

Don't look up to Elon Musk, be Jon Male

## VANITY FOR GOOD (chapter title)

Citing specific human examples of who you should and should not make your future after in some form is perhaps unorthodox or ill-advised in this context, but I wouldn't know - what I do know is that openly worshipping Elon Musk at this moment in human history makes you look dumb. If anything, I would suggest that you keep your thoughts about him to yourself. I don't think I should suggest, unqualified, that you be ingenuine about him (or anything discussed in this volume.) Without ranting, here is my most succinct explanation:

For the sake of clarification, I do not personally think Elon Musk is an unintelligent man in many aspects we have traditionally celebrated from the "genius" white men throughout history. The original Tesla product - the Roadster - was an electrified Lotus Elise. I have never driven one, but the automotive media's reception of the insatiable company's implementation

I  
The Model S car of the year ~~MT~~ issue when Bill was 55

Remember African fast action low budget movies

Should have been  
of what theoretically sounds like a  
massive waste of time<sup>A</sup> was surprisingly  
positive. I have absolutely no idea how  
the stock market works, but I implicitly  
trust Matt Farah's criticism of Tesla's  
business plan - to prioritize pleasing  
investors over making quality products.  
(Or at least that's where they've ended  
up.) I could add that - if this were  
wholly, truly the way the company intends  
to operate, they will have managed the  
impressive feat of blowing up any  
value they ever had as disruptors of  
the industry in a fraction of the time  
it took their opposing dinosaurs to turn  
into explicit, government-bailed out  
scrubs.<sup>B</sup> I want to be sensitive about  
this: I realize that Elon has let many of  
you down - I might even say us down,  
because I remember being genuinely elated  
by MotorTrend's declaration of the Model S  
as 2009's Car of the Year under Ed Loh  
as EIC. When I encountered the opportunity  
to drive one very briefly ~~one~~ year later,

Elon Musk says his mind is like a "constant explosion  
of ideas."

"I am pro-human, I think humanity is great!"

and he tries to make the future exciting!

For better or worse, I am going to have to talk about Joe Rogan

all of Tesla's energy should be gone into Hydrogen

I thought my (16-year-old) self very clever in saying "The Tesla Model S" would be the best car in the world right now if it were powered by an internal combustion engine. It was a genuine revolution if only because it was the only company in 1 year to successfully design, produce, and sell a mainstream automotive product. DeLorean, Bricklin... I wish they had instead (Especially the latter.) <sup>This year</sup> <sup>Today,</sup> according to Jonny Lieberman, Tesla is expected to sell 200,000 motorcars, which as he repeats to Matt - nobody thought was at all likely. Frankly, I had hoped they would do literally anything else than what they have since the Model S-X, because Crossovers are literally the worst scam in ~~the~~ recent auto industry history, the 3 because it was underwhelming and apparently made poorly, the Roadster???, the Cybertruck because it is surely going to be stupid (if it is ever ~~perhaps~~ <sup>they have outdone my</sup> Jiming Wang before with the original Roadster, <sup>so...</sup>)

Ipsum ipsum hippity hop a terminology section  
Last sentences of the preface: of the preface

I hope you have fun and that you  
actually built) and the Semi because Hydrogen.  
~~seems like built,~~ and is especially worth waiting for in the case  
of long haul trucking.

On the other hand, that number is a  
quantification of the pressure the legacy  
companies are feeling from Tesla's success, which -  
Gould willing - will lead to smarter decisions,  
more mindful innovation, and other changes toward  
modernization, generally. Out of a combination of  
personal biases and convictions about the heading  
the industry should pivot to, I really hope emulating  
Tesla is at the very bottom of the idea bin.

Regarding <sup>his</sup> car company, there are other  
flops and muted (e.g. the home depot weather  
stripping,) but <sup>Elon Musk's</sup> perhaps Most Vulgar Moment  
(Perhaps America's top five of the past decade)

was SpaceX's launch of a Tesla Roadster  
into Earth's orbit, in the way of ~~spacecraft~~  
of different missions... complete with cameras  
and a funny custom blowup driver. I  
cannot imagine a single version of myself  
after toddlerhood - as a space and auto-interested  
person - that would find the stunt at all  
reasonable or justifiable. Heroes of mine



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- Payoff

I am probably going to actively listen to all  
of Joe Rogan's interviews, but only want to cite  
<sup>with music</sup>  
<sub>commercial</sub> Kava Swisher's

throughout both private and military aviation.  
history - Charles Lindbergh, the Wright Brothers,  
Jimmy Doolittle, Chuck Yeager, the Tuskegee  
Airmen, and so on - I cannot imagine any  
(save for a drunk Pappy Boyington, perhaps,) who  
would be pleased in the knowledge that enough  
people signed off on the launch in 2018 (?)  
for it to actually fucking happen. My  
true ability to speak for these men  
is at a casual history nerd level for  
most of them. I had the ridiculously immense  
privilege of meeting the surviving Tuskegee  
Airmen in 2004, but was far too star-  
struck (and outclassed as a 16-year-old student pilot/  
aviation nerd) to engage in any meaningful  
conversation. Otherwise, I know <sup>much</sup> less about  
them than I should. ~~Charles Lindbergh~~ &  
cannot imagine any of those men giving  
their blessing to such an expenditure of  
resources for a marketing stunt. I also  
seriously doubt any of them would say  
that ~~R&D~~ resources expenditure toward  
Mars exploration/habitation is at all appropriate  
at this cultural moment.

Yes, they really do immediately come across as the  
most extraordinary human beings imaginable.

↙ our narrative about our future

I play around a lot, yes, but we have got to figure out a way to stop little billionaire boys like Elon from playing around with our future.

Charles Lindbergh might, but I suspect he would understand and immediately comply with our instructions to shut the fuck up and zoom back in to the stuff on which he would believe a genius. As someone who has idolized, studied, derided, rejected, and defended Charles Lindbergh throughout my whole life up to this point, I have a ~~desperate~~ strong longing for acute timetraveling fantasy that could in which I manage to refocus him back to his core subjects ~~before~~ he ever said/ published the shit that may or may not have actively supported Nazism... I'm almost sure Philip Roth would spin violently in his grave if I claimed that Charles Lindbergh could hate what he saw from America's President and richest companies, if you were to revive him for a day tour of his country in 2020. frankly, I would be far overreaching ~~any~~ what authority I do have on his mind if I did not specify that the "Slim" I know, just before after he landed in Le Bourget field on the night of , or

→ pull the Lindbergh biography in the browser

I will often use the luxury of expressing my own personal preferences in this book, but (hopefully) never at the expense of insight.

in 1927

the Slim he thought he was, while he finished the last revisions to The Spirit of St. Louis' manuscript in 1952. That Slim would call Elon Musk a fool, Trump a lying buffoon, and Jeff Bezos an ignorantly gluttonous, though I seriously doubt he would use these words. The worldview ~~temperament~~ presented in that one book is - dare I say it - perfectly clean of cultural suppositions. It is a book written by the Slim who was an aviator, only, or at least the Nazi-sympathizing, kindof shady-as-hell, adulterous, middle-age ~~Elon~~ Charles, in he saw himself in 1927, in a moment of clarity. (Or, perhaps he just had excellent editors and public relations assets whom he actually listened to.) The differences between this man and Elon Musk are important insight. The latter is a manchild with a terrifying imagination, far too ready access to vast resources, <sup>and</sup> far too much power who can sit down for hours pulling vaguely technological and scientific abstracts out of his ass accompanied by utterly delusional timelines and a practical

This book is not pickup artistry. I really hope it's not, anyway.

This is definitely not a fitness book in any sense, but fit dudes will find it otherwise informative pro-technology bent. He is myself and many other young cis white boys at 16, sitting at the ~~table~~ high school lunch table, having brought our "weird" hypotheticals about technology to candle cut. The spectacle of the hypotheticals; the contrast of the absolutely most bonkers happenings our imaginations could collectively manifest. Nuclear sea mines? Hilarious! I can't believe anyone ever thought this was a good idea, dude! We were allowed to do this by our innate, adolescent ignorance and privilege crossing a handful of demographic variables. We were comfortable in that space playing with the massively destructive playthings of nonsense and the hypothetical experiences of the disfranchised, individually fictional or not. We were allowed our private proverbial dark smoky room in which to share our oppressive imperialist inside jokes, fucking "noodling" <sup>them</sup> edgy what if's. There, we taught ourselves to be insensitive and excused each other's most malignant bigotry. Should we have been allowed this developmental discourse? I do not have the answer, largely

If something passes you off, call me, text me,  
my personal cellular number is printed on the inside  
cover and last page.

because the least-expected National and  
global events have happened since. Never  
did we think <sup>some</sup> our absurdities would play  
out in reality almost verbatim in less than  
10 years. Never did we consider that  
real events would be outperforming the  
~~darkest~~ part of our creative imaginations —  
not in our lifetimes. Not until dystopia.  
We are certainly living in it, now, and  
I often wonder <sup>what</sup> ~~where~~ our currently - 18, 17, 18  
year-old equivalents have to say. At this  
moment, they are confined to their  
homes, during a global pandemic expected  
to kill future again as many of  
their fellow Americans, anticipating the  
most consequential (and absurd) Presidential  
election in the country's history. (As I  
write, election day is the morning after  
tomorrow.) Their actual leaders are  
worse than their collective imaginations'  
worst villains, ~~both~~ and nothing about  
the spectacle is truly funny because  
reality is now at risk. If they have  
a round table, they've had to create it

"the new sincerity" included in subtitle.

## alternatives to "presub": DISCLAIMATION

themselves, and is not only proverbial, but virtual. When they do gather, it is within an identical software (and language, therefore,) as their parents' virtual workplaces. Enterprise now leaves no sacred ground. Enterprise has left no more sacred ground at all. Sharing the shit with one's high school friends is now a process of "sharing the meeting invite link," "connection to the meeting," "joining the meeting." Surely, they are so much more somber. Surely, they are even more desperate for any means of escapism. However, they do have more tools than we did to deal with their mental health. They are more sincere, if perhaps even less comfortable in themselves. Surely, they are so much more worried about their future, but perhaps they are better-equipped to be constructively skeptical of the power structures around them. Good willing, they all already know it is never okay for a white person to use the N-word or for anyone to use the R and Z-letter homophobic P-word slurs. I desperately

syn

II

A yawn from that TSI episode.  
Blonk's ventures have gotten federal money for Shit  
that was never delivered - Howard Hughes

hope they've been far more exposed to gender as ~~as~~ spectrums, perhaps even by their teachers! Hopefully, the non-gender-conforming, homosexual, non-white among them feel much safer exploring themselves in their day-to-day lives. I believe they are further along, wholly, in their social development than we were, for better or worse. Therefore, I suspect they have transcended ~~any~~ most visible parallels with Elon Musk, who has not grown as a person. Even our gaggle was disgusted with him and all worship (not worshipers) of him, but I suspect our predecessors are much more articulately so, in all the ways that matter. These suppositions would remain ~~more~~ or less of the same accuracy even minus COVID, or any other of the singular challenges this country has faced since 2015. I also believe whatever progress they have ahead our folk at that age will have to pay for it in some impossible-to-predict (or even conceive) trial, later in their adult lives. What would I say?

Entertain me, okay. You bought the goddamned book! Give me one shot at all of it if you can stand it, yeah.

to my 18-year-old self? None of the platitudes I'd already been senselessly bludgeoned with for the entirety of my life, despite how fucking keen they have continued to turn out to be. ☺ In case you're like me and don't pick up nonverbal communications well, I am ~~saying~~<sup>demanding</sup> to you older folks an immediate cessation of your bludgeoning. Say something concrete, specific, and reasonably unique, or do not speak! Repeated exposure to identical stimuli leads to desensitization! The amount of times you can say even the most contextually mindful shit like "I promise, you'll see one day... if I'll all make sense and you'll be saying this sentence to your youngers." and actually achieve refinement is far far less than your elderly brain wants you to believe.

Specific instructions are best, I've found the most essential bullet points to send to my past self are often terms to learn/define/pursue. "Ask/research from a variety of leftist sources what they mean

As much as I would love to say  
"guess what? you're going to ~~buy~~ for essay,  
criticism and be desperate to ~~get in~~ school!.."

when they use the term <sup>#1</sup> power, especially  
in discussions / conjunction with race/racism,  
class, and production. (Yes, in that fucking  
specific order, you cringey crotin!)

As part of very recent concessions, I am  
very tempted to include "yes, you really  
will have to find a balanced routine, or  
fucking die. They are right about that.

Look again at your role models' lives. Look  
at all natural processes. Cycles, bitch!" However -  
in this <sup>done</sup> extremely hypothetical exercise for ~~the~~  
generally<sup>n</sup> for the sake of humor - we must  
acknowledge that your past, naïve, younger self  
wouldn't be interested in or able to listen  
to your two-cent wisdom simply because  
it is from their future selves. Metaphysical  
anecdote: our various "selves" across time appear  
as alien or morego than strangers. Not just  
per the biological process of cells being  
entirely replaced every so-and-so years (1)  
necessarily. If you were to pursue this  
further to the point of methodically  
systematically differentiating between your  
individual "selves" over time, I could suggest

Also writing the more specific stuff for those young men who never had somebody teach them basic shit like which direction you move a goddammed shaver on your face because I was not told reading yourself as a great place to start measuring. As soon as you experience the phenomena where your writing feels like it was written by someone else, entirely, you should lay down a new "self" marker.  
(Test 1 suggests I appear to gain a new self every other cigarette or so.)

You! Young, white, American man! You are so fucking undignified! Athletic shorts and a t-shirt do not make a whole, leaving-your-home outfit! On no planet I have ever visited do they constitute appropriate first-date wear! As I hope I sufficiently prefaced, Blame is not at work, here, and if it were, it would fall lastly on yourself. Society has let you down, along with your parents and any older siblings. We will have to address only a few counter-arguments on this most specific fashion absolute, but they will be a challenge. Apologies to my fellow Little Boys, but it's easiest to start with those of you who ~~consider regular~~ have made a priority to regularly engage in physical

Simulated

"good. It is natural."

Exercise and/or Physical Exertion (working out) in your day-to-day life. Allow me to suggest that alongside your desire to keep your body healthy, motivating all that effort is a precious, and highly-underrated, desire/compulsion for your body to appear healthy to other people. That's wonderful and natural! Now, I want you to extend that motivation toward the cloths in which you wrap your healthy body. Those of you who would respond "I already have! Athletic wear is what makes my body look the best!" Brothers, you are incorrect! No some would further respond "well okay, but athletic wear is SO much more comfortable than any other sort of clothing, I find it is worth it to sometimes appear fashionably out of context for the sake of my personal comfort." Brother, you have been misled!

First, think back to a time when you were sitting indoors at length, probably in a controlled climate, perhaps in a class or at a workstation. I suspect you did not have to think back far! You're

Yes, this is a valid conclusion which many men reach, but entertain me on this first before you

mention the cold class in shorts thing because I find it particularly miserable and also easy to ignore?)

I'm a man! I was made to suffer!

a clever young man - you know your athletic ~~weird~~ design wear was designed with body heat management as a top priority - either to keep you cool or keep you warm. (Or to keep you warm only for those first few minutes into your morning jog before you've warmed up. Yatta yatta.)

Even the cheapest athletic shorts have become astoundingly proficient at dissipating your body heat, to the extent that your body at rest in what are comfortable temperatures for those of us who are fully-dressed is going to freeze. I emphasize this dynamic specifically because of personal experience: I ~~have been the~~ one in Nike polyester basketball shorts, in a 90 minute class, freezing my ass off in a way I find particularly miserable yet somehow also easy to ignore.

What I would ask of you is to find yourself a pair of "good," \$70-something Levi jeans (check Goodwill before buying new) a "good," 100% cotton collared shirt (I would demand it be button-up, but that seems too much for that determination. An example of a man who for whom it really is ideal: my actual brother. But he is over 40)

A  
settle in

White or dark-colored jeans will pass for slacks in far too many job interviews, are way tougher and more comfortable.

like I'm just making you dress up as me,) that fits you in the "technical" use of the word - the way your grandmother would use it. A white dress shirt seems to be the best option for me, considering that you'll be able to use it for court, weddings, etc., long after you forget about this book. If you don't have one, get a brown leather belt from a thrift store. If you only have athletic socks (yes, it happens,) go buy a pack of "normal" or mildly - winterish (especially if your feet don't sweat or you're wearing athletic sneakers instead of extra credit loafers below,) not athletic ~~socks~~ 100% - cotton socks. If you're really all-in, find yourself a pair of shoes that were not designed for running, sports, running, hiking, working, or tap dancing. I don't actually know anything about ~~shoes~~, but most Americans don't, either. Boat shoes look an awful lot like dress shoes to me and seem to be fashionable-ish, currently. Dress "loafers" or "brogues" will

probably be the most handy in the future,