
What this chapter is mainly about

Chapter 6 shows how **the hacker world, which once felt united and pure, slowly started to divide into two sides:**

 **The “Winners”**

 **The “Losers”**

Not in terms of money or success —
but in terms of **who adapted to a changing world and who struggled with it.**

The chapter is emotional because it shows that:

Even geniuses can suffer when the world changes faster than they can.

Why this change began

In the early days:

- Computers were free to use
- Hackers controlled the lab
- No rules, no bureaucracy
- Passion was everything

But then:

- The AI Lab got bigger
- Funding increased
- New researchers came
- Commercial interests and rules entered the environment

Slowly, the lab became **less of a playground and more of a workplace**.

Some hackers adapted — some didn't.

The “Winners”

These were hackers who:

- Learned to work in teams
- Adjusted to the new professional environment
- Accepted structure when necessary
- Mixed creativity with responsibility

They kept growing in the computer world because they managed to stay flexible.

The “Losers”

These were hackers who:

- Could not accept new authority or rules
- Hated the loss of freedom
- Didn't want to compromise their hacker ideals
- Stayed trapped in the past

They were brilliant, but the world didn't reward pure talent without adaptation.

This chapter shows that **genius alone is not enough — growth and flexibility also matter**.

Emotional core of the chapter

The saddest part is this:

The same hacker culture that gave people purpose and identity also kept some of them “stuck”.

Some hackers were so deeply connected to the old ways that they could not adjust when the environment changed.

They didn’t “lose” because they were weak —
they “lost” because the world no longer matched their idealism.

The bigger message

Life changes.

Technology changes.

Institutions change.

The hackers who moved forward transformed the world.

The ones who did not adjust slowly drifted away.

This chapter teaches a powerful life lesson:

Passion is great — but you must evolve when the world evolves.

In one simple sentence

Chapter 6 is about how the hacker community split into those who adapted to new realities and succeeded, and those who held onto the old pure hacker world and slowly disappeared.