

**All-In Podcast #177 - In conversation with Sheryl Sandberg, plus open-source AI gene
editing explained**

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David Friedberg

David Sacks had a last-minute board meeting so he will not be joining us.

Sheryl Sandberg

I'll be David Sacks.

David Friedberg

Please do your best impression.

Sheryl Sandberg

Can you imagine? Hi, Jason.

Jason Calacanis

Hello, sister. How are you?

Sheryl Sandberg

Jason, do you know what I'm about to do? I'm so excited. I'm so excited.

Jason Calacanis

Tell me.

Sheryl Sandberg

Do you remember @fakechamath?

Jason Calacanis

Of course. Yes, do we have the login?

Sheryl Sandberg

Do you have who that is? Of course, right?

Jason Calacanis

Oh, you're going to reveal who @fakechamath was?

Sheryl Sandberg

I'm revealing.

Jason Calacanis

Oh, wow. It's a big reveal. I mean - if we - I got to get -

Sheryl Sandberg

9 years later. I want that handle. I - I would like to get that handle and give it to someone to be - I'd hand it to you - whoever you want.

Jason Calacanis

Well, trust me, there's a lot of people who would love to have the @fakechamath handle.

Sheryl Sandberg

Well, how do I get it? Do I ask the - can I ask Linda at Twitter for it?

Chamath Palihapitiya

Yeah.

Jason Calacanis

I - you know, we might know somebody at Twitter who can reset the password.

Sheryl Sandberg

Maybe you can help me. I am so credible as the person who deserves that password.

Jason Calacanis

Of all the people who've suffered spending time with Chamath, you're - you're at the top of that list. If anybody has the right to mock Chamath. I mean - you've had to watch his growth over 20 years. You've had to suffer.

Sheryl Sandberg

I raised him. I raised Chamath. And he raised me right back.

[Intro Music]

Jason Calacanis

Alright, welcome back to the program, everybody. One of the guests we've always dreamed about having on the show. Is considering one of the great business operators of all time in Silicon Valley. For the past 20 years, Sheryl Sandberg was a key - some might say THE key - piece in building the two largest advertising and technology companies in the world: Google and Facebook. Paradoxically, they - they don't go by those names anymore - Alphabet and Meta. When she joined Google in 2001, it had \$20 million in revenue. They were private. And when she left in 2008, they had \$22 billion in revenue. When she joined Facebook in 2008, it was at \$270 million in revenue. When she left, it was at \$117 billion. Market caps of those two companies have grown a \$100 billion and \$950 billion during her tenures. And today, both are worth over \$3 trillion combined. And are the #4 and #7 market cap companies in the world. However, to our crew, she will always be bestie Dave Goldberg's dream girl, as he wants to describe it to me. He told me he pursued her relentlessly until she finally gave in, dated, and then married him, and started a beautiful family together. Dave Goldberg passed away 9 years ago this week in 2015. In an alternate universe - on a different timeline - Goldie would have been one of the four people on this panel because he was the most wise, funny Übermensch of the entire 10-person core poker group - the original poker group. In fact, he

was twice the man of any of us - which, given the low benchmark we've set, isn't that difficult. We can get at least three shows worth the wisdom from our current guest. But that's not why she's joining us today. She made a documentary and we're here to talk about that. And we'll have some time for business talk at the end, which is going to be a very hard pivot given the nature of the doc. The doc she co-produced is called Screens Before Silence. I watched it on the flight back from New York. I had to take three breaks and it took a lot of tissues if I'm being honest. It is one of the most difficult hours of viewing I've ever had in my life. It is focused on the sexual violence committed by Hamas during and after the October 7th attacks and which tragically, in all likelihood, continues today with the hostages who are still somewhere in Gaza. The documentary also takes on claims in our polluted journalistic conspiracy-filled media landscape - that claim that none of this happens. She traveled to Israel to conduct interviews for it. And outside of comforting the victims, she spends less than 90 seconds speaking in it herself. The stories, of course, speak for themselves. Now, this isn't a disclaimer, but some context about this podcast for those of you who are here for the first time might be helpful. We realize we are wading into a conflict that is thousands of years old and is shrouded in pain and suffering with a foundation on the most deeply held religious beliefs humanity has ever formed. When we do podcasts like this and have guests, we'll be championed by one side and derided by the other. But as you know, we don't shy away from the hard discussions on this podcast. We go all in on them. Equal time will always be given. And we welcome all sides on these difficult discussions. It goes without saying, that we're not here to be your expert or final authority. We're here to have a first-principle discussion and to personally learn alongside each other in good faith - in good faith. This is a really important concept because it's hard to have these discussions in good faith today. So with that, I'll welcome to the All-In Podcast, our bestie, Sheryl Sandberg.

Sheryl Sandberg

Well, saying two things you just said. That Dave would have been on this podcast - I've thought that actually. And calling me a "bestie", because I've been friends with all of you for so long, means a lot to me. Jason, you dedicated your book to Dave. That meant everything to me. David Friedberg and I have been traveling around together to conferences sitting in the backseat of cars. And Chamath, it's a really special moment to be here with you. We - we lost Dave 9 years ago, yesterday. We were at our dear friend Phil Deutch's 50th birthday party. It happened suddenly. I was in shock. Everyone was in shock. Chamath sprung into action. Took care of every logistical thing you could have possibly needed. But then, he did something - you did something. Chamath - even more important, which is you showed up for my children. Not just for the days and weeks, but for the months and years afterwards. And one of the many things you did is you taught them to play poker. Because what you said is, "If Dave were alive, he would have taught them to play poker." And last night, on the 9th anniversary of his loss, my kids were in that room playing poker. And that is very much to your credit, Chamath. And I will always - always be grateful for that and grateful, Jason, to David - and all of us - for Dave. So, the world lost something really big when we lost Dave.

And I think a lot of people know a lot of the things we lost. I lost an amazing husband and father to my children. You all lost a best friend. The world lost a lot of wisdom. But there's actually one thing that the world also lost that we've never shared.

Jason Calacanis

Oh.

Sheryl Sandberg

And I am prepared to reveal right now - right here, right now. Because last night Rob Goldberg, Dave's brother, and I decided - we decided it was time to share. People may have known there was the @fakechamath Twitter handle. "I built Facebook, rocked the angel world and now on the Warriors. My motto: Don't be a dbag- that's my job." And people have questioned who this was. I mean - some people think it was Jason Calacanis. Some people think it was Friedberg.

Jason Calacanis

An obvious choice.

Sheryl Sandberg

Alright, I've got to say. Some people think it was Chamath himself. But you know what?

Jason Calacanis

The #1 choice. Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

The #1 choice. Dave was @fakechamath. Now, he didn't write all the tweets himself. I know all of you helped him. But he wrote a bunch of them and he used to literally lie in bed next to me, write something, and just big bellow. Remember Dave's big laugh? He would laugh out loud.

Jason Calacanis

God.

Sheryl Sandberg

And there are so many things the world lost. But can you guys imagine the field day Dave a.k.a. @fakechamath would be having with this podcast?

Chamath Palihapitiya

Oh, my God. I mean -

Sheryl Sandberg

Field day.

Jason Calacanis

A field day.

Sheryl Sandberg

Field day.

Jason Calacanis

This is a great one.

David Friedberg

I was saying, all - all - all he'd have to do is just take excerpts from the show and put them on Twitter.

Jason Calacanis

I mean - it's one of the great things about - the - the great challenge. I remember workshopping some tweets here with Dave - with Goldie - and the - the - the - the big laugh we would have - and David Lee from the Warriors was involved in this meshugana. I mean - we just had like a whole group who lived to write these tweets. And sometimes, Chamath's tweets were - were so insane and deranged.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Come on.

Jason Calacanis

- that we couldn't top them. So, they would try and come up - like this one from @fakechamath.

Sheryl Sandberg

Oh, I remember this one.

Jason Calacanis

"Pinterest is a new hot company..." This is a great one. "Pinterest is a new hot company in the Valley. I don't understand why a site for girls with cats is worth 300 million." Now, that's something that would be a benign tweet from real Chamath. Here's a great one from October 29th, 2011. "Lot of demand for me to appear in commercials like others but I am holding out for Cartier. Mercedes is beneath me." I mean - this predated all Loro Piana.

David Friedberg

Loro - Loro Piana. Yeah.

Jason Calacanis

Friedberg, you got this next one. Give us this next one.

Chamath Palihapitiya

You know, there is a - there is a Loro Piana one in there.

Jason Calacanis

Yeah.

David Friedberg

Yeah. "Reason number 756 to go to Vegas: no sales tax on #loropiana..." This is in 2012 by the way. Very precious.

Jason Calacanis

Yes.

David Friedberg

"If you dress like me, I won't initially think you are a dbag."

Jason Calacanis

Yeah, I - see -

Sheryl Sandberg

And there's no way Dave knew what Loro Piana was. There's no way Dave wrote this. Someone else wrote this one for sure.

Jason Calacanis

Absolutely not. Absolutely not.

David Friedberg

But he was ahead of the time on Loro Piana at that time. Very good.

Jason Calacanis

I mean - it's just incredible. People think the Loro Piana thing is like recent history. It was 12 years ago. I mean - this is when - I mean - Sheryl, before we started here -

David Friedberg

This is - this is - this is - wait, Sheryl should be that last one. That's really good.

Jason Calacanis

Alright, Sheryl. You get the last one.

Sheryl Sandberg

"My newest investment is so good. Jet-Time, you can random video chat with other people who are also on their private jet. G550 to Hawker." Yeah, Dave -

David Friedberg

So good. Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

Yeah, Dave loved his group of friends and he loved being @fakechamath. He loved it.

David Friedberg

Anyway, the - the secret's out. The secret's out.

Sheryl Sandberg

Secret's out.

David Friedberg

And I - my guess is that site - that - that Twitter handle is about to get popular again.

Jason Calacanis

It's going to get pretty popular. And I will just say - as much as Dave loved being @fakechamath, he - he couldn't - it's - it's like half the amount Chamath loves being @chamath. So, let's just keep - let's just keep that in mind here, folks. Oh, my God. I haven't cried and laughed so hard in 5 minutes as I did just now. I mean - actually, in some way, Sheryl - you're - you're - you're our fifth bestie as well. You're - you're always welcome to come on the pod. And I - I just also - for a little bit of housekeeping here - when guests come on this podcast, we don't pre-vet questions. No questions are awful limits. And nobody gets to strike or - or do anything nonsensical with the product. Everybody comes here to have -

David Friedberg

And we're not journalists. We're not like -

Jason Calacanis

And we're not journalists.

David Friedberg

We're not traditional journalists. We're friends talking -

Jason Calacanis

Friends talking. Yeah.

David Friedberg

- trying to understand stuff. And just to be clear - I know a lot of commentary comes back, "Well, why didn't you say this or ask this?" And you know - I - I think we're just - when we have guests on, we just want to talk with them like we would in a living room and have a conversation, so.

Jason Calacanis

Right. Which means no "gotcha journalism" - although, I'll ask a tough question once in a while that may get me in a little bit of trouble. But David Friedberg, you set this all up. And I didn't know you and Sheryl have been talking about these important issues. And of course, we're going to have all sides on. So, you - you don't have to email me and say, "What about this side? What about that outside?" All sides are welcome to come in the pod. Now Friedberg, why don't you - why don't you kick us off here? We're going to talk about this important film, and a lot of the debates going on about this horrific attack on October 7th, and then - and then, what's going on in Gaza today. But then, we also -

David Friedberg

Yeah, I think -

Jason Calacanis

- are going to try to make that part pivot to business and get some of Sheryl's insights on what's happening in the world, today, of business. So, Friedberg, why don't you kick us off?

David Friedberg

Well, I just want to zoom out because I think, Sheryl, we had - I - I believe it - a couple of conversations after October 7th. Amongst other folks, I've heard that there's been a lot of disappointment that institutions, organizations, ideologies that have been supported by folks like yourself - or maybe you can speak - I don't want to put words in your mouth - suddenly emerged to be something quite different when threads of anti-Semitism started to emerge and folks began to deny certain things based on their ideology about the oppressor-oppressed concept being applied to Israel and Palestine. And maybe you can tell us a little bit about the surprise and journey that you've been through since October 7th with respect to some of the groups that you've supported that suddenly seemed quite different than what maybe we all thought they were prior.

Sheryl Sandberg

Look, it's a great question because - I mean -

David Friedberg

And I - I - sorry. And that's the conversation -

Sheryl Sandberg

It's a great question.

David Friedberg

- Sheryl and I have been having that led to saying, "Hey, why don't you come on the show this week? And let's talk about this and other topics - particularly, given the timing with the release of the film.

Sheryl Sandberg

It's a great question. I mean - if you had told me, on October 6th, "The following is going to happen. Terrorists are going to parachute into Israel. They are going to kill 1,200 people. They are going to sexually brutalize - brutalize and rape multiple women and men." I would have said, "You're crazy." Then, if you would have told me that, "People were going to deny..." The reports were going to start coming out. People were going to say, "I'm a first responder. I saw naked bodies. I saw women bloodied - legs spread." But then, "People were going to deny that this happened." I would have said, "You are crazy." And then, if you had told me that what we would be doing on college campuses is not protesting sexual violence as a tool of war by the hands of Hamas - Hamas - misogynistic, homophobic terrorists who are, right now, holding not just Israelis but Americans hostage. Yet, we would be protesting and college kids would be screaming, "We are Hamas." I would have said you were crazy. And that's hit me hard. And, for me as a woman - as a very outspoken feminist, it's all hard. But the part that has hit me the hardest is the denial of the sexual violence. That has just been horrible. And so, the reports were coming out. In November, I wrote an op-ed. And what my op-ed said was, "No matter what you believe should happen in the Middle East..." - I believe in a two-state solution - "No matter what flag you're flying - march you're going to - you can all be united on one thing, which is sexual violence should never be used as a tool of war." Then, I did a video that went pretty viral. But people are denying it, and they're attacking articles, and attacking reports. And so, I went to Israel. And I sat down myself with a video crew. This was generously financed by this great philanthropist Joey Low and his wife. And I sat down there and I asked people, "What did you see with your own eyes?" We sat down with a released hostage who told her story. And this is because people are actually denying or ignoring this. And that is a horrible place for us to be. And truly shocking. Truly shocking.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Let's double-click into that word "denial". So, it's a very heightened moment. Everybody is taking sides. Everybody's trying to interpret what they think is the right point of view - whether it's in that moment or historically in the arc of how Israel and Palestine have been in conflict. Where does that aspect of denial come from? Have you - have you spent time trying to unpack like how do you start to get to a place where you say, "Clearly people were killed." But then, when it goes into war crimes and sexual violence, we're actually going to stop it there because it basically pulls our cause back. So, we can't agree that that actually happened. How - how does that happen? Why is that happening?

Sheryl Sandberg

I mean - you're framing it exactly right, Chamath. That's exactly what happened. So, I mean - you all talk about this a lot. But there's huge polarization. What does that mean? Polarization means: I have a view that is so firmly entrenched that I see the world as black and white. Everything has to fit into my view and my narrative. And when it doesn't fit, I don't know what to do. So, I reject it. And that's, I think, what's happening. That there is - there are people out there who believe that October 7th was resistance. I want to be clear. I'm not that

person. I do not believe that. I'm horrified by what's happening in Gaza. Every life lost is too much. I want two states living peacefully beside each other. I really want that. But let's say you think October 7th was resistance. Then, all of a sudden you're like, "Wait a second. Mass rape, the genital mutilation of men and women - women and men - women tied to trees - naked, bloodied, legs spread." That doesn't fit your narrative. So, what can you do? You can wow. Think, "Maybe the world isn't so black and white. Maybe I have to rethink my narrative." Or you can say, "This didn't happen." And I think it is a travesty and a tragedy that anyone could say that. And I want to be clear, Jason, you started this by saying you always have positions. You always give people room for two sides. And that's fantastic. I think there are - not just two sides - multiple sides to the Middle East story - multiple sides to the history - multiple sides on what's be going on. There are not two sides on this. This is sexual violence. There is one side - one side. And we are against it. And that's relatively new in the world. To take you back - quick history lesson - which you all know, but I'd love for all your viewers to know. For a long time, the history of mankind - women's bodies were part of war. You got the village. You got the gold. You got the women. And it was only 30 years ago - after the mass rapes of the DRC - Bosnia / the former Yugoslavia - that people said, "No. Rape is not a tool of war. We will prosecute it as a war crime and a crime against humanity." And the feminist groups were the ones who made that happen. The civil rights groups - the human rights groups - they've held since then - in this moment - if our politics drive us to give that up, think about what we give up. Because as we're doing this podcast right now, there are hostages in Gaza that we know are being sexually assaulted. There are women in Ukraine, Sudan, Ethiopia - around the world - who are being sexually assaulted right now - right now. And we can't let that go. This is the one place we need to be united.

David Friedberg

Why are the feminist groups finding themselves aligning more with Hamas than they are with this core - what seems to be and should be a core ideology?

Sheryl Sandberg

So, look. We can't paint them all with one brush. There are feminist groups that have spoken out on this - that have said - you know. NOW did it. The new Anera did it. They said, "We are against the sexual violence." CARE did it. There are groups that have done it, no matter what else they're working on. A bunch of them have said to me privately, "I know you're right. Of course, sexual violence isn't okay. And of course, this happened. But I can't speak out because all my employees are going to get upset. I can't speak out because the young people..." And that makes me really sad.

Chamath Palihapitiya

But explain that. What does that mean?

David Friedberg

Yeah, what does that mean?

Chamath Palihapitiya

Young people will be upset to know that - that both things happen.

Sheryl Sandberg

You've got to be able to hold two thoughts at the same time. Again, not my thought, but if you believe October 7th is resistant, you can still believe sexual violence happened. The fact that a group of feminists - none I'm particularly close to - have actually signed letters saying, "This didn't happen.", is crazy - absolutely crazy. I mean - look. I'm going to read this. The UN representative on sexual violence, Pramila Patten, traveled to Israel and here is what she wrote. She said, "What I witnessed in Israel, were scenes of unspeakable violence perpetrated with shocking brutality...catalog of the most extreme and inhumane forms of killing, torture and other horrors" - including sexual violence. That's the UN. They're not exactly a pro-Israel group.

David Friedberg

Sheryl, let me ask. Because I - I think it's important to note. Some people will counter and say, "Look at this article from Grayzone." Grayzone said, "Western media concocts 'evidence'". That the "UN report on Oct 7 sex crimes failed to deliver". From March 7th - they said, "Western media promoted a UN report as proof Hamas sexually assaulted Israelis. Yet the report's authors is admitted they couldn't locate a single victim, suggested Israeli official staged a rape scene, and denounced 'inaccurate forensic interpretations.'" I just want to give you an opportunity -

Sheryl Sandberg

Yeah.

David Friedberg

- to respond to Grayzone's article. Because I think a lot of folks have pointed to that article and the articles that that organization has put out as being representative of an alternative view that the sexual violence may - maybe didn't happen as evidenced in your film. Maybe you can address it. I'll give you a chance to do that.

Sheryl Sandberg

Yeah, well the key thing you said there is, "Where are..." They're asking, "Where are the victims?" Well, let me tell you where the victims are. They're dead. They're dead. That is why we call this film - sorry - "Screams Before Silence". I have a story in this film - this woman, Tali. I went with her to the trailer where she hid. She was at the NOVA Film Festival. She's a nurse. She hid in a trailer. I walked in with her to that trailer the first time she'd been in there and you could see her body like shake. And she - we didn't - this didn't make the final cut of the film - but she picked up a black sweater. And I think she might have been wearing that sweater. I was afraid to ask her. But she was like shaking. She hid in that trailer for - I don't know - 5, 6, 7 hours. And she heard - sometimes she would hear like a little scream like,

"Ahh!" Someone's pointing a gun at you and a shot. But sometimes she would heard scream over and over and over, "Stop! Stop!" And then, for like long period - like 15 minutes - and then a shot. And then when she got out of that trailer, there were naked bodies where she heard those screams. The victims are dead. Most of them are dead. There is exactly one person who is an escaped - a released hostage. Her name is Amit Soussana. She gave a video interview. You all saw it. We have the only video interview in this documentary. And she tells her story very clearly. She was held hostage for months. She was chained to a bed. And as she said it, her captor forced him to do a - commit a sexual act on her. This woman is so brave and she told me she's speaking out because there are still hostages there. But she is the only living witness who'd speak out. We think there are a few more who are in deep trauma. But there were 1,200 people killed. And at least dozens of them were sexually brutalized / assaulted.

Chamath Palihapitiya

I -

Sheryl Sandberg

And that is why they're not speaking out.

David Friedberg

Just as a follow-up - what is the social and political motivation of a group like Grayzone and other appointed deniers? What are they trying to accomplish by denying?

Sheryl Sandberg

They're trying to accomplish their narrative that October 7th was justified resistance. Because even they understand that it is not -

David Friedberg

Because it taints it. Because the sexual violence taints it in a way, right? As opposed to just being soldiers killing soldiers, the sexual violence aspect of it taints the valor of the resistance. Is that a fair way to summarize it?

Sheryl Sandberg

Yes, even they don't believe. And it's interesting. Hamas has been proudly talking about who they killed. But even they deny the sexual violence. "That wouldn't happen. It's against our religion." The sexual violence doesn't fit the narrative.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Right.

Sheryl Sandberg

But I want to be clear. The sexual violence was multiple locations - systematic - meets the definition of a war crime - a crime against humanity - and was part of the plan.

David Friedberg

If there was no sexual violence, would it be fair to call it a "resistance"?

Sheryl Sandberg

I would not call it a "resistance".

Chamath Palihapitiya

One of the things that happened after the Holocaust was there was still a small cohort of people that denied that it ever happened. And I think that there was - to use the word "systematic" again - a systematic effort to document, right? There's pictures. There's museums. There's memorials. You can think what you want of World War II or Jews, in general. But you can't deny that that happened. And the documentation of it is pretty unambiguous or completely unambiguous. When you spent time there, is there an effort to start doing this? And here's where I'm getting to - which is kind of a morbid question - but there's a moment in this documentary where this woman who was the doctor in the morgue, I guess, is talking about all of these bodies. And unfortunately, where my mind went to - but I think it's the - kind of the right thought - is I hope that there was rape kits done, even if it's posthumously, because that's the trail of evidence that allows one to know - squarely inside of a box - this is the totality of what happened as a learning lesson for everybody - including not just the people that disagree, but the people that agree - and then to reinforce some of these basic rights that we thought we've all signed up for.

Sheryl Sandberg

I mean - it is such an important question. There were not rape kits done. 1,200 people killed in one day. I don't - anyone was - people - their bodies were burned. People were trying to identify them. I've actually looked into this a bunch. And in a lot of sexual violence in war situations, there are no rape kits. So, that's actually - sometimes they're used - but often, in chaos, there is none. There are very few pictures. There are some. And I saw them in this documentary. And they are - sorry - there are naked women with nails in their groin. Like - I'm sorry - I saw these pictures. But what's interesting about it is the people who are the first responders are taught not to take pictures - particularly - particularly, of gruesome things. They don't have the victims - the victims - you know -

Chamath Palihapitiya

Rights.

Sheryl Sandberg

Victims' rights.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Yeah. Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

But the man I interviewed, he said, "24 hours in, he thought to himself, 'No one's going to believe this. I've got to take pictures.'" And against the training he had, he took the pictures. And he showed me on his phone. He was like, "I took this." And another guy from ZAKA - they're a first responder group that goes in. This is an unheard of situation. I mean - I said to him, "You've been processing..." - sorry, maybe that's not the right word - "You've been..." - I guess - "...processing dead bodies all over the world. How many times in your experience are they naked?" And he just looked at me and said, "Never. They're never naked." And what meets the legal criteria for proving crimes against humanity are witnesses - eyewitnesses. And what's important about the documentary that we did - but also important about the efforts Israel is doing - Israel is doing that documentation. Not Israel the country, a woman in Israel named Cochav Levy who's fantastic. She is from a private university with private funding. Doing that documentation, which at this point, are mostly considered of interviews. But there are hundreds of them. And look. I hope people watch. In the documentary, I go into a field with this guy, Rami. Yeah, I'm sure you guys remember this. Because he's huge, right? He -

Chamath Palihapitiya

Yeah, huge.

Sheryl Sandberg

He stands like this tall over me. Private citizen. This guy is the biggest hero I've ever met my life. Sirens go off. He gets into his car. Takes his gun. And drives to where -

Jason Calacanis

Incredible bravery.

Sheryl Sandberg

Rescued hundreds of people himself - himself. But he got to a field. And I stood in those trees. And he said, "These trees..." He thinks about 30 women were there and raped or sexually brutalized. When he saw them, they were naked, tied to trees, legs spread, bloodied - like bloodied in the regions you would be bloody if you were raped. And he - what he said in the film is, "I got there. I covered their bodies so no one else would see." He didn't take pictures. I wish he had. But well, I guess - I guess - I don't know. Do I wish he had? I don't know.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Yeah. Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

But you understand why.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

But he said, "I saw this with my own eyes." And what you saw in the film is this huge man who's so brave - fought terrorists himself - crying because he didn't get there early enough to save those women. But the good news is while the victims were killed - the good news is the first responders are alive in their testimony - which is eyewitness testimony - meets the criteria of any international or - or global court. Absolutely. Crimes can be proven by eye - by - by eyewitnesses for sure.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Sheryl, what is the response? What is the response in Israel? How do you - how do you judge what Netanyahu is doing? Both in reaction to the events - but then, in reaction to these specific aspects of the events. What are they doing that's different? Or what would you wish they were doing differently? Or can you just give us a sense of how people are processing this aspect?

Sheryl Sandberg

I mean - look. We need peace. We need two sides and two leaders that are committed to peace - like long-term peace. And there's a lot going wrong - you know. But on this aspect, you violate - someone said in the film, "You violate a woman, you violate a country."

Chamath Palihapitiya

Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

There's a reason sexual violence is used as a war crime. There's a reason it was used in the DRC, and Bosnia, and it's being used in Ukraine today because - and I can see it in your reaction. I mean -

Chamath Palihapitiya

Yeah, it's to humiliate a - it's to humiliate people, right? It's to humiliate a country, right?

Sheryl Sandberg

You humiliate. Look at - look at the three of you. Like, you all don't cry a lot. This is traumatic because you all have mothers and daughters. Like, you can feel what happens to a country. And that's why this was done. This was not an accident. This was on purpose. And unfortunately, it works. Sexual violence -

David Friedberg

Sheryl, I - I - I think - I think a - like for us to have a path towards peace, there has to be a degree - despite the pain being felt - a degree of empathy for the other side's desires, the other side's pain, the other side's feeling that they were enacting a resistance against an oppression. How does one side embrace that aspect having gone through this? How - how do we get to a point that a people can say, "I have empathy for the resistance", after feeling this sort of pain? And this is the age old story of war - eye for eye. It never ends. It always goes on. What's the right path here - to hear the other side, to hear the kids on campuses, to hear the - the people in Palestine, to hear the - the world saying, "We feel...Free Palestine." - after going through this?

Sheryl Sandberg

Well, I can tell you what I believe. I believe we need peace. I believe we need two states. I believe those - those states need to be run by peaceful leaders who want prosperity for the other side. Look, I believe we should be able to look at anyone anywhere in the world - but certainly the Palestinian people living in Gaza - and say, "Any death is too much. One death is too much. No innocent lives should be killed. No women, no children, no innocent lives should be killed." But I think, also, as part of that path to peace, there needs to be forgiveness. But there needs to be a clear, clear articulation of what is not acceptable ever. And the sexual violence is not acceptable ever. And - sorry.

David Friedberg

If you were - if you were Netanyahu, what would you do differently? I'm sorry for cutting you off.

Sheryl Sandberg

No, no. I mean - I don't have an answer to peace in the Middle East. I don't.

David Friedberg

Yeah, okay.

Sheryl Sandberg

I mean - I wish I did. But I do have a very strong view that we are not going to get to peace when we are apologizing or denying crimes against humanity and crime - mass rape of women. Well, that is not the path to peace. The path to peace is not saying, "This didn't happen." The path to peace is saying, "This happened." No matter what side of the fence you're on - no matter what side of the world you're on - if you're the far right - the far left - anywhere in the world - we're not going to let this happen again and we're going to get to peace to make sure. Denial is not going to get us there.

David Friedberg

Why has the other side captivated so much of the youth in the United States? Why - you're very close to Harvard. Maybe tell us what's going on at Harvard over the last few years. How did we end up in this place where so much of the youth is so sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and not as moved, as you are, by the trauma experienced on the other side?

Sheryl Sandberg

I mean - you all are - I would throw that question right back to you. I know you've talked about - you know - narratives and oppressor and oppressed. Again, polarization is where you can only have one view. And you cannot tolerate anything that doesn't fit one view. I don't know of anything that's that clear and that simple. I mean - I'll throw that right back to you. You all have been articulate on this and I think have a lot to say.

Jason Calacanis

Well, I mean - this - you said it earlier, Sheryl. This tolerance for ambiguity - this ability - the cognitive dissonance - to be able to hold in your head that the people of Gaza are suffering. Perhaps, I guess the other side would say. They would - they would start down this Whataboutism It's not my position. "But what about what Netanyahu is doing? What about aid to people suffering in Gaza?" You've addressed that. You don't believe anybody should suffer. But I just want to talk a little bit about this conspiracy there that it didn't happen. Also in the documentary, the savagery - you chose not to show the graphic photos that you saw and that you're clearly traumatized by. And a lot of us New Yorkers had a similar experience with 9/11 and - and watching that up close. It is what terrorists do. Terrorists do these things to cause massive trauma - to make it impossible to de-escalate. That is the sadism. That is the - the pure evil of - of this brand of terrorism - is to make it impossible for the good people of the world to unwind or - or de-escalate. And - and it's - I think part of the process is accepting what happened and - and coming to some truth. And - and the truth can be there are people dying unnecessarily in Gaza. There are people starving in Gaza. There are children who are not getting food and water. All of those can be true. And this horrific sexual sadism and violence that occurred is also true. You - and I - and I - in the documentary -

Sheryl Sandberg

Wait, that was awesome. I couldn't have said that better myself. That was exactly right, Jason. That is exactly the point and the path. Sorry, please continue. That was perfect.

Jason Calacanis

Yeah, no. I - I mean - I - I'm - I'm trying to make sense of this. I - I - and I - and I come to it with humility. You know - you know, this podcast hits a certain notes with people. And, "Oh, how can people in Silicon Valley or whatever discuss these topics." Listen, we're all discussing. And we're all trying to make sense of a very confusing world. But you made two choices in the documentary. One was to leave yourself out of it largely. Your role in the documentary is

to - you know - hug people and - and to cry alongside them and to witness this stuff. You talked for, I think, 90 seconds in the whole documentary. I think this was an - an important decision you made. And then, you made a decision, which I'm not sure if I agree with, which is to not show the photos. I am of the belief that people should see what happened on 9/11, as a New Yorker who witnessed it and my brothers in the fire department. And I had PTSD from it. I think people have to see these things. You chose not to out of respect for the family. Should put a note at the end. Explain this choice because I know you must have struggled with it. And there are photos that you've seen of women with their breasts cut off. I hate - I - I - I don't want to say these things. I know it's very traumatic. But I believe people have to understand what's in these photos that you saw. Nails in women's private parts. Breasts that have been cut off. This is undeniable. If you want to deny the rapes happen or whatever, you cannot deny the photos that you saw. You chose not to put them in. I understand that decision in respect for the family. Is there not a - take us into that decision. Because maybe there's a - maybe you need to. And the - and the - and the woman who chose to do the interview with you - she's so brave. She said, "I had to do this because I wanted to combat the denialism." And - and I don't know who The Grayzone is. The - you know - the - the - I don't know why people are giving it a ton of attention. But they - you know - they are considered - the first line of Wikipedia page is, "It's a fringe website." So, just - let's leave it at that. I don't know if it is or it isn't. But that - that's the first line of the Wikipedia page. Is there not a case to be made for making a second version of the documentary that shows exactly these things so people can stop denying it? Because then, they - you would have to come to the place that these - that - that - the people who are one-sided - created fake images?

Sheryl Sandberg

Well, that's -

Jason Calacanis

It - is that - is that where we're - where we're getting to in this conspiracy filled - filled - filled world that the dozens of people you interviewed are part of a grand conspiracy and the photos are doctored. So, just talk about that decision. You - you - you must have had an important meeting about that.

Sheryl Sandberg

Look, we didn't really have a choice. I agree with you. I think the world seeing this would probably be necessary at some point. I do think the deniers will deny. They'll say, "Oh, you can doctor any photo." So, you're going to have to believe the person who took them anyway. We didn't have that choice. These photos are held by people who have taken a vow, as part of their work as first responders of processing and getting bodies ready for burial, that they won't show them. It also - you know - we've made this freely available on YouTube. So, anyone can watch it. No firewalls. You know, anyone can watch this thing if you're over 18. It wouldn't be YouTube standards, so that would be taken down. I mean - we - we can't show

them right now for those two reasons. But I think over time, we - the world may have to see some of them. But I also want to go back to what Chamath said because there are not that - there are photos. There are clear photos and there are clear witnesses. But Rami's story, he took no photos and he will tell you why he took no photos. He covered those bodies so no one would see.

Jason Calacanis

Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

And so -

Jason Calacanis

It's traumatic.

Sheryl Sandberg

It's traumatic and - and -

Jason Calacanis

Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

And - and that's why Israel is documenting this. Or not Israel, actually. I shouldn't say it. Someone in Israel is documenting this. But again, no matter what else you believe - I love the way you said it, Jason - you can absolutely believe. I absolutely believe that every single person - particularly, the private citizens - not the terrorists - in Gaza should live in peace and harmony. They - they should, of course, get aid. But they shouldn't need aid because they should have a thriving economy and a state that's their own. That doesn't mean sexual violence didn't happen because it is clear it did. And the denial is crazy. I was in France. I did - I took some of the witnesses to - to different parliaments, including in the French Parliament. And Maurice Lévy hosted this beautiful lunch for us. And there were all the people who work in civil society. And this woman stood up at this lunch. And she stood up and she said, "I'm French. I'm not Jewish. I run a nonprofit that works on sexual violence and conflict. I've done this work for 30 years. No one's ever questioned my work ever until now." And she said, "I think it's anti-Semitism." You look at that New York Times article - and I know there's different views of the New York Times - I'm not defending the paper - but that article written by Jeff Gettleman and others. He has covered sexual violence for decades. He won a Pulitzer for his coverage of this in Somalia - a Pulitzer. I did a search. No one's ever questioned it before. Something is going on here. And it is a combination of narratives, and polarization, and anti-Semitism - which is getting us to a place -

Chamath Palihapitiya

Let's -

Sheryl Sandberg

- where we lose. Yeah, sorry.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Let's explore that for a second. So, when you see the videos, what you see are young people. But you see a lot of young women. And many of the leaders of these - of these movements on campuses now, the spokespeople are women. The leadership seems mostly to be women. Do you have a reaction to that? Do you have a thought on that? When you see these folks and that - that they should be closer to this realization, maybe, than - a man could, theoretically, overlook it or try to block it out. But it's actually the leadership of these organizations tend to be mostly women-led and they're basically like, "Let's keep going. And it's about this resistance." How do you react to that when you see that?

Sheryl Sandberg

It really depends what I see. When I see someone peacefully protesting and saying, "Free Palestine."

Chamath Palihapitiya

Sure, why not?

Sheryl Sandberg

That's - that's good.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

I want free Palestine. When I see people protesting and saying - you know - "We need peace on all sides. We need a ceasefire." Of - of course we need - we need a permanent ceasefire that lasts. I'm for that. Ready? When I see people saying, "The rapes didn't happen." That's unacceptable. You know, you saw a student at Columbia. I saw it on video. I'm sure you did too. Screaming at a Jewish kid, "Go back to Poland."

Chamath Palihapitiya

Right. I saw.

Sheryl Sandberg

Or, "October 7th is going to happen to you over and over." That's not okay. And so, it really depends what they're saying. But again, I'm hoping people watch this documentary so they

can see it for their own eyes. I'm hoping people wake up and realize that they are capable of holding two thoughts at the same time. They just are.

David Friedberg

What's going to happen at Harvard? What's going to happen at the Ivy Leagues?

Sheryl Sandberg

I don't know what's going to happen at any of these schools. But I'll tell you. I'm a parent of college-age kids. You know, I've got a kid who was in college for a year. I've got a kid going off this year in the fall. Colleges have a responsibility to keep our kids safe - full stop - and protect them from hate - full stop. And they have the ability to do this. They have the ability to do this. It's up to them.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Do you think Columbia has done a good job?

David Friedberg

Well, if you were president of Harvard, what would you have done differently?

Sheryl Sandberg

I'm - I'm not close enough. It's all merging together in my mind. I don't know exactly which protest has happened at which schools.

David Friedberg

Sure.

Sheryl Sandberg

But here's - here's what I would do.

David Friedberg

Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

I would have very clear rules - which by the way, all the schools have. It's a question of enforcing them.

David Friedberg

Right. Right.

Sheryl Sandberg

The schools that are letting this happen are not enforcing their own rules. Schools are actually, I think - look, free and open dialogue is important. College is the place you should

go to talk about the issues from all sides - to have thoughtful conversations - to have deep conversations - even, maybe, to have angry conversations.

David Friedberg

Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

But not violent -

David Friedberg

I went to Berkeley. I went to Berkeley. It wasn't lunch without a protest. I mean - that's like the daily thing you do there. You know, you go grab a sandwich, and you go protest, and you go back to class. Like that was -

Sheryl Sandberg

Great.

David Friedberg

Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

And I bet you had thoughtful conversations because that's what's made you you. Look how - look how complex - look at your views, David. You're able to articulate multiply complex views. And I bet some of that was from Berkeley where you probably sat with your fellow students and talked to them, right? That's not what's happening.

David Friedberg

Yeah, I think things have - I think are very different. Yeah. I think things are very different.

Sheryl Sandberg

These colleges have rules. Some of the colleges - they're - most colleges of a rule that you can't protest in the president's office. There are colleges where the faculty and administration - when people are protesting in the president's office, they're serving them food. There are colleges that say, "You're not allowed to protest here. Go outside."

David Friedberg

But if you feel - if you feel deep down in your heart that it's a matter of life or death, don't you feel justified that having an encampment, setting up a tent, living there, showing that - that degree of conviction is necessary because you're saving lives versus, "Hey, I think something is a good idea. Let me go protest for an hour during lunch and then I'll leave." It's never going to move the needle. The question I'm asking, as a young person, is: How do I move the needle? And there's not a lot of ways that people feel empowered to move the

needle. So, it seems rational to me, to some degree, that they want to go into these encampments, and they want to do something strong, and show their conviction. But again, I think that there's a question on: How much truth? Or is anyone willing to see - how much are folks willing to embrace the other side? How much are they willing to listen? I don't - I see very little listening - very little dialogue going on. Because then, you put up a list of demands that are unmeetable and - you know - you deny anyone to have a conversation, and you deny listening to the other side, and you take this hardened view that doesn't allow for progress. And I think it's the hardened views on all sides that's limiting progress entirely. Unfortunately, the youth have been subsumed by this. And it's really frustrating to see it because I worry about what that leads to 20 years from now.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Or is it the - I think it's not necessarily the youth - meaning I think you're seeing it in some very specific places that cater to a very specific kind of youth. You see them at Columbia/Harvard. There are these specific - Berkeley/UCLA - that are bastions of privileged kids for the most part. These are extremely elite institutions that typically allow in kids that have been coached their entire lives to get into those schools. And I think that they're coming there with a lack of fulfillment. And it reminds me, at some level, of how people reacted to Occupy Wall Street - meaning there were a whole bunch of young people there that probably didn't even know what the whole Occupy Wall Street movement was about.

Sheryl Sandberg

Yeah.

Chamath Palihapitiya

They showed up -

Jason Calacanis

Well, they - they said themselves, Chamath. It was a platform for whatever your grievance was. That was their state admission. Yeah.

Chamath Palihapitiya

And I think what they found a decade and a half ago or so was community in this weird way.

Jason Calacanis

Yes.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Right? The physical interaction of other people where you had this intimacy around a thing. I'm not condoning Occupy Wall Street just like I'm not condoning what's happening on campuses. But I think, psychologically, what kids are looking for is that level of attachment.

And to your point, David, something that they can feel strongly about. And I think they end up getting to the age of 18 and 19 not having felt strongly about anything because they were working on playing 9 sports, and 14 instruments, and all this other bullshit to go to these schools. And then, they get there and they feel a little empty. And sometimes, negative things can fill the void.

Sheryl Sandberg

What I was going to say is I think the - the answer lies in what you're - in what we're saying. David, you started out by saying how are we going to get to progress? Well, screaming at each other's not going to get to progress. I don't have an answer for peace in the Middle East, but we're - you know - universities play roles in getting there. Thoughtful hard conversations. Let's look at the real history. Let's look at who the leadership could be. Let's look at what kind of leaders we need on both sides. Let's look at what the international community could be doing. Those answers could come out of universities. Some of those college students - if they weren't reading five things they don't understand - could help us get there. And I think these protests are getting in the way of the thoughtful dialogue. And I honestly think part of what happens with cancel culture, "I don't want to listen to another view on all sides."

David Friedberg

Right.

Sheryl Sandberg

Really? Why don't you say, "I want to listen." My friend Adam Grant wrote a great book called Think Again. I wish everyone in the whole world would read that day on book. Think again. "Think again" means you might not be right about everything. "Think again" means you need to like listen to the other side. We're never going to get there without that kind of thoughtful dialogue.

Jason Calacanis

Well, yeah. And that's - that's exactly where I wanted to go with it Sheryl, which is - if you - if you steelman - if you look at their perspective and - and you look at the beauty of feminism and - and femininity - and you wrote a book Lean In you are an expert on this. And having compassion for people who are suffering is absolutely beautiful. It is - it is the best if humanity. And I think it's the best of femininity and women is that they have this incredible gift of - of empathy that, as men, maybe we - we are so far behind. And so, it does not surprise me that women leave these organizations when they see suffering and if you see children suffering. Women are in a unique position in their life experience to understand the value of children, of family, and of suffering. And you know - I can understand an impressionable young person seeing the videos coming out of Gaza of a baby dying in a bombing and collateral damage and being devastated and saying, "You know what? I have to fight for these poor children." It - it is completely noble in their mind. In fact, it - it might be

noble. I mean - it - it's - in - to - to fight for peace. And so, you know - I can understand their - their positions. And I don't - I don't actually disagree with them. But then, you start looking at the reality of getting the hostages back. And if this was an American situation - and - and we actually have a corollary, 9/11. We - we didn't go to Afghanistan to get hostages. We went there to get retribution. So, if America went there to eliminate this threat and - and we - we also took out another country just for good measure that - that wasn't even involved in it. You know, it - it's such a complex issue and we're in the fog of war. I think everybody pausing for a second here and just remember how confusing it was after 9/11 - how confusing it was and - and we had to figure out, "Wait a second. These were Saudis. These were this radical group - this splinter group." It - it takes a while to figure out what's going on here. And - and I - I do think on these campuses, they should allow them to protest. But there's outside agitators. That seems, to me, to be completely unacceptable to have 40-56-year-old lifetime agitators on these campuses. Allow these kids to - to protest. But to chase Jewish kids around the campus, and then surround them, and threaten them in 2024? I - I mean -

Sheryl Sandberg

I agree.

Jason Calacanis

I - I can't understand what's happening and how -

Sheryl Sandberg

How we got here.

Jason Calacanis

How could an administration, Sheryl, allow students to threaten other students and not immediately snap? A snap decision -

Chamath Palihapitiya

It's a decision. You just said it.

Sheryl Sandberg

It's crazy.

Chamath Palihapitiya

It's a decision.

Sheryl Sandberg

It is a decision.

Jason Calacanis

Just to be absolutely expelled. If a Jewish -

Sheryl Sandberg

Yeah.

Jason Calacanis

- a set of Jewish students surrounded a Palestinian student - an - an - an - an - an Islamic student - a - a - a - a Muslim and chanted at them about what happened October 7th and made them feel threatened, expel them as well.

Sheryl Sandberg

Absolutely.

Jason Calacanis

There's just some basic - basic rules of the game they are not enforcing. It's absolutely infuriating. But I just want to make sure I steelman that other side. And you did - you know - I think very eloquently, say you also agree with the - the suffering -

Sheryl Sandberg

Yeah.

Jason Calacanis

- in Palestine needs to end.

Sheryl Sandberg

I know we're out of time. Can I say one thing?

Jason Calacanis

Yeah.

Sheryl Sandberg

I really want to say this.

Jason Calacanis

You can say 10 things, Sheryl - as much as you'd like. You have time.

Sheryl Sandberg

I really want to thank you all for this because two things happened in the last hour with you. One is that you were really passionate against this sexual assault and really clear. And as much as we need women to believe this, we need male and male leaders. And so, your voices - like I could feel the passion on this. And I'm really grateful because that - that gives me hope. Like, I am - it's such a dark moment. It's such a dark moment for democracy. It's such a dark moment for Jews. It's such a dark moment for women. But this really gave me hope. And the second is your tears for Dave. Thanks. It's been 9 years. A lot of, "We've moved

on." You have friends. I have a wonderful life that I'm so grateful for. But the world still lost a really, really, really special person. And I - I can see how much that means. I knew this, but -

Chamath Palihapitiya

There - there are very few things -

Sheryl Sandberg

Thank you.

Chamath Palihapitiya

- as you were older that you realize in life that matters and -

Sheryl Sandberg

Thank you.

Chamath Palihapitiya

- friends are. That's it. It's just friends.

Jason Calacanis

You know, at the end of the day, Chamath.

Chamath Palihapitiya

You're family and your friends. That's all you have.

Jason Calacanis

Yeah. I - I - I - I think about Dave frequently. And I just think at the end of the - your life, what you have is but a collection of memories. And the memories we have with Dave - the laughter, the joy -

Sheryl Sandberg

@fakechamath

Jason Calacanis

@fakechamath. You know, it's just - his wit, his insights - you know - we would be sitting at that poker table and it was like we're all like 15-16-year-olds. And we got this big brother who's 20. And you know, we'd be bickering, and laughing, and whatever. And he come in and say, "Hey, guys. How about this and this?" So, Chamath that I would be jawing at each other. He'd say, "Hey, guys. Let's calm it down a little bit..."

Sheryl Sandberg

Thank you guys.

Jason Calacanis

"...and let's have a good time." - whatever.

Sheryl Sandberg

Thank you guys so much. I have to go to my board meeting. I -

David Friedberg

Thanks, Sheryl.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Thanks, Sheryl.

Sheryl Sandberg

This was - this was like -

Jason Calacanis

Sheryl, we didn't get to talk -

Sheryl Sandberg

- as deeply meaningful as it could have been. Seriously, thank you.

Jason Calacanis

We - we didn't get to talk about anything business. I - I -

David Friedberg

Come - come to the Summit.

Jason Calacanis

I beg you to come back to the - either come to the Summit and -

David Friedberg

Come to the Summit.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Are you long or short Nvidia? I - we just need to know for our -

Jason Calacanis

It's a hard pivot to make.

Sheryl Sandberg

It's true. It's a hard pivot.

Jason Calacanis

Let's not even try.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Also, what's your view on crypto?

David Friedberg

Alright, bye.

Jason Calacanis

If you were to change any paragraph of the Lean In book, what would you - we'll say all this for the Summit. Come.

Sheryl Sandberg

A really big hug. Thank you guys.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Sheryl, thank you.

Sheryl Sandberg

And thank you for watching.

Jason Calacanis

We love you, Sheryl.

David Friedberg

Thank you.

Chamath Palihapitiya

We love you, Sheryl.

Sheryl Sandberg

We love you guys too. Thank you.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Thank you very much.

Jason Calacanis

Wow. I need to take a deep breath here, Chamath. Friedberg. This was super emotional for me.

David Friedberg

Yeah, intense. Man -

Jason Calacanis

I didn't know if I could do it. I'll be honest. I have so many emotions, Chamath, about Dave. I have so many feelings about this situation. This was a hard -

Chamath Palihapitiya

When I watched the documentary, I thought the most important thing is there are these - you said it, Jason - in the fog of war, there are things that happen that are just wholly unacceptable. I remember when I was getting older and I was curious: Why did my family not go back to Sri Lanka? What do the Tamils - which is a small minority - Hindu minority in the majority Buddhist population - why did they feel so out of sorts? And we were a part of the Buddhist majority. And when you insert yourself into that struggle and understand where they're coming from, it's jarring because you have to really like reunderwrite, "Okay, what are we fighting for? What are they fighting for?" And the most important thing that I got to is: What is allowed? Because then, you would see things. And the unfortunate part of Sri Lanka - Sri Lanka's history was in the final parts of the war that ended it, there were some incredible atrocities that were committed. And you know - the United Nations and international court system tried to find justice for the Tamil minority population in what happened in those final hours of that war. I - I don't think that they did for the most part. But it's just to show you that these things leave deep wounds that, frankly, can be reopened in a moment. So, it's very important that I think these things are - and I hate to say it so unemotionally - but documented.

Jason Calacanis

Absolutely. Absolutely.

Chamath Palihapitiya

For those that don't even understand the Holocaust, if you go to the Holocaust Museum - if you're lucky enough to do it in Israel, I would encourage you to do it, but even in Washington. You know the totality of what happened. There's certain places that document these important moments in history. And if - and if this is one of those moments to the Israeli people, I just encourage them, please make sure that you minimize the mis- and disinformation. As complicated as that may be to do, it is incredibly important so that you can create -

David Friedberg

And - and do - and doing so does not dissolve empathy for the other side's cause.

Chamath Palihapitiya

No, not at all.

David Friedberg

Or for the other side's motivations or objectives. Having empathy for the circumstances that happened here is the equivalent of having empathy for the plight of the Palestinian people and what they're dealing with today following October 7th. And I think that we need to recognize that both things can be true. We can have empathy for both sides.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Yeah. And by the way, humans have a way of making decisions - which I think is pretty predictable - which is once you have a point of view, there are things that you believe are facts. And then, there's all this other stuff that you have degrees in which you believe that are essentially conjecture. The most important thing in really important debates is to move something from that gray zone into the box of facts.

Jason Calacanis

So to speak.

Chamath Palihapitiya

And that is the only way that causes people to reunderwrite their principal views. It doesn't matter what topic we're talking about. So, the more that we're able to document and actually make these things unambiguous, I think it actually has a really important role to play in how these young people view what it is that they're part of. I'm totally pro-protesting. I'm totally in support of - you know - standing up for the things that you believe in. I'm not in support of overlooking atrocities.

Jason Calacanis

I mean - it - it's - it's well said, Chamath. And you know - the response, I - I can tell you - you know - to this episode and the response I got for just tweeting - you know, "Hey, this is an important documentary to watch", is the whataboutism - the other side. And documenting what's happening in Gaza. And you know - we - we have this search for truth right now, which is very difficult because institutions have a lot of self-inflicted wounds. We live in an age of conspiracy theory - you know - and there are reports of crisis actors - you know - in Gaza creating fake deaths and fake videos. So, you know - now you have one side saying, "Oh, the - the people of Palestine or Hamas are... The numbers aren't correct of the number of people died. The - the suffering is not correct. These images aren't correct." The fog of war is going to be thick for a while here, folks. And it's going to take us a while. And Chamath is exactly right. You got to document this. You got to get to some ground truth. You got to get to some common facts so we can all objectively look at those common facts. And you know - listen. It's - it's a shame David Sacks couldn't make it today. But it would have really - he's missed here because - you know - we have that same thing with the - the - the war in Ukraine. And we're - it's very hard for us in this current media landscape where we're quoting from news sources and anonymous Twitter accounts - fake videos. It's going to get worse with AI. It's going to be harder and harder for us to find the truth. And this is where your own

personal morality/ethics and - and - and I'm not sure who brought this up during our - our talk because I'm emotionally spent. I've got to be honest. It's a little hard for me to collect myself here. But man, you know - it - you - you have to have some basic moral principles here. Children, women, rape, sexual assault - it - we - we all can agree on this. You said this in the week after October 7th, Friedberg. You had a very powerful moment on the show that - that you don't want to have to decide between - between October 7th being horrific and children dying in Gaza being horrific. And you don't want to have to be painted with one side or the other. You want to believe, as a moral person, that all suffering needs to end. And we, collectively as a species in 2024 on this planet, can work together to - to just agree that certain things should never happen and - and - and - and to try to resolve these horrible conflicts. I'm - I'm - I'm - I'm so spent right now. And it - it - it was just very difficult for me to watch that documentary.

David Friedberg

Yeah.

Jason Calacanis

I don't know where we go from here, gentlemen.

David Friedberg

Well - well, let's - let's - let's -

Jason Calacanis

I'm - I'm fine ending the show here or taking a 10-minute break and then maybe doing one or two news stories.

David Friedberg

Take - take a break. We'll come back. Let's take 5 to 10 minutes.

[Break]

Jason Calacanis

Alright, everybody. Welcome back to the program. Yup, it's not easy to do a pivot here. But we collected ourselves. Took a deep breath. And you've all been asking for a Science Corner. And so, there's a really important story that Friedberg has been educating us about on the group chat. There's a startup that just open-sourced to an AI gene editor. Yes, you heard that right. Open-source gene editor powered by AI. It's called Profluent Bio? Am I correct? Profluent?

David Friedberg

Yeah. Berkeley-based startup, Profluent Bio.

Jason Calacanis

Great.

David Friedberg

Have we talked about CRISPR and gene editing before on the show or no?

Jason Calacanis

I think we have mentioned it. It would be good, as a primer, for you to just explain from first principles what is CRISPR, why it's important, and then get into this.

David Friedberg

So, there's debate around who discovered CRISPR-Cas systems first and found their application. But generally -

Chamath Palihapitiya

Who's side are you on? The Jennifer Doudna side or the MIT? Is it - isn't he a prof at MIT?

David Friedberg

I'm an - I'm an open-source guy, which is why I'm excited about this topic today. Because I don't - I don't give a shit. I think things that are in nature are in nature.

Jason Calacanis

What is CRISPR?

David Friedberg

And I don't think you should be able to patent - I don't think you should be able to patent stuff that you discovered in nature.

Jason Calacanis

Okay. So, let's step back for a second, Friedberg. Explain what CRISPR is to somebody who's heard the term, but doesn't actually know, in your unique ability to explain science to the rest of us.

David Friedberg

Yeah. So, CRISPR-Cas - CRISPR-Cas - C-A-S - Cas proteins - C-A-S proteins - are proteins that can go into a cell. And they have what's called a guide RNA - little piece of RNA attached to them - that allows that protein to find its way to a specific point in DNA in that cell - in the nucleus of that cell. And when that protein hits that specific location, it cuts it like scissors. And so, the protein finds the part of the DNA it's looking to cut, attaches itself, cuts the DNA, and the cut is made. And so, this capability was discovered, actually, in bacteria. And it was an evolved system that bacteria developed to actually protect themselves from viruses. So, the CRISPR-Cas complex emerged through evolution where

bacteria started to figure out that they could cut up viral DNA. So, they made these proteins. These proteins would attach to viral DNA and destroy the - the viruses that came into the - the - the bacteria cells. So, scientists - arguably from Harvard, from Berkeley, and from other places around the world - in the early 2010s, started to do research and identified ways that we could leverage these proteins that we were discovering in nature to do targeted DNA editing in human cells, and plant cells, and other cells. And so, rather than them just being used as a defense mechanism by bacteria, that we could harness these proteins and make them useful to go in and do specific gene editing. Now, why would we want to do gene editing? Gene editing, if done precisely enough and efficiently enough, would allow us to go in and fix genetic diseases - in humans, for example. It would allow us to take T-cells and reprogram them to go and attack cancer cells back in the human body. It would allow us, in the case of agriculture - which I'm very close to and what I work on every day - to figure out ways to make specific changes to the genes of a plant to make that plant grow in higher yield or change itself to be disease-resistant, or drought -resistant, or other features that might be helpful to agriculture and to humanity. So, gene editing became this amazing toolkit that emerged around 2012-2013 and just blew up on the market. And the main original foundational patents, which are now mostly held - after a lot of litigation - by the Broad Institute - which is - you know - there's this kind of joint patent arrangement with the Broad, and MIT, and Harvard - are being used in medical applications. They are being used in agriculture applications. They're being used in all these different tools. But they're patented, there's royalties, there's fees - all this stuff. And in the years that followed, many other Cas proteins started to get discovered. All these different types of proteins were discovered. And the reason you want to use different proteins is you want to improve the efficiency. So, how frequently or how good are these proteins at editing the cell? And eliminate off-target effects - meaning the protein isn't making cuts or making changes to other parts of the DNA that you don't want it to. So, there's been the search underway for the last decade for new Cas proteins and developing new Cas proteins. And dozens have been discovered. People are trying to patent them. People are trying to make them do special things. They can only change one letter. All these different tools are emerging. So, we went from having absolutely no ability to do gene editing just over a decade ago to suddenly having all of these different tools that could do gene editing really efficiently, really cheaply, really - really affordably, really scalably, and more precisely. So, this company Profluent, they actually used an AI model - what they call a protein language model - to create and train an entirely new library of Cas proteins that do not exist in nature today. So, they basically took 26 terabases - so, 26 trillion letters of assembled genomes and metagenomes - this is from other - from various species - and start to simulate new Cas proteins that could be useful to replace the ones that are on the market today or improvements on what's in the market today. And they found one that they called OpenCRISPR-1. And they made it publicly available under an open-source license. So, any startup, any research lab, any individual, any scientist can use this particular cast protein to go in and make edits without having to deal with patents, and IP, and claims on who owned what that they found in nature. And this particular protein that they identified is 400

mutations away from anything that they've seen in nature. So basically, the AI model started to learn what sequence of DNA generated what structure of protein that was really good at being a gene editor. And they started to discover and iterate on building new ones and the AI started to predict, "Hey, this would be a good gene editor. This would be a good gene editor." And they came up with dozens of new gene-editing molecules that don't exist in nature today. They identified one that they then sequenced. They created it. They put it in a lab. They tested it. And it turned out to be much better than Cas9 which is the main one used in -

Chamath Palihapitiya

So, they - sorry - so, they used an AI model to find a new guide RNA.

David Friedberg

To find a new Cas protein. So, the guide RNA is just RNA that's like a - that's like the key. Think about - a CRISPR-Cas system has two components. One is the Cas protein. That's the giant protein that goes in and cuts DNA. And attached to it is what's called a guide RNA.

Chamath Palihapitiya

I see.

David Friedberg

That guide RNA is the specific letters. And those specific letters are like a key and a lock. They go attached to a particular part of the DNA and then that giant protein cuts in that exact spot. And so, what they - what everyone's been working on is new proteins. And they've been trying to find new Cas proteins that aren't going to go do off-target cutting - that aren't going to make mistakes - that are going to be perfect at making the exact cut you want to make. So, everyone's always trying to improve the efficiency and reduce the off-target effects of these systems. And so, what they did is they tried to create a new protein that doesn't exist by learning from all of these other Cas proteins that exist in nature today, and identifying the three-dimensional structure of them, and allow the model to predict a Cas protein that might actually be better than anything that's found in nature today.

Chamath Palihapitiya

So, it works around every single existing pattern.

David Friedberg

Well, that's going to be tested in the courts later. I'm sure. But they open-source it so they they're not claiming any IP on it. They're not making any claims on it with the patent office. And they're saying, "Look, it's free and available."

Chamath Palihapitiya

I'm on the same page as you. If this is - if this was occurring billions of years ago and it just took us billions of years to actually observe it occurring naturally in nature, it's absolutely ridiculous that a patent would be granted on that. Now, the implementation of that in a commercial use case, that's fine. Being able to patent -

Jason Calacanis

Yeah, no. This is happening, I guess, in the psychedelic space with psilocybin, MDMA, and some of those.

David Friedberg

That's such - that's such a leap.

Jason Calacanis

No, no. I'm just saying there are drug companies now that are realizing - realizing the efficacy at Johns Hopkins / Stanford - where they're doing these - and then they're trying to figure out how do we take something that's occurring naturally - psilocybin in mushrooms - referred to colloquially as magic mushrooms - and then how do - how do we get our - how do we bear hug this so that we can patent it? How can we own the implementation of it as - as you're saying?

David Friedberg

Yeah.

Jason Calacanis

And so, there - there - it's very -

David Friedberg

But I think - I - I - look, I mean -

Jason Calacanis

It's fascinating to me taking nature and trying to patent nature.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Right.

David Friedberg

There's a simple truth to all this, which is every single life sciences lab on earth is using this technology today.

Jason Calacanis

Yes.

David Friedberg

It is absolutely revolutionized life sciences. It has changed everything. It has reset the trajectory of human health, of agriculture, and of industrial biotechnology. Those are the three major markets where gene editing is useful. It is changing everything. And so, it is already a ubiquitous tool. We basically created software engineering for DNA - for life -

Jason Calacanis

Let me ask you -

David Friedberg

- with this capability. And so, this system that these guys just published on, I think, is a really wonderful manifestation of how AI is allowing us to open-source and create improved tools. And it's - it's really important for humanity. And so, I think it's just great to - to see happen. Yeah.

Jason Calacanis

Okay. Two questions from my baby brother with the - with the science brain. Number one, the LLMs here - how - maybe you speak to the efficacy of LLMs when applied to this vertical because it's a constrained data set, I believe. So, it feels to me analogous to code whereas like human language, images, videos - you know - building an LLM around them - you have a pretty large corpus. It seems to me code is constrained. A video game is constrained. And of course, maybe gene editing is constrained. I'll let you answer that. And the - and the LLM component here. And then, maybe you could speak to what this will do to the startup community - being able to leverage this open-source tool. Have - have startup started to pop up around this yet? Is there a .org/.com - kind of - equivalent here where you have wordpress.org, open-source version of WordPress - wordpress.com, the hosted paid version. And are we going to see a bunch of .com versions of this in different startups? Take it whichever you'd like - the two questions.

David Friedberg

I'm not super familiar. I've met the Profluent guys a couple times. I'm not super familiar with what their - their business model is going to be. But I hate that startups are worried or feel encumbered by the patent landscape associated with CRISPR-Cas systems and that they can't build novel products and move humanity forward.

Jason Calacanis

Okay, so it's a blocker for humanity.

David Friedberg

I'm hopeful that we do see more of these open-source-like tools become available and ubiquitous. It's almost the equivalent of having Linux where everyone can now - you know - as an operating system - or HTML being - you know - standard code. I don't know if you

remember to use - before HTML5, a lot of people were using Macromedia Flash in the browser.

Jason Calacanis

Of course, yeah. It was a huge blocker. Yeah.

David Friedberg

It was a huge blocker. So, you had to pay the license fee to - to create flash content. And then you had to - I don't know if they sold consumer plugins. But they were - they were -

Jason Calacanis

Well, yeah. And then you could get rug-pulled, right? They could change their mind.

David Friedberg

Yeah, they were - they were trying - and they were trying to make money on both sides. And so, in order to show -

Jason Calacanis

ActiveX. Microsoft did ActiveX -

David Friedberg

ActiveX. Exactly.

Jason Calacanis

- to try to be a blocker and own the open-source web community.

David Friedberg

So, in order to put - yeah - in order to put multimedia on the internet, you have - you used to have to pay license fees. And then, HTML5 basically created multimedia capabilities native to the HTML, which is open-source. And so, everyone could do it. And I think that it's really important that we see that happening with gene editing. I think all the applications of gene editing should be patentable and protectable, but the core tools are so powerful and important that I think it's very difficult and hard to see how we are accelerating humanity's progress by keeping these things at bay. And I'm - it's really great to see open-source tools like this hit the market.

Jason Calacanis

Okay.

David Friedberg

And I think it's really important to - and I think it's really amazing to see AI - AI create them. Yeah.

Jason Calacanis

Tell me about the LLM side here - the large language model being built around this data. How - what's the efficacy of that going to be like? And is - is my analogy of a constrained data set - meaning it- it'll be able to perform at a higher level like we see it with code and - and copilots for code?

David Friedberg

Well, they created their own LLM. They call it a - a protein language model. So, they took all of this genome data that is generally very publicly available. There's a lot of the stuff published in open genome databases. You can download it, ingest it, and use it for whatever purposes you want as a life sciences researcher. So, they took 26 trillion base pairs of data and basically use that to train their model. And then, using that trained model, they then started to run inference on it to say, "Come up with Cas systems that are - are novel that could theoretically have efficacy greater than what we see in nature with the natural Cas systems." And then, the model started to output all of these novel proteins. Then they started to test them. And they found that this one worked really, really well after testing in the lab. So actually, here's a great image. So, here you can see - basically, in training the model - so, it's a - it's a little bit technically complicated what they did in the steps to generate this system. But ultimately, the system yielded something that they could then create, put in a lab environment, and then in the lab environment test how well it worked. And what they showed was that it actually worked better than Cas9, which is the primary gene editing protein used today. So, you know - pretty powerful set of steps and all unlocked by, again, freely available data and building their own model. And now, ultimately, open-sourcing the best output of it. So, pretty cool.

Jason Calacanis

Okay. Amazing job. If you missed any of those graphics - you're listening to the podcast - go to YouTube and search for "All-In Podcast" if you want to see those graphics. Alright, gentlemen. This has been another amazing episode of the All-In Podcast. For your sultan of science, David Friedberg - the chairman/dictator - and David Sacks, who could make it today. I am the world's greatest moderator. Rest in power, Dave Goldberg - Goldie. We love you. We miss you. And we'll see you all next time on the All-In Podcast.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Love you, boys.

Jason Calacanis

Love you, besties.

Chamath Palihapitiya

Bye bye.