

Swanvesha

JUNE 2025

◇ TALLY HO PG. 2
Welcome notes

◇ MUSINGS PG. 3
It's not our abilities, but
our choices, that make
us, who we are

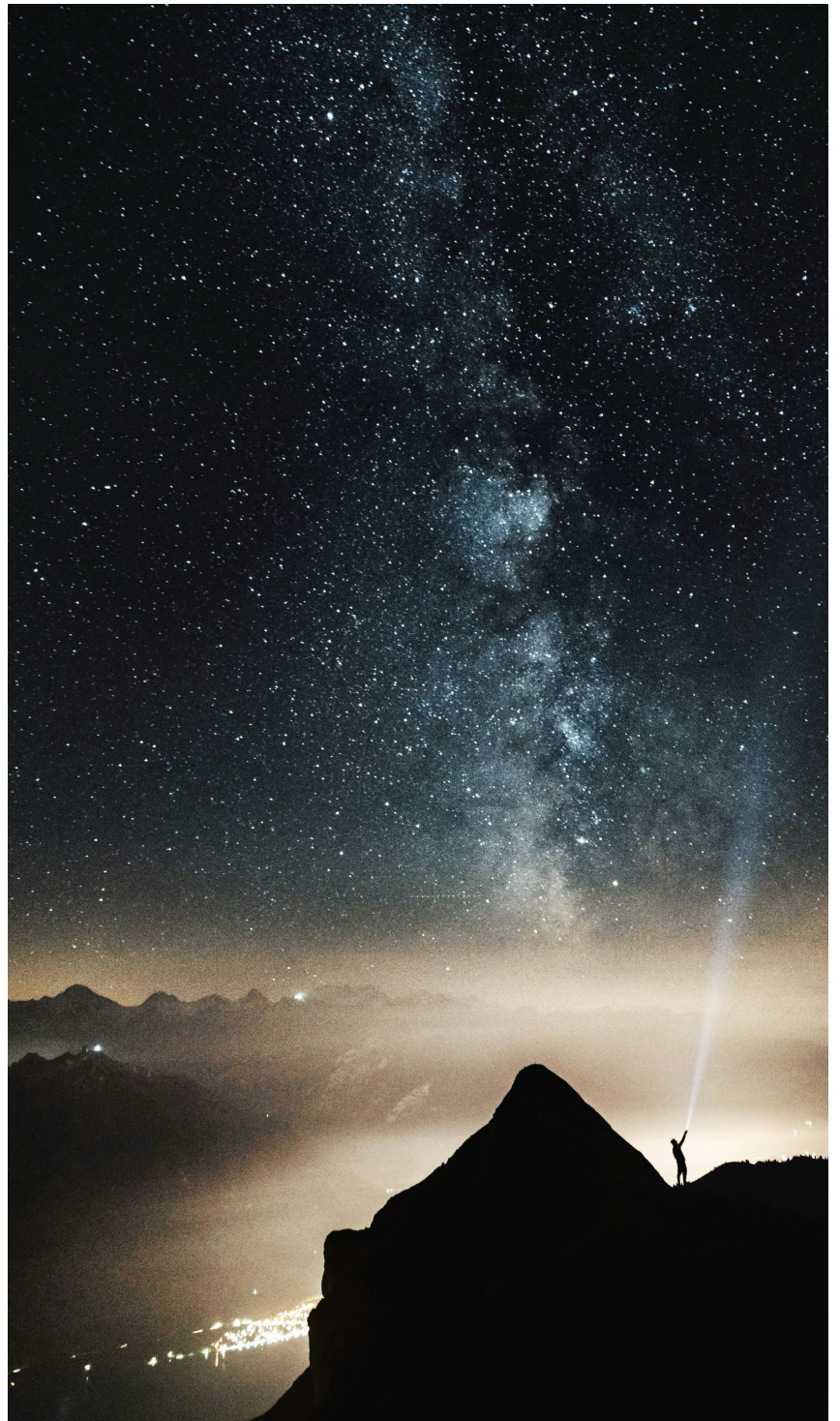
◇ NOVELLA PG. 4
You are a wizard Harry

◇ CORPORATE CULTURE PG. 5
There's no Hogwarts
without you Hagrid

◇ HASTA LUEGO PG. 6
Hogwarts or
Hogwash?

“Potter, take Weasley with you. He
looks far too happy over there.”

– Minerva McGonagall (*The Half Blood Prince*)



WELCOME TO SWANVESHA

Swanvesha (*Swa-Anvesha*, Sanskrit for *Self-Inquiry*) offers insights, stories, and actionable strategies to help leaders grow and adapt in an ever-changing world. Stay informed, inspired, and lead with purpose.

Photo by [Dino Reichmuth](#) on [Unsplash](#)



WELCOME NOTES

My daughter has recently become a Potterhead. For the yet uninitiated it's a popular term used to describe devoted fans of the Harry Potter series, both the books and the movies. With my days now filled with tales of *"The Boy Who Lived,"* it seems Pottermania has woven its magic into my thoughts this month. So, with that spirit in mind: *"Alohomora!"*

The Harry Potter series is filled with so many memorable lines, and I've taken the liberty of exploring a few while weaving stories around them. In ***Musings***, we explore a Sufi story about greed and how our choices make us, who we are. Sometimes, what seems obvious to one person can be a revelation to another. In ***Novella***, we revisit an old story about a lion raised among sheep, exploring themes of identity and self-discovery. Finally, in ***Corporate Culture***, we shine a light on unsung heroes—those vital contributors who may not make the headlines but are no less significant

I am an Executive and Leadership Coach Connect with me on my website www.swanvesha.com for more resources. Or write to me at swanvesha@gmail.com Happy reading.

Photo by [Austin Ban](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Musings



‘ITS NOT OUR ABILITIES, BUT OUR CHOICES THAT MAKE US WHO WE ARE’



“There is a Sufi story about a poor man who was returning home after work, with his donkey. On his way, he found an uncut diamond. Unaware of its value, he thought it would make a nice toy for his children or a decorative piece for his donkey. He tied it around the donkey’s neck and continued his journey.

A jeweler, passing by, noticed the diamond and was astonished. Stopping abruptly, he asked the potter, “How much will you take for that stone?” The potter, clueless about its worth replied, “One coin will do Sir”

The jeweler, sensing an opportunity, became greedy. “One coin? Are you mad? I’ll give you half a coin instead.” The man declined, saying, “That is too little. I’d rather keep it as a decoration for my donkey.” The jeweler rode off, thinking the poor man would eventually accept his offer when he returned later. Soon after, another jeweler, riding by stopped and inquired about the diamond. The potter replied, “The price was one coin, but since there’s interest, it’s now two coins.” Without hesitation, the second jeweler paid the two coins and took the diamond.

Later, the first jeweler returned, prepared to pay the original price. To his dismay, the man informed him that the diamond had already been sold. Shocked, the jeweler exclaimed, “Sold? For how much?”

“Two coins,” the man replied calmly.

The jeweler, furious, said, “You sold a diamond worth a fortune for just two coins! Are you insane?”

The surprised potter said, “I did not know that it was a diamond. And I was happy to get 2 coins for it. But you knew that it was a diamond. Was it not worth a coin to you?”

Sometime, there is no need to explain any point of view. As Hermione says from *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* “**Honestly, don’t you two read?**”

Photo by [Edson Junior](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Novella



“YOU ARE A WIZARD. HARRY”



Hagrid’s famous line is so ordinary and obvious to everyone except to Harry. For him, those words were a revelation, a spark that shattered his mundane reality. Because for him, *“That made all the difference.”*

There is a parable about a lion who was raised by sheep. Once upon a time, a lion cub was separated from its mother and found by a flock of sheep. The lion grew up with them, believing it was a sheep, mimicking their bleats, grazing on grass, and fearing predators just like the rest of the flock.

One day, an old lion came upon the flock. While the sheep scattered, the young lion tried to flee too. The older lion, intrigued by this unusual behavior, chased and caught the young lion and asked him, “Why are you running from me?” The young lion, trembling, replied, “I am a sheep. Please don’t hurt me.”

The older lion, astonished, took the young lion to a nearby lake and said, “Look into the water and see your reflection.” The young lion gazed into the lake and, for the first time, saw its true self—a lion, not a sheep. The older lion roared and urged the young lion to do the same. At first hesitant, the young lion eventually let out a roar, awakening to its true nature.

If you were to ask yourself, what are you? You might find it quite difficult to summarize. Because what we believe about ourselves is always partial. People close to us have a different image of us. And the ones on the periphery have some other image. I am not taking you through a rabbit hole, but the point remains, who are we? Are we lions, sheep, wizard or something else. I believe we are a summary of all of these and more. That is what makes us, who we are.

This moment of recognition is pivotal in Leadership development

Strengthening leadership isn’t just about building new skills but also about knowing which aspects of ourselves need nurturing. Are you someone with untapped courage? A natural strategist waiting for the right stage? Or perhaps an empathetic guide who hasn’t yet stepped into the spotlight? Understanding who we are—our lion, sheep, and everything in between—is the first step. The next is honing those qualities, turning them into the foundations of impactful leadership. And that’s the true magic of leadership development: not making us into something we’re not but helping us become the fullest, most effective version of ourselves.



“THERE’S NO HOGWARTS WITHOUT YOU HAGRID”

When Harry Potter uttered these words in *The Chamber of Secrets*, it was a moment that brought tears to many eyes. The slow applause that grew into a thunderous cheer was a celebration of his return from Azkaban. Similarly, Neville Longbottom exemplified bravery and loyalty when it mattered most. His stirring speech after Harry’s apparent death in *The Deathly Hallows* became a defining moment of resilience and hope

Leadership, as anyone who has studied it knows, comes in many forms. Figures like Hagrid and Neville may not seek the spotlight, but their deep knowledge, reliability, and courage make them indispensable. In the corporate world, we’ve seen similar trajectories: Mary Barra rose from an intern to the CEO of GM, and Sam Palmisano started as an executive assistant before leading IBM.

And then there are leaders, whose acts would never have seen the light of day but for sheer luck. Sir Nicholas Winton for saving 669 children during the Great War, Nils Bohlin, who came up with the visionary design that has saved millions of lives – the seat belt, and finally, “The Tank Man.” Some of us are old enough to remember the photo of a solitary man with a shopping bag, who stood in front of a line of tanks rolling onto Tiananmen Square. Or Anita Khatavkar, my next-door neighbour who gave shelter to our family of 4, another family of 5 and our old maid, for 2 nights and 1 day when the neighbourhood was flooded with 6-8 feet of water. It’s been 23 years, but *that kind of act left a mark*, to quote Albus Dumbledore

Their stories mirror the lives of those who quietly shape the world, from corporate innovators to brave individuals who take a stand when it matters or simply because, it is the right thing to do. Every organization and community thrive on the contributions of those who may never seek recognition but are invaluable to its success. Let us celebrate these heroes, for they embody the essence of leadership – *the impact they leave behind*.

Photo by [Andy Sanchez](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Hasta Luego (See you later)



THANK YOU

Thank you very much for reading my newsletter. I hope you enjoyed it. As we wind down, here is something lighthearted.

While proofreading this newsletter with my wife, she pointed out that in "Musings," I wrote about how our choices define us, not our abilities. Yet, the second piece focuses on finding out who you truly are.

She asked, "Aren't these ideas contradicting each other? What exactly are you trying to say?"

To which I humbly replied: "If you see the connection, welcome to Hogwarts. If not... well, maybe it's just a bit of Hogwash.

The stare that followed was nothing short of the *Cruciatius Curse*.
Until next time, *Arresto Momentum!*

Photo by [Jayme McColgan](#) on [Unsplash](#)