

Discovering Raam Dev

An interview by [Ali Dark](#)

Q. Raam you're many things to many people – the owner/operator of a personalised web hosting company, a blogger of life and travel... in 30 seconds or a minute can you tell us where you've been in life?

A. As a child I was home schooled and spent a lot of my time outside exploring. During my early teens I traveled around the USA a lot with my family for the wholesale floral business they were running. I learned a lot about business from them and started my own business when I was sixteen.

Technology has always been apart of my life: I built my first computer when I was nine and started computer programming when I was twelve. In my late teens I started working various technology jobs and simultaneously started running my own independent technology consulting practice for local small businesses.

In my early twenties, I started a [web hosting business](#) and got into real estate investment, purchasing three multi-family properties over the course of three years. I fully managed the rental properties while holding a full-time job, running my web hosting business, and keeping my independent technology consulting practice going. It was a lot to handle and I discovered a lot of personal limits.

During the sub-prime mortgage crisis of 2007, I lost all three properties to foreclosure. Around the same time, I decided to scale back on my own personal possessions and move towards a more minimalistic lifestyle.

Then towards the end of 2009, I made the decision to make a full lifestyle transition and become a nomad, traveling the world and living out of a single backpack. I've given myself six months to work on building passive income streams and I'm running my web hosting business and doing freelance programming work at the same time.

Q. And where are you at? What inner forces propel you now?

A. A few weeks after arriving in India I discovered my calling and my purpose, which is to help others live simply, balance life, and explore existence. I really believe that life can and should be simple, while simultaneously being rich and full of adventure and learning. I'm now focused on improving my craft as a [writer and blogging](#) about this message.

When I finally took the plunge and became a nomad, I fulfilled a childhood dream that had been with me up until the day I boarded the plane to India. Now that I'm actually living the life I always dreamed of (I'm two months in and it still doesn't feel real!), I feel a strong inner drive to show others that life doesn't need to be (and shouldn't be) difficult, boring, or mundane.

Q. And what are your personal goals?

A. To improve my craft as a writer, to build enough passive income streams so that I can support a continued nomadic lifestyle, and to build awareness around my message and vision of living simply while existing abundantly.

Q. I know you're considering your options for doing business online. What questions have you asked yourself when trying to find your future niche?

A. This has been something I've always struggled with, mainly because I wasn't sure what my purpose or overall mission in life actually was. In addition to that, I've always felt that my future niche didn't yet exist and that there would be no name for it when I discovered it.

Now that I've discovered my purpose, I find that defining the niche itself isn't as important as defining the mission and vision. People don't gravitate towards a niche, they gravitate towards like-minded ideas, goals, and visions. If you can define your vision well enough and write your message clearly and consistently, you will have created your own niche.

Q. For you, is there a connection between knowing who you are, and choosing the right work or business? If so, what is it?

A. Absolutely. I think we cannot truly do the work we were meant to do (and I do believe everyone has work they were born to do and that will enjoy doing). For me, discovering myself, discovering what truly mattered to me in life, was key to figuring

out what direction I wanted to go with my work. It took a few weeks in a foreign country and lots of free time to think about it, but during that time I discovered what will probably be the most important turning point in my life.

For me, I was born to be a writer. I've always loved writing, even from an early age, and I feel that I can best express myself through the written word. I see myself authoring several books over the course of my lifetime (both free and paid ebooks, and probably dead-tree books as well) and doing other things that will inspire others to push their own limits and explore life. I see myself as a "leader by example".

Q. Have you encountered any walls in your life? Periods when you didn't know where and how to go? What did you do? What did you learn?

A. My entire life has felt like a series of walls. However, I always had the confidence that things would turn out for the better. And they always did.

During my early teens, I felt compelled to choose a career path so that I could start working. I always had a huge range of interests and wanted to "be everything". But technology was a booming industry and I was already good with computers, so I went with it.

When I lost the investment properties, I realized it was an opportunity to make my childhood dream come true and as my twenty-eighth birthday approached, I realized it was now or never.

I've learned that if you have dreams, hold onto them, because you never know what doors may open in the future. When you're feeling lost and confused, go back to your roots and figure out what you truly love.

Here's a great technique that has helped me: Spend a few hours and really try and imagine that you just received 10 billion dollars. Once you've taken care of all your financial obligations and you're free to do whatever you want, what would you likely spend your time doing? Try and really imagine this scenario and you'll be surprised what you come up with. Whatever that thing is, you should be working towards doing that right now.

Q. I know you're vegan, but what's your favourite food in the world?

A. Honestly, I don't have a specific favorite food, but I love fruits, berries, and oatmeal more than anything else. As for my all-time favorite snack, that would have to be a hummus plate with pita bread, hummus, olive oil, and tapenade (mashed black olives, vegan of course).

Q. Do you have a wish for this planet as a whole?


A. I wish that the people of the planet would be more curious, open-minded, and self-confident. I wish that they would be more caring and compassionate to life and that they would see all the similarities in each other instead of all the differences. I wish there was less greed and jealousy and more creativity, sharing, and collaboration.

Q. How can we support you?


A. I will be coming out with a few ebooks over the next several months, but for now I would really appreciate support by subscribing to my blog ([E-Mail](#) or [RSS](#)) and joining my [Facebook page](#). You can also find me on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Raam Dev is a writer, techie, minimalist, vegan, sustainable world traveler, and nomadic explorer. He writes with a mission to help others [Live Simply, Balance Life, and Explore Existence](#).

10 Responses to "Discovering Raam Dev"


1.  [Raam Dev](#) says:
[May 10, 2010 at 1:39 am](#)


Hey Ali,

Thanks for doing this interview! I enjoyed answering the questions. 


If anyone has any further questions, feel free to leave a comment and I will respond.


[Reply](#)

2.  [The Dame](#) says:
[May 10, 2010 at 2:30 am](#)

I love your wish for the world Raam 

[Reply](#)

- o  [Raam Dev](#) says:
[May 10, 2010 at 4:14 am](#)

Thank you! If you loved my wish for the world, you're really going to like my next blog post. 

[Reply](#)

3.  [Ali Starbright](#) says:
[May 10, 2010 at 2:39 am](#)

If I won 10 billion dollars... I would do all the things I'm afraid of doing for money. Like work in jobs I typically don't like, but as a 'free soul.'


I've always noticed that doing things for nothing is different from doing them for money. Suddenly, when there's money involved, there's all type of subtle power relationships, like you have to be so careful around people not to tread on their toes. Basically for me, it's harder to be myself.

When I used to do cafe work as a teenager, I'd be miserable for the last two hours. Then when I was off the clock, and stayed back a while just to help out my friends, I'd feel fine.

Of course 9.5 billion would go to causes I like, and I'd buy a large chunk of tropical Australia and reforest it and plant it with fruit trees, but that's besides the point.

The first part, I imagine I could do now, with a change of mentality.

[Reply](#)

- o  [Raam Dev](#) says:
[May 10, 2010 at 4:21 am](#)


Whenever I had done that exercise in the past, I found it incredibly difficult to really get my mind into a mode where I felt absolutely no need for money. I have a fairly good imagination and I'm really good at putting myself in various perspectives, so I can only imagine how difficult it would be for others who aren't so good at it.

I think what finally helped me was living at the farmhouse in India, where I knew that I didn't need to worry about money for the next six months or so (since that was how much I had budgeted). When I finally succeeded in really getting my mind to believe that I had absolutely no need for money — when I got myself to believe I already had a billion dollars in the bank and no financial issues to worry about — it was like the fog had lifted. I suddenly realized what I needed to do and what direction to start heading.

Money, and the need for money, has incredible power to cloud our judgment. It makes finding our real passion more difficult and causes us to make choices in life that we know go against our true desires.

Like you said, changing our mentality right now is the first step.


[Reply](#)


4.  *Laxmi* says:

[May 11, 2010 at 12:25 am](#)

Wildly clear perception...
beautifully posted, keep moving forward Raam...

[Reply](#)

o  *Raam Dev* says:
[May 11, 2010 at 1:20 am](#)


Thank you, mom! 

[Reply](#)


5.  *Tracy* says:


[May 29, 2010 at 4:54 pm](#)

Love it: "People don't gravitate towards a niche, they gravitate towards like-minded ideas, goals, and visions." Bang on. It's taken me a little while to nut this one out, worrying that I hadn't properly identified my niche, but I think you are so right. In business, as in life, it is all about the


We're travelling different paths, dare say we've had rather different upbringings, yet sound like we're converging on a crossroads somewhere...  Loved this post, Raam, and where you are on your journey + your vision for the world. Good stuff.

[Reply](#)

o  *Tracy* says:
[May 29, 2010 at 4:55 pm](#)

...and that was meant to say "In business, as in life, it is all about the relationships." Not sure how I lost that word! LOL 

[Reply](#)

▪  *Raam Dev* says:
[May 29, 2010 at 8:35 pm](#)

Thank you, Tracy! I totally agree: It's all about the relationships and the value we bring to the table (in the form of skills, ideas, visions, goals, etc.). Instead of trying to put ourselves in boxes (in the form of niches), we should be putting our brains towards like-minded goals and BUILDING those boxes to improve the world around us.

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