

**Introduction to Biomimicry**  
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**Lecture - 10**  
**Recap of Week 1**

So, we are in the first, anyone, second session, right? So why am I doing this now? This is called the recap. You must be wondering, why recap? I do not know how many of you have aspirations to teach or how many of you want to become, you know, make great presentations, how many of you want to actually be able to convince an audience about something.

A recap is one of the essential things about anything that you are presenting, right? So, for instance, the goal, I do not know whether you have heard the golden rules of presentation. The golden rules of presentation are, 'say what you want to say', 'say what you are saying', and 'say what you have just said'.

So, in other words, you can tell the audience 'What you are going to tell them', 'tell them' And 'tell them what you have told them'. So right now, the purpose of the recap is to tell you what we told you in the last class. And why is that important? That is important because it helps to maintain continuity. Otherwise, every session looks disjointed, right?

The session is week by week only because you cannot do all the sessions at one time, but there is continuity. And because one week has elapsed since the last session, it is important to do the recap so that you connect the last session and today's session.

As far as the recap is concerned, I am not going to speak much because you must have already gone through the presentations in the last class. Before I actually tell you what we told you, how many of you have become biomimics? Because I became a biomimic, fell in love completely with biomimicry after the first class I attended.

How many of you have started to tell your friends that you are doing biomimicry? That is one good sign of an emotional connect to something or someone, right? You

start to tell other people about what you have read, what you have, what you are learning, and all that. How many of you have started to walk in a garden and paused near a leaf and said what is the leaf teaching me?

Which is what biomimicry is, right? Last time we learned when you said what is biomimicry, what did you learn? You learned that you look at nature, you observe nature, you look at the strategies that nature employs to solve a problem and you imitate those strategies. That is biomimicry. You also learned what is not biomimicry.

You learned about bioutilization and biomorphism and all that, right? Now that is to help you distinguish between what is biomimicry and what is not biomimicry. So, biomimicry is very clear to you. You actually look at the strategies and you imitate or you abstract the strategies and you imitate that strategy into solving a world problem. You also learned why biomimicry.

For me, that was an important lesson because it helps you understand why you are learning something, and why you are doing something. Why biomimicry? I do not know how many of you added to the reasons that we gave out last time. But for me the reason always remains that I am hoping that in whatever life there is left of me, I will be able to work towards the transformation of today's world.

Today's world is in trouble. Because we are facing an environmental disaster. But we know that someone who has 3.8 billion years of wisdom can help us to get over that disaster. But it will take some time. It is going to take some time, and therefore the reason for learning biomimicry could be transformative innovation. For me, that is my favorite.

And of course, this newfound respect I have for nature is something that I want to learn biomimicry for because I want to increase my respect. When someone teaches me what does it mean? It means that she is my teacher and I give her respect, right? I do not throw trash at my teacher, because I respect my teacher.

Now what I am learning, what I learned, and I am sure many of you will agree with me is that if nature is 3.8 billion years old, and if we are learning from nature, nature

is also our teacher. And if I am going to look at nature as my teacher, I am not going to throw trash at my teacher. And this is one of the things that I started to learn. I was not extremely responsible about throwing plastic before I started learning biomimicry.

But after I learned biomimicry, this change has come over me. I am starting to respect nature. When I am about to throw some plastic, I hesitate. I say no, I will not throw trash on my teacher. So maybe these are the thoughts that went through your mind when you are learning biomimicry the last time. You also learned the design principles of nature.

We learned that nature employs very powerful principles in order to make design, in order to make things, right? We are going to be talking about that much more extensively later on. But for me, if I have to divide biomimicry into biomimicry 1.0 and biomimicry 2.0, then biomimicry 2.0 will be the design principles. And I am hoping that someday, all of us, whenever we make any product or process, we will use the design principles.

And you also learned, of course, you, I do not know how many of you have already bought the book, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, by Robert Kanigel. But I am sure many of you have googled Ramanujan. And we did that simply because we wanted to inspire you with that, right?

We wanted you to have someone in your life you could look up to, someone you could emulate, I am using the word emulate for Ramanujan too, right? And I hope many of you read that letter that he wrote completely. We also prompted you to start the biomimicry diary, right? We started to let you know what activities you can do.

And from now, almost every class or whenever you feel like, whenever you read something, you can start filling up those pages. So, this is what we did in the last class. And this is a recap. The recap again, as I said is important because now it is easy for us to continue to the next portion of what we want to do.