Ferriss's Poetry Picks; Casado Praises Guo's Economist Case for Jensen Huang

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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Tim Ferriss names the poetry and novels that brought him back to verse, Martin Casado praises Sarah Guo's Economist essay on Nvidia, and Garry Tan, Amjad Masad and Ryan Hoover point to AI-era clips, posts and papers.

Ferriss: the poetry that brought him back

In a conversation with Zen teacher Henry Shukman, **Tim Ferriss** named several books and poems:

- ***Night Sky with Exit Wounds***: Ferriss picked up the slim volume at a Barnes & Noble checkout in Union Square because of its title. He credits it with bringing him back to poetry after he "got fed up" with unintelligible poetry [1]. He found parts of it uncomfortable reading. Still, it was "so evocative": "when he's describing a field like you're in the field." He called that kind of empathizing "ethically good" [1].
- **Hafez translations**: Ferriss keeps about 20 copies of a slim Hafez translation on a guest-room shelf to give to friends. He holds the mystic poetry back until after a friend's psychedelic experience, because "much of it will not make sense until afterwards" [1]. He also pointed to Haleh Liza Gafori's Rumi translations in *Gold*. He likes that she explains her translation tradeoffs in the introduction (the transcript garbles her name) [1].
- **A. E. Housman, "From far, from eve and morning"** (from *A Shropshire Lad*): Ferriss heard it in one of Shukman's guided meditations. He "loved the cadence and the feel of it" even though he didn't know what half of it meant [1]. After Shukman went through it line by line, Ferriss called it "a beautiful poem" [1].
- ***Siddhartha***: Ferriss called it "really really durable" and said "I should

read that again." He thinks often about its warning against being too clever [1].

Casado: Guo's Economist essay, and Dario's reply on AI governance

Sarah Guo wrote in *The Economist* that Nvidia's board was right to bring back Jensen Huang [2]. The paper sums up her argument as Huang being "the key to stopping AI from becoming the preserve of a few" (essay) [3]. **Martin Casado** called it an "Exceptional piece" [4].

Casado also boosted **Dario Amodei's** post: "Damn right! You tell em' Dario!" [5]. This continues the anti-handover thread from recent briefs. Amodei denies that he favors "surrender[ing] human free will" to AI, and he says AI must be governed by "legitimate democratic processes" [6]. He lists his essays that make this case, including *Machines of Loving Grace* and *The Adolescence of Technology* [6].

Tan: a Bostrom clip and SaaStr's funding data

Garry Tan called a clip of **Nick Bostrom** (shared by @VirtualElena) "quite under-appreciated." In it, Bostrom turns "if anyone builds it everyone dies" into "if nobody builds it everyone dies." He also suggests superintelligence could extend lives to 1,200–1,400 years [7].

Tan also pointed to Jason Lemkin's SaaStr piece on the funding bar, which reports 900% median growth for companies under $10M [8]. His takeaway: "Median growth is 10x… tell me AI is not helping new startups grow faster than they ever have" [9].

Masad: Anthropic's Python-to-Rust migration post

Amjad Masad pointed to Anthropic's engineering blog post on moving its Messages API from Python to Rust. Anthropic used the existing service to check the new one, with teams of Claude agents finding and fixing differences between the two [10]. His takeaway: "Large scale software migration is now viable provided you can verify the results." He called that "exceptionally important" because aging software runs critical infrastructure [11].

Shorter picks

- **Ryan Hoover**: "Dilan lives in the future. Read (or listen) his paper on Great Inheritance" (post) [12]. Dilan's answer to the Fermi paradox is that superintelligence built by far older civilizations has probably been on Earth "for a very long time, watching us and perhaps protecting us" [13].
- **Marc Andreessen** rated Netflix's new Rob Lowe documentary 10/10: "impossible to spend two hours having more fun" (clip) [14].

Sources

1. Zen Master Henry Shukman on Love and Grief, Jhana 101, Ambition, and Poetry as a Shortcut
2. X post by @saranormous
3. X post by @TheEconomist
4. X post by @martin_casado
5. X post by @martin_casado
6. X post by @DarioAmodei
7. X post by @garrytan
8. X post by @jasonlk
9. X post by @garrytan
10. X post by @AnthropicAI
11. X post by @amasad
12. X post by @rrhoover
13. X post by @dilan
14. X post by @pmarca