



# PUT YOUR SPIRITUALITY TO WORK

Conversation Starters for the Workplace

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## 1.17 DISCOVER YOUR CALLING

The ways of discovering our calling are as diverse as our personalities and aspirations; just like spiritual enlightenment itself, there is no “one size that fits all”.

**IN OUR LAST** article, we explored the difference between “having a career” and “following your calling”. After reading it, our editor asked us:

*How can anyone find out what their calling is? Is there any one way, or is it just a matter of waiting in silence for the heart to speak up?*

These questions had us pause and reflect, until we realised that, just like spiritual enlightenment itself, there is no “one size that fits all”. The ways of discovering our calling are as diverse as our personalities and aspirations. However, we can always gain inspiration and confidence from other’s experiences, so we decided to gather some stories to share with you.

We first thought of a young entrepreneur in Mumbai, India named Radhakrishnan Pillai, who started his own travel and tourism business at the age of 26. From the first time we met him, we could feel that he was a person of strong character who was pursuing his highest ideals through his business. This was further confirmed when he shared with us his spiritual background:

*My father is a Yogi in the very sense of the word. While fulfilling all his family responsibilities, he still continues his daily spiritual practices and meditation for nearly 8-10 hours a day. Even as a child, watching my father do his spiritual practices with so much one-pointed devotion was inspiring. All the stories from our Indian heritage were also a part of my everyday bedtime stories and my mother helped me to understand their hidden depths.*

*My real entry into spiritual life started at the age of 12 when I attended a 7-day camp named ‘Game of Life’ at the Chinmaya Mission. Swami Tejomayananda, currently the head of the Chinmaya Mission worldwide, led this camp.*

We feel that Radhakrishnan is one of the fortunate ones to have such a strong spiritual foundation as he searched for his choice of career. But how did he actually discover his calling?

*I was inspired by watching Swami Chinmayananda work day and night in a spirit of total dedication. I wondered if I would ever get a chance in my life to do what he did. I never wanted to become a monk, yet I wanted to have a spiritual career. But how?*

*By the grace of God, I got an opportunity to visit a huge spiritual gathering, the 'Mahakumbha Mela' held at Allahabad in 2000. Almost 80 million people attended the Mela over 1½ months. While I was there, I came across a camp set up by a travel agency for foreigners. I was surprised that they weren't able to give a spiritual insight into the meaning of the Mela, and yet this was something I could do very well myself. From that experience, I discovered there was a great demand for spiritual tourism in India.*

Radhakrishnan then formulated his vision for serving this need, and...

*I asked Swami Tejomayanandji, and he blessed me to start a company of my own, a business where I would take people to various temples, ashrams and saints of India. Swamiji also gave the name – Atma Darshan.*

That was 3 years ago. Since starting his business, over 2000 people have travelled through Atma Darshan to nearly 50 different spiritual destinations of India. And, it has evolved...

*Discovering new places, temples, ashrams and saints has now become the heart of our company. We are not just a service provider, but also a "knowledge provider". We are happy to call ourselves "Spiritual Workers of the Knowledge Era".*

We asked him how he felt about providing a service based on spirituality for a fee and here's how he replied:

*Initially, I felt guilty about making money out of spirituality. But after discussing this with various spiritual masters, I know it was God who chose me for this work and I need only to do my work honestly and in the spirit of dedication to the service of humanity. Today, I realise that Atma Darshan is not about "commercialising spirituality", but about "spiritualising commerce".<sup>1</sup>*

So, ask yourself: *From my upbringing, what spiritual strength can I draw from to assist me in discovering my calling? How would I envision a spiritual career for myself?*

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This article is an excerpt from the book, *Put Your Spirituality to Work: The Basics*. To download the full book of articles, as well as additional book chapters, articles, workbooks, and research on the subject of "spirituality and human values for leadership and work", visit our website: [www.globaldharma.org](http://www.globaldharma.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Radhakrishnan's forthcoming book 'The First Wing', describes in detail the journey of his spiritual life and business. More information about Atma Darshan can be found at: [www.atmadarshan.com](http://www.atmadarshan.com).