



Conclusion

Finally, the last lesson emphasizes to the candidates that there are other more important things in life to spend time on and care about than money. One should not get sucked into the never ending game of chasing more and more dollars, being happy is far more important than a heavy bank balance.

The Valley is a magical place. A great equalizer between the haves and have-nots that has seen immigrant workers go from rags to riches and, along the way, churned out truly transformational technology. As immigrant transplants, we lived through the epic rise of the Silicon Valley and the unprecedented dominance of FAANG and FAANG-like companies. The glitz of the valley can have a very hard pull, and before you know it, you are already putting in eighty-hour work weeks. Six-packs out of undergrad slowly morph into beer bellies over company-sponsored happy hours and team lunches. The unicorn, startup, or FAANG you work for becomes your identity. Unwittingly you become an official participant of the perpetual rat-race with no finish-line.

If you are just starting out of college, by all means, go for the most challenging job you can find where learning new stuff feels like drinking out of a firehose. But eventually, you will want to find a pace that works for you and is sustainable with your lifestyle. Recently, some friends of ours forwent the opportunity to work at Facebook in favor of more family-friendly companies such as



Salesforce and Microsoft. The younger you are, the more easily you can thrive in a high-pressure environment such as Facebook.



As you grow older and wiser, putting in all-nighters becomes straining, marriage and kids take away the free time you had as a bachelor, and ramping up at new jobs takes months rather than weeks. It is then that you should weigh-in factors other than just dollars when deciding your next gig.



Lastly, our parting advice to our readers is to assess their own unique situation and evaluate an offer holistically. No amount of money, stocks, options, bonds, or bitcoin can buy you time or health. Striking a balance in life is far more important than a few extra million dollars in the bank account. It is ok to be ambitious, and it is ok to want to earn more money, but one should not get carried away in chasing dreams and goals so as to forget to live a healthy, enjoyable life and spend quality time with friends and family.

Take that sabbatical if your company offers one, or take a year off work to rest and rejuvenate if you can afford to. Work to live, not live to work. Pursue happiness, not fiat or crypto.

With best wishes,

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