



Member-only story

Leadership Series: Lila Poonawalla

3 min read

Mar 30, 2020

The True Leader's Mindset: 9 Insights from Lila Poonawalla

Leaders who built themselves from the ground up I find most inspiring. The hardships they faced on their path of transformation and the lessons learned from these journeys are invaluable. Their willpower is nothing short of inspirational.

About these Leadership-Series: I want to introduce you with you people I met, connect, interviewed on the deepest possible level, to extract their wisdom into advice, tools, and hints. I hope you like these little series. I hope you take advantage of your life — professionally or personally. If so let us all know what you gained from it.

Lila Poonawalla is one of such leaders, I would like you to meet here. We met years back as keynote speakers on stage — we talked backstage about leadership — I interviewed her — we became close friends — I spoke at her foundation at New Year — and met her Lila-Fellows — heartwarming and inspiring. Now I would like to share Lila's live and leadership story with you, as we all can benefit from her.

One of the most amazing and uplifting stories I encountered.

A true leadership story.

Lila Poonawalla was a mechanical engineer, considered herself a normal worker. Her company announced that all workers will soon lose their jobs as they lack a huge amount of turnover. If I remember it correctly: 100 million Indian Rupee.

One morning she woke up and had an idea how to solve it. She went to management and shared her idea. The management said something like “We can’t do this, if you want to do it, do it on your own!” in a rather harsh tone and send her away, waving the back of their hands that she should leave now. Being Lila, being brought up to not give up, being bold, she went straight where all gathered for lunch. She stood on one table — asked for silence and explained her idea and that she is 100% committed to save the company and all jobs — even of the management, and if they would follow her. They did. She succeeded and drove the last truck to the customer closing the 100 Million Rupee promise she gave. But she did not drive in front of the truck but on the back with her co-workers.

She became a legend and heroin in India and abroad, being awarded by the Swedish King. But visiting her every time I could, talking to her with more time and getting to know her better and better — her biggest award is to see the development of the girls of her foundation “Lila Fellows”. <http://www.lilapoonawallafoundation.com>. What she developed solely on her own — at a young age — now she helps to shape a new future for each of the young girls and young women she supports. Following her footsteps at the beginning. Creating her footsteps for the future.

Yours gratefully

Gerald



“My goal is to provide you the most powerful and proven solutions for complex transformations and others challenges you face as a leader - in such a way, so you can use it immediately, with immediate tangible benefits

- for you, your team and your organization. Towards the world's strongest transformation and leadership system at your hand “

Gerald Huesch

Global Leadership

leadership@gerald-huesch.com

Whatsapp: +49 273 44 88 511 / +971 52 637 7392

<https://medium.com/@hueschi.leadership/leadership-serie-1-lila-poonawalla-bff0d97f2aef>