Google's Crypto-Quantum Paper Leads a Resource List on Mastery Learning and Tolkien

Recommended Reading from Tech Founders

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Chamath Palihapitiya's endorsement of a Google Research paper on crypto quantum risk is the clearest actionable recommendation in today's set. The rest of the list clusters around mastery-learning resources and classic books that founders are using to think about action, defense, and hidden systems of protection.

Most compelling recommendation

Today's clearest high-signal pick is the Google Research paper Chamath Palihapitiya called "quite reasonable." It stands out because he paired the recommendation with a concrete threat model and a concrete ask: if AGI/ASI arrives in the semi-near future, crypto leaders should organize a conclusive quantum-resistant roadmap within the next few years [1].

Safeguarding Cryptocurrency by Disclosing Quantum Vulnerabilities Responsibly

- **Content type:** Research paper / blog post
- **Author/creator:** Google Research
- **Link/URL:** research.google/blog/safeguarding-cryptocurrency-by-disclosing-quantum-vulnerabilities-responsibly/ [2]
- **Who recommended it:** Chamath Palihapitiya [1]
- **Key takeaway:** He said the paper raises important technical questions. In his framing, sufficiently capable AI would make cracking a crypto project an obvious honeypot, so the industry should treat quantum resistance as a near-term coordination problem [1]

- **Why it matters:** This is not a vague endorsement. Chamath said he had already raised the issue previously, which makes the recommendation look like a sustained concern rather than a one-off share [1]

A dense cluster on mastery learning

The education recommendations were unusually specific. Joe Limont pointed to tools built around mastery and explicit time-to-mastery, while Shane Parrish added that watching his kids use Prodigy made him less skeptical of edtech's ability to improve both math skills and motivation [3].

Math Academy

- **Content type:** Learning app + downloadable book
- **Author/creator:** Math Academy; Justin is named in the source material as the author of the book [3]
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** Joe Limont, in the Shane Parrish interview
- **Key takeaway:** He described it as a great math app, said it comes with a 500-page downloadable book on learning science, and highlighted that it publishes how many hours it takes to master material, using examples like 28 hours and 22 hours for elementary subject levels [3]
- **Why it matters:** The recommendation is unusually concrete: it combines pedagogy, curriculum design, and explicit time-to-mastery estimates in one system [3]

Physics Graph

- **Content type:** Learning app
- **Author/creator:** Physics Graph
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** Joe Limont, in the Shane Parrish interview
- **Key takeaway:** He described it as the physics version of Math Academy and his choice for high school physics, especially the algebra-based AP track [3]
- **Why it matters:** It suggests the same mastery-learning approach is spreading from math into physics [3]

Bloom's 2 Sigma paper

- **Content type:** Paper
- **Author/creator:** Not specified in the source material
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** Discussed favorably in the Shane Parrish interview [3]
- **Key takeaway:** The paper is described as showing that mastery-based tutoring with a human tutor produced two-sigma better performance, while

also underscoring how hard it is to scale human tutoring and enforced mastery [3]
- **Why it matters:** It gives the theoretical benchmark sitting behind the mastery-learning tools recommended in the same conversation [3]

Literary frameworks founders are reaching for

Notes from Underground

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** Fyodor Dostoevsky
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** Marc Andreessen, via a reply endorsing a post about the book [4]
- **Key takeaway:** The framing he amplified contrasts the decisive "man of action" with the "man of thought," who becomes trapped by self-consciousness and overthinking [5]
- **Why it matters:** It is a compact lens on the cost of analysis paralysis [5]

The Lord of the Rings

- **Content type:** Book
- **Author/creator:** J.R.R. Tolkien
- **Link/URL:** Not provided in the source material
- **Who recommended it:** Palmer Luckey [6]
- **Key takeaway:** Luckey argues Tolkien hated war but still believed some wars had to be fought. He uses C.S. Lewis's reading of the Shire as a "local and temporary accident" to explain how protected societies forget the powers shielding them [6]
- **Why it matters:** He treats Tolkien as a worldview resource for thinking about evil, deterrence, and the gap between frontline experience and rear-area comfort [6]

> "The terrifying discovery that the humdrum happiness of the Shire, which they had taken for granted as something normal, is in reality a sort of local and temporary accident, that its existence depends on being protected by powers which the hobbits forget, against powers which the hobbits dare not imagine." [6]

The Future of War Is Here… And the U.S. Isn't Ready | Palmer Luckey (29:52)

Luckey's Tolkien fandom is not superficial; in the same conversation he also referenced *The Silmarillion* when discussing the Elvish roots of "Anduril" [6].

Sources

1. X post by @chamath
2. X post by @chamath
3. Principal of the 1% School: The Future of Education is Better Than You Think
4. X post by @pmarca
5. X post by @signulll
6. The Future of War Is Here… And the U.S. Isn't Ready | Palmer Luckey