## Adding Context to Your Decisions

When we look at the world, a lot of times we miss the aspect of context on how we look at things. This has importance in making business decisions of all sizes and shapes. This can show up a lot with people's decisions and with how they look at their competitors and strategies.

### Where Is The Internet Going?

An analyst I used to follow in my investment days, <u>Henry Blodget</u>, is now an editor for <u>Business Insider</u>, and his own company has been on top of the internet space since the beginning. I like hearing what he has to say because he has had so many years watching the ups and downs of the firms in this space, and he offers good insight into where these companies are going.

Business Insider recently held its annual IGNITION conference with great speakers from <u>LinkedIn</u>, <u>Google</u>, <u>Groupon</u>, and <u>Time Warner</u>.

#### **Communication Revolution**

Back in 1995, when <u>Robert Loest</u> and I were telling the world about our new <u>mutual fund IPS Millennium</u>, we told a story

explaining that, historically, change within a civilization first occurs at an inflection point and is followed by big change and then a long plateau period.

We shared how civilization started with hunter-gathers, and people maintained that lifestyle for over 100,000 years. Then, we had an inflection point, learning to plant seeds and grow food. This was the <u>Agricultural Revolution of the Neolithic Era</u>, and it went on for a few thousand years.

#### Thankful for Abundance

This week not only represents the start of the holiday season but also the coming together of family and friends. We all come together and sit in front of an amazing spread of food to

celebrate how thankful we are for the sacrifices our forefathers made to journey so far and under such risky conditions in order to start a life in this new land, which was not so plentiful at times. They did this, so they could have a level of freedom that they were not experiencing in their home country.



### A Better Version of Myself



I have returned home from my E0 adventure in Istanbul, Turkey. What an amazing time with 800 entrepreneurs from 91 E0 chapters in 39 countries around the world! We heard many interesting speakers, including the Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, who sent a

recorded message for us. He told us about their country's openness to trade and commerce. They are the fastest growing G-20 nation at 8.5%.

#### Real Commerce With Mobile!

In last week's <u>blog</u>, we discussed how we are entering the Web 3.0 world. That world consists of mobile. We talked about creating real value for customers and real commerce for merchants. I recently came across some really great examples of this in an article called <u>Web 3.0: The Mobile Era</u> written by <u>Jay Jamison</u>, who has a venture company that invests in early stage mobile companies.

#### Power of One

Having a business and being an entrepreneur, you attempt to make a difference in your life, sometimes in the lives of others, and not so often, in the world. I see this on a daily basis because running a company is integral in the lives of many people around me.

You usually see the small things but not the larger impact that you might make someday in the future. For example, you may have created some great product that improves the lives of others in a meaningful way, or you may go public in an <u>IPO</u> and share stock with your early hard-working employees that one day generates more money than ever imagined.

#### Make the Trend Your Friend

Mary Meeker recently released her <u>annual overview of internet trends</u>, and I found it to be very insightful. You may remember that I have discussed Mary's research and opinions on this topic in some of my previous blogs. She pushed forward as a leader in this space with different investment banking firms and is now a partner at one of the most prestigious venture capital firms, <u>Kleiner Perkins</u>.

# Crowdfunding, the Savior for the Entrepreneur

Something exciting has happened in the entrepreneurial world, and I want to share it with everyone. The <u>JOBS Act</u>, passed by both houses of Congress in March and signed into law on April 5th, will generate big changes for the growth of small and mid-sized businesses. One of the major amendments in this bill would allow <u>crowdfunding</u>. I see this evolving into a significant means for companies to access increased funding, and it is a great way for small investors to find more opportunities to devote their money to companies with which they are more closely involved. Given how connected we are through social media and the internet, this is ripe for the times!

## Solving the World's Problems with Abundance

Let's continue our discussion from last week's blog. How does Abundance solve the future problems that seem to loom before us like population growth, water needs, hunger, and power?

Abundance Thinking holds the understanding that we have the capability to solve our pains with the technologies we have already created. Those technologies are at such a level that the continued connectivity of each of them creates exponential opportunities for solving all the issues of the day and the problems out ahead of us.