing? Composing? They seem nice. But maybe it's not for me.

I wanted to create something - create a platform for musicians to showcase their talents. For people to come together under one roof where they can learn, interact and perform with each other and find opportunities that would be hard for them to otherwise get. I approached my teachers, my college Principal, the Head of Department to try and materialise this somewhat ambiguous vision.

Finally, after much debate, to make a long story short, I helped in initiating and establishing my college's very own music society. That's what made me happy - coz it helped move the needle. Even though it was small, it still had a small impact. Throughout this journey, there were several ups and downs. But what I found was that each of these ups and downs were necessary. Each had its purpose in every little way. The more I see life, the more I realise how true that revelation was.

For my Icebreaker Speech, I was told that I should talk about myself - how I got here and whether or not there was a key incident that really changed my life. To be honest, there isn't any one major incident that changed my life. There were many small ones. And it's all these small incidents that made me the person I am today.

Whether it was growing up in an all boys school to coming to a media college with an overwhelming number of girls, whether it was choosing a career in mass media OR whether it was embarking on my journey as a public speaker.

In all these moments, I realised, whether good or bad, were, in a word, perfect.

Because the fact is that I could not be happier being where I am right now. Right now - with all you wonderful people taking out time from *your life* to listen to *my speech*; encouraging, supporting and helping each other to become a better version of themselves. And that to me as good as it gets.

As I am getting older, people are telling me, "Enjoy your time right now. Because the going is going to get tough and you will soon start to face *real* problems."

"Real problems?", I thought. I haven't faced anything even close to truly traumatic yet. So if these *real problems* are still to come, If I am going to face adversities that may beat me down, I want to take this opportunity to resolve to myself that no matter what what incident may take place - whether it may be financially crippling, emotional disheartening or physically intolerable - I want to take each experience for what it is, to know that every incident, whether good or bad, will take me to a place far better than the one I am in right now just like my previous incidents have brought me to this moment here.

And thus, realising that every moment is, in a word, PERFECT.