

The better mousetrap.

I grew up in a country where technology is exorbitantly expensive. Television, VCR's, automobiles were all the domain of the rich. What you could do depended on how rich you were.

I learnt of a country called America, where fortune awaited any man who could build a better mousetrap. I thought that it was a brilliant metaphor for an idea. That meant that any man with an idea, regardless of race, or creed, or academic background could build a better life in America if he just had the desire to implement it.

I set out for America. Here I am today, all set to build "the better mousetrap". So many ideas, so many ways to enrich the lives of people. Ideas to be known and remembered by. A Tesla, an Edison, a Ford in my own way.

Then, I hear of new laws, DCMA, etc. Formulated specifically to prevent an individual from creating, or learning from another's works.

I think that maybe America has found the perfect mousetrap after all. And there is no need to innovate any further....Or, is there?

-Pandurang Rao

Note: The nuances of patent and copyright laws are best left to the professors of law. I've taken a simplistic view of the issue.