

# PROLOGUE

Deciding to write a book for the bitcoin space was not something I came to lightly. I'm a voracious reader of such books, and I've been impressed with many of them. The batting average of bitcoin books is very high, and it required a lot of nerve on my part to decide I had something relevant to contribute. While I don't expect anyone to say that this book is some masterpiece of literature, the reaction I do expect is that of curiosity and wonder, and I have no qualms promising this to a prospective reader. I've embarked upon several creative endeavors in the past. I've played live music, I've performed stand-up comedy, and I host several podcasts. What they all had in common at the point of genesis was that I believed in two things very strongly: 1) I brought something unique to the medium, and 2) I felt called to share it. I'm at the age where, when I have an overwhelming belief in my creativity, I don't hesitate.

Many writers in the bitcoin space would say things like "I didn't write this book, bitcoin did", or something similarly pretentious-sounding. I will be clear that I wrote this book, not bitcoin. However, bitcoin made it possible in so many ways that I don't really have better words for it. Up until a year ago, I had a highly successful career as an actuary and financial risk manager. While never rising to the executive ranks, my career was a Forrest Gump-like journey through the most storied companies, the collapses of significant fi-

nancial systems, and a scant few of the smartest people I've had the pleasure to meet and learn from. Discovering bitcoin was just one more step in that journey, but it was the one that put the nail in the coffin of ever being able to work for a traditional financial company in the capacity that I did. Two years of learning bitcoin, with a heightened urgency as though my life depended on it, led me to see very clearly what was valuable and what was not in my profession. I single-handedly built something of great value (which is the basis for many of the strategies I discuss in Part 3). My employer and I couldn't agree on how I should spend my time, and we parted ways. Suffice it to say, I could not have written this book had I still been working at that job. I'd never have even gotten the idea that I should do so, let alone the burning sense that I had to. Bitcoin doesn't write books, but it enables people to see value more clearly for themselves, particularly when it comes to what a person spends their scarce time on. Understanding what in the world comes from work and energy, as opposed to the stroke of someone's pen or from printed money, helps people clarify what has true value. I was out of work for six months before realizing I should write the book, but once the idea came, it was only a matter of days before I had a few thousand words and I knew the book would be written.

One month into beginning to write the book, I was in a serious car accident that could have cost me my life. Ironically, I was on my way to a bitcoin meetup, hoping to discuss the book with some people who I thought could help me. Thankfully, I was fine and had no injuries, but I walked away

with a sense of great gratitude and purpose. I felt completing the book was minor in the grand scheme of what the Good Lord wants me to do in this life. In addition to writing the book, I kept up with my math studies and started three new podcasts. Nothing slowed down, and I am continuing to find mediums through which to express myself and share my unique experience. Bitcoin didn't write the book, crash my car, or have me separated from my job. It gave me the clarity of vision to find the most productive and valuable next-step actions to take after all of these things happened. This is my wish for people, no matter where they are in life.

