



## Stanford eCorner

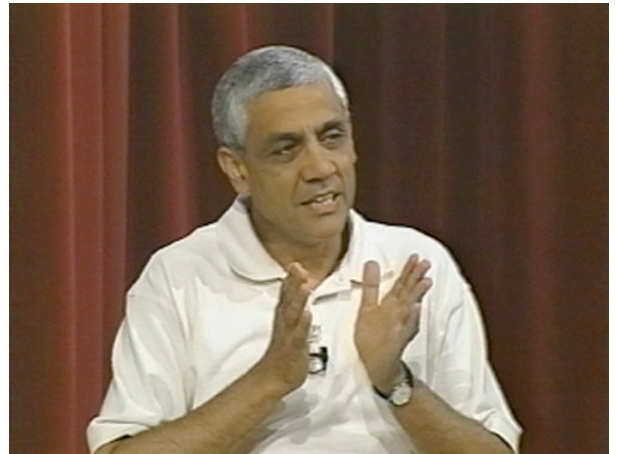
### Company Building to Change the World

Vinod Khosla, *Khosla Ventures*

April 24, 2002

Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/22/Company-Building-to-Change-the-World>

Entrepreneurs are far less successful when they are trying to make money--they are much more successful when they have a mission to change the world. No matter what you do, Khosla says, you have to be foolish to do what an entrepreneur attempts. Whatever your value proposition is, it should have the goal of making the world a better place and you should feel passionately about your contribution. If you don't have this and you run into an obstacle, you get stuck. If you are passionate about your product and your message, you can power through problems more easily.



#### Transcript

And entrepreneurs are generally I believe far less successful when they try and make money. They're much more successful when they have a mission to change the world. The reason is, and maybe this is the wrong time to go into it but I'll go into it anyway since I have the mic, no matter what you do, I said you have to be foolish to try and go do what most entrepreneurs do. Part of that is this religious belief in whatever your value proposition, whatever your mission is. When you don't have that, you run into an obstacle, you stop. When you're religious about your belief system, you power through seemingly unsurpassable obstacles because you have this belief, this religion. You want to propagate your message. You want it to go through. It's not the right financial decision. It's not even the logical decision but you power through problems and you're more likely to be successful when you do that because nobody gets through building a company without lots and lots of black Mondays or black days.

Sunday is a day we call black Monday. I was talking to Mark Leslie who founded Veritas and he asked me how many black days did you have, because every successful entrepreneur has lots and lots of really black days they can look back on when the world seemed to come apart.