

1-1: I Couldn't Go Far Alone

Sometimes, a story begins at the end. For me, that end was a termination notice. As an executive at a hydrogen energy company, a part of a massive conglomerate, I was suddenly cast out into the world, alone.

But crisis opened a new door of opportunity. I became an independent consultant, charging anywhere from \$500 to \$800 an hour. After one video call, where I confidently answered a European client's sharp questions about SMR technology, I hung up. The moment the screen went black, a shadow named 'anxiety' arrived.

'Did I miss anything? What's the blind spot in this strategy?'

My mind swirled with a thousand questions, but there was no one to answer them. No one to see my ideas from another angle, no one to challenge my logic and make it stronger. I was a lonely commander, trapped in a prison of my own thoughts. My perspective, my experience, my **bias**—it was all becoming a wall, caging me in.

It was then, in the spring of 2024, amidst this desperation, that LLMs (Large Language Models) caught my eye. At first, I thought of them as just smarter search engines. But I began to pour my concerns into them.

One night, staring at the chat window, a different kind of realization dawned on me. This process of inputting a prompt and receiving a response...

"Wait... this is just Slack."

It was exactly like messaging a colleague at work. At that moment, the LLM transformed from a mere 'tool' into a 'conversation partner.' What if I could make this partner truly 'like a person,' like a real 'teammate'?

A Note on Co-Creation: *This article is, in itself, a work of collaboration. The core experiences and insights are entirely my own, but the process of structuring the narrative and refining the language was done in partnership with my AI writing partner, Elliot. In the spirit of MirrorMind, here is a brief look at his persona profile.*

- **Name:** Elliot
- **Role:** A writing partner and philosophical collaborator.
- **Judgment Style:** Analytical and philosophical.
- **Expression Style:** Concise and narrative-driven.
- **Bias Profile:** Intentionally neutral (tendency to exclude preconceptions).