

Foreword by Dr. Devi Shetty

The
GLOBAL
INDIAN

THE WORLD NEEDS YOU!

Discover 125 years
of the most successful Indians in the world
and how the journeys made them and India

XAVIER AUGUSTIN

CHAPTER 3

The Hero's Journey

"A desk is a dangerous place from which to view the world."



JOHN LE CARRE



*The world needs more
Global Indians—people who
are bold enough to explore,
wise enough to learn, and
generous enough to give back.
People like you.*

EVERY SUCCESSFUL GLOBAL INDIAN HAS, KNOWINGLY OR UNKNOWNLY, WALKED THE PATH OF THE HERO'S JOURNEY—a timeless narrative of transformation, challenge, and triumph.

This concept, popularized by Joseph Campbell, reveals that all great stories follow a common structure—a hero, driven by a deep calling, leaves home, faces trials that reshape him, and returns transformed.

This script isn't just a storytelling device; it's the blueprint of human growth and ambition. From Star Wars, where Luke Skywalker rises from an ordinary farm boy to a Jedi, to The Lord of the Rings, where Frodo steps into the unknown to destroy the One Ring—the greatest epics echo this journey. But here's the real magic: it's not just myth or fiction. It's real. At its core, the Hero's Journey follows a simple formula:

Separation → Initiation → Transformation → Return

- *Separation is leaving home—the familiar world—to answer a call.*
- *Initiation is facing challenges and hardships that test and shape you.*
- *Transformation is the deep personal change that helps you find your purpose and place in the world.*
- *Return is coming back, not just with new experiences, but with something valuable to share—because while you were away, the world you left behind was always waiting for you.*

Take Sundar Pichai, for example. Growing up in Chennai, he was a quiet, curious student fascinated by technology. When he moved to the USA, he had to evolve—navigating Stanford and later Silicon Valley, where he transformed into a visionary leader. Rising through the ranks, he became CEO of Google and Alphabet, shaping the digital world while giving back to India, his roots. His journey—from a young Indian student to a global leader—mirrors the path of countless Global Indians who leave home, navigate uncharted waters, transform through adversity, and ultimately make an impact on the world.

And here's the truth: this journey isn't reserved for legends. It's yours to take. If you're considering going abroad, to study, work, or chase an opportunity, you are about to embark on your own Hero's Journey. Right now, you stand at the threshold of the unknown—a world that will test you, challenge you, and ultimately, change you forever. Let's break it down:

The Departure: The Call to Adventure

You know that feeling? That mix of excitement and anxiety when you're about to step into something completely new? The rush of possibility, the thrill of change—but also, the weight of everything you're about to leave behind? That's The Departure.

It all begins with a call to adventure—an admission letter from a university abroad, a job offer in a different city, or simply the growing realization that your future lies beyond the familiar streets of home. But before you can take that first step, reality sets in—and so does the resistance. At first, there's curiosity. Then, there are questions.

"Are you sure this is the right move?"

"Why go so far when there are opportunities here?"

"What if something goes wrong?"

In every home, this moment plays out differently. Some families celebrate instantly, beaming with pride. Others sit around the dinner table, deep in discussion. For many, the nights leading up to the decision are sleepless. Parents worry about finances, safety, and distance. Siblings tease but secretly feel the weight of the goodbye. Friends start making plans for 'one last meetup.' Grandparents, who have seen generations grow up under the same roof, gently ask, *"How long will you be gone?"* And then come the arguments.

"What if you don't like it there?"

"What if you don't get a job?"

"What if things don't work out?"

Doubts creep in, even in your own mind. You've dreamed about this for so long, but now that it's real, a part of you wonders—*"Am I ready?"* Despite the hesitation, despite the fear—you decide to go.

The Departure is not just about booking flights and packing bags. It's about stepping away from the life you've always known. It's about taking that first step into the unknown, knowing that nothing will ever be the same again.

It's exhilarating. It's terrifying.
But this is where the journey truly begins.

The Initiation: When You Discover Your Indianness for the First Time

Anything that doesn't kill you only strengthens you —Nietzsche

It's like being thrown into the pool's deep end, except there's no one to pull you out this time. The excitement of departure fades, replaced by reality hitting like a tidal wave. You enter a new place where people talk in a different accent, use slang you don't understand, and laugh at jokes that don't make sense to you.

At first, everything feels like an adventure—the new city, the independence, the endless possibilities. But soon, the cracks begin to show. You were once known by your language, caste, community, and hometown—but here, none of that matters. Your identity is stripped down to a single word: Indian.

For the first time in your life, you are no longer just a Tamilian, Punjabi, Bengali, or Malayali.

You were never forced to think about your Indianness before—it was just something you were. But now, when someone asks you, *"Where are you from?"* you suddenly feel a responsibility to represent your entire country.

You struggle to order food at a café, mispronounce words, and get blank stares in return. Professors speak too fast, assignments pile up, and the metric system suddenly feels like a personal enemy. You miss your mother's home-cooked meals, but all you have is instant noodles

and a fridge that smells like leftovers from five roommates ago. This is where heroes are made or broken. You'll face your own dragons:

- **Language barriers** where every conversation feels like a test, and every mispronunciation reminds you that you're not home.
- **Culture shock** where your normal is someone else's strange, and you wonder if you'll ever fit in.
- **Loneliness** when you greatly miss your home and family, and even a big city full of people makes you feel invisible.
- **Academic and work pressure** when you realize that being smart isn't enough, and you must work twice as hard to prove yourself
- **Financial struggles** where you start calculating grocery costs in your head and learn the value of every dollar spent.

Some nights, you question everything.

"Did I make the right decision?"

"Why is this so much harder than I imagined?"

"Will I ever feel at home here?"

But here's what you don't realize yet.

Every challenge is shaping you.

The first time you navigate a train station without getting lost, the first time you crack a joke in another language, the first time you help someone who was once a stranger—all of these moments chip away at the uncertainty and build a stronger version of you.

About the Author



Xavier Augustin's company Y-Axis bridges Indian talent with world-class opportunities, enhancing employability and mobility for students, professionals, and families. Through Y-Axis and the Y-Axis Foundation, he has helped thousands achieve their dreams of studying, working, or migrating abroad. The Foundation, in collaboration with EducationUSA, offers free guidance to Indian students aiming to study in the US, while his Know More School initiative fosters digital literacy in schools. As publisher of [TheGlobalIndian.com](https://theglobalindian.com) Xavier celebrates inspiring journeys of Indians making a global impact.

Follow [@XavierAugustin](#) on Linked In, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

Looking for Inspiration?



Explore The World of the Global Indian, read through the Field Book,
Follow up more stories or Write your own Global Indian story

www.theglobalindian.com

XAVIER AUGUSTIN is the Founder and CEO of Y-Axis, India's largest overseas career consultancy. *Driven by the mission to create Global Indians, Xavier focuses on social mobility, helping individuals from India's remotest corners thrive globally.*

A GRADUATE OF the University of South Carolina's Master of International Business Studies and Harvard Business School's OPM 51 program, Xavier embraces the concept of *a borderless world and through Y-Axis, has helped thousands achieve their dreams of studying, working, or migrating abroad.*

AN AVID TRAVELER who has explored 60+ countries, often with National Geographic Expeditions, he believes travel is life's greatest teacher, offering lessons in confidence, happiness, and control. Xavier lives with his wife, Sabina and two daughters, Zara and Yana continuing to inspire through his work and adventures.

