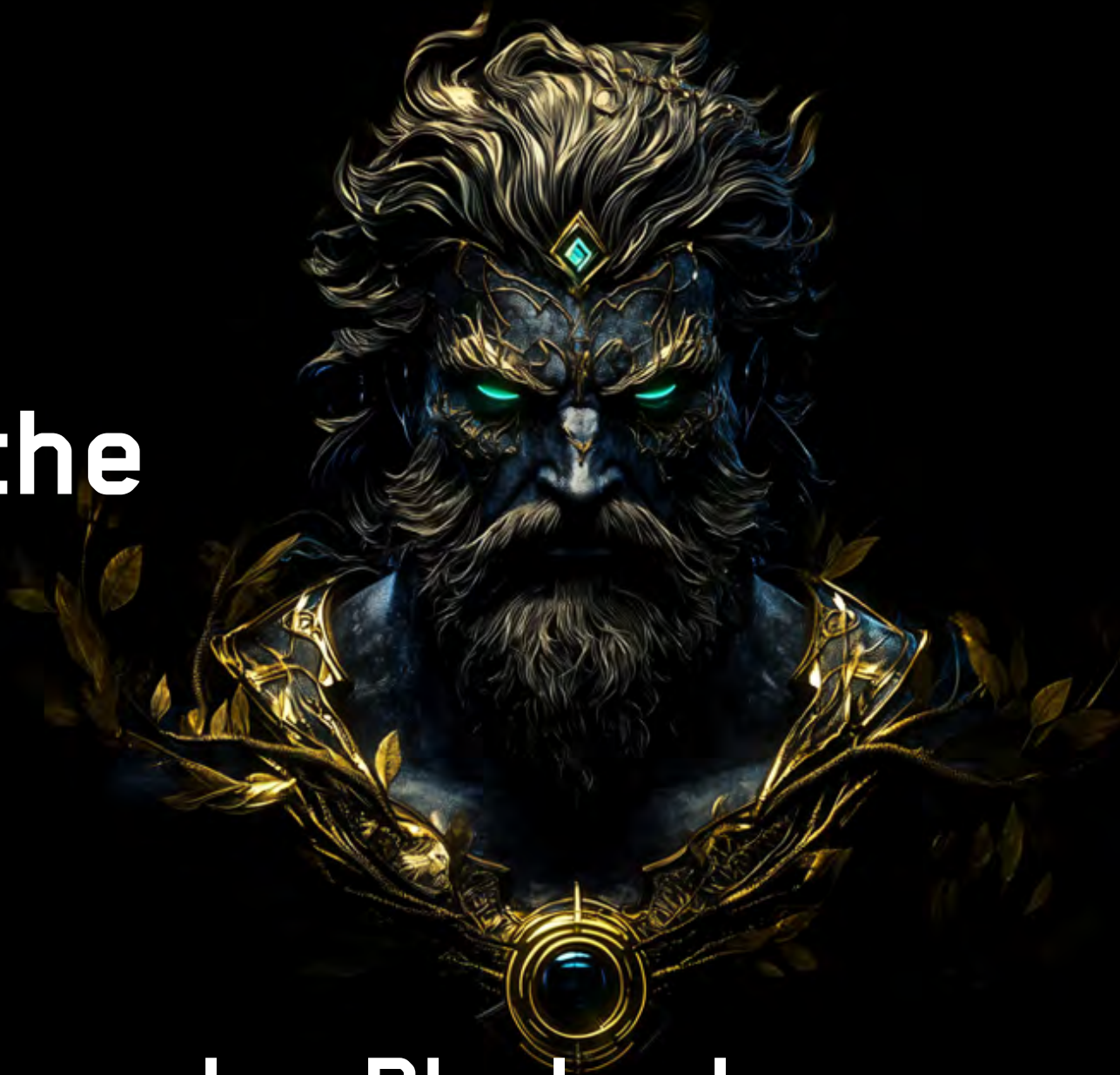


The first
7 figures in the
**Stock
Market**

Contemporary Investor Playbook





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Investor in the US
markets since 2017,
\$2M+ net worth at 27

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There are many ways how to make money in the market and even more how to lose some. It took me years to understand how tempting some paths can be, and even more that they often lead to dead-ends.

But there is a path well travelled. I am not doing anything new. Just standing on shoulders of giants who mastered the market before me. Warren Buffett, Peter Lynch, Bill Ackman, Howard Marks, Stanley Druckenmiller, there are too many to name.

And that knowledge, both old and new, is crucial.

Market transfers wealth from incompetent to competent, from impatient to patient, and from the emotional to the rational.

So we have to make sure we are on the winning side, as for every trade, there are two parties.

2022 was a long, drawn-out bear market, stretching from January until December. Stocks bled for the entire year, with fear, inflation, and rising interest rates dominating the headlines.

Then came 2023. The mirror opposite. It was a recovery year with stocks grinding higher month after month, but many investors didn't believe it. Sentiment was still in the gutter from the prior year, and a large part of the crowd stayed out, expecting another leg down.

The **disbelief rally** caught people off guard. By the time the general public started noticing, the market had already run far ahead; fueled by falling inflation, resilient earnings, and the AI boom. The S&P 500 climbed to fresh all-time highs by year-end.

2024 started with a shift. After watching markets rally without them in 2023, more investors began tiptoeing back in.

The mood turned from disbelief to **cautious optimism**. Trump's election win added a jolt of

confidence, with talk of tax cuts, deregulation, and business-friendly policies circulating again.

There was a sense of potential, even excitement, but it wasn't mania. Many still carried scars from 2022, wary of being caught on the wrong side again.

Valuations looked stretched, volatility returned, and the market entered a phase of digestion. A year where you had to be selective. The easy gains were behind us, complacency was punished.

But here's the thing. None of this will matter in 2040. All the noise, the fear, the excitement, the headlines about elections, interest rates, and short-term swings. All will fade into background. What will matter is that you stayed in the game.

That you kept buying, learning, and holding quality assets through every cycle. Because when you're sitting in Cabo in 2040, you'll only see that your portfolio is 10x bigger because you **stayed consistent** when others wavered.

Contemporary Long-Term Investing

“Market transfers wealth from incompetent to competent, from impatient to patient and from the emotional to the rational.”

The stock market remains the greatest wealth multiplier mechanism. Not because of the noise, speculation, or wild short-term moves. It’s because, over time, ownership in productive, cash-generating companies compounds relentlessly. Ownership of **productive assets** is what creates lasting wealth.

By now, you already know which game you’re playing. You’re not here to gamble or chase every new trend. You’re here to **allocate meaningful capital** and let it work for you. Through decades, through cycles, through noise.

This approach is what I call **“Contemporary Long-Term Investing”**. Rooted in the timeless principles of the greats like Warren Buffett, Peter Lynch or Nick Sleep, but applied in today’s environment. The world is changing, changing fast, but values and principles remain.

When I started investing in 2017, this mindset helped me cross six figures quickly. But more importantly, it’s the same mindset that scales to seven, eight, and beyond. Or is it?

The First 7 Figures in the Stock Market

How the Game Changes?

However, as your portfolio grows, so does the nature of the game. Going from \$10k to \$100k requires hustle and aggressive action. But once you’re working with real capital, multi-six, seven, or eight figures, the way you operate has to evolve.

Your portfolio starts to behave like **fixed capital**.

No matter how much you earn or save, your new contributions barely move the needle.

The engine is already running, and your job shifts. From fueling the machine to steering it wisely.

You’re no longer playing small. You’re managing serious sums, and that forces you to think and act differently.

At this level, you don’t bother with breadcrumbs.

Small, speculative positions that might move the needle for a beginner are meaningless noise for you.

The math changes. A 50% return on a \$5,000 position won’t move your portfolio. You don’t waste energy chasing what’s easy to measure but too small to matter.

Capital allocation at scale:

What matters now are high-conviction, asymmetric opportunities. Investments where you can deploy significant capital and allow it to compound at scale.

You have to become more selective, more patient. Capital allocation at scale.

You need companies that can actually absorb your capital and deliver exponential returns over time. You start thinking like Buffett with Berkshire or Ackman with Pershing Square; large, concentrated bets on outstanding businesses, paired with dry powder ready for when the market serves you an opportunity on a silver platter.

And in between, you do nothing. You sit, you wait, you watch. Chasing crumbs is no longer worth your time or attention.

That’s the real game. Very few have the patience and discipline to play it well.



Prerequisites

The path to becoming a better investor doesn't get easier just because you've crossed six figures.

If anything, the stakes are higher now.

You're no longer the young and hungry nobody with barely \$10k to your name.

You've built something.

You have meaningful capital at work. And with that, **the weight of responsibility** grows. Every mistake now carries more zeros. Every misstep compounds.

The game at this level isn't about hustle or grinding to save an extra \$500 to deploy. It's about discipline, clarity, and understanding how to allocate large amounts of capital without tripping over your own ego, emotions, or overconfidence.

You don't need to be a genius. You don't need to spend hundreds of hours a month buried in spreadsheets. But you do need to stay sharp. The margin for error shrinks when you're managing serious sums.

As a non-professional investor, your time

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commitment evolves. In the early years, it made sense to spend many hours a week learning, researching, building your portfolio.

Today, you don't need to be spending that much; not because it's less important, but because the process should already be in place. The bulk of your time is no longer spent trying to find the next great stock. It's spent watching, waiting, and moving decisively when the market hands you an opportunity worth seven figures, not seven hundred dollars.

You are not here to **play**.

You are here to **scale**.

And at this level, the biggest risk is not lack of knowledge – it's lack of patience, discipline, and the occasional overconfidence that sneaks in when you've already made it further than most.

This is the real challenge of managing wealth: understanding that now, every decision echoes longer and costs more.



Me, trying to predict macro, 2025, colorized

Lesson 01

Scaling with Purpose

Once you cross into seven figures, the game changes; not just in how you invest, but why.

Up to this point, your goal was clear: grow. Get to \$10k, then \$100k, then \$1M. The mission was accumulation. Now, it gets more nuanced.

With serious capital, there's a new question:

What do you want this money to do for you?

Do you want to aggressively grow it to \$10M+? Are you optimizing for optionality and long-term autonomy? Or are you starting to prioritize safety, future income, and legacy?

Each path requires a different lens. Not in how much you hustle, but in how you allocate.

Multipliers Think in Asymmetry

You're still on offense. You want to 5x, 10x your capital again. That means taking concentrated bets where you have an edge. You're hunting for companies with massive TAMs, founder-led energy, and product-market fit that's just hitting escape velocity. You keep cash ready for downturns; not to cushion, but to attack.

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You welcome volatility because you understand the payoff. You're not just okay being early, you want to be early. As long as your research is sound, you'll sit through pain because the reward is worth the discomfort.

Preservers Think in Structures

You're shifting toward stability. Not just compounding, but protecting. You're focused on resilience; wide-moat companies with stable cash flow, dividend payers, lower-beta assets. Maybe even holding part of your portfolio in alternative structures; real estate, private equity, holding companies.

You still care about returns, but you're optimizing for longevity. Less about "What could 10x?" and more about "What won't blow up?"

Your time horizon stretches even further. You're thinking about intergenerational wealth, optionality, and long-term capital efficiency.

The key is **clarity**. Define your purpose. Then deploy like it matters.

Risk and return at scale:

At the seven-figure level, risk is no longer a theoretical trade-off. It's real capital at stake, and real opportunity cost with every move.

You're not thinking in terms of "high risk = high return" like a textbook. You're thinking in terms of calculated asymmetry. Is this risk worth it, given my capital base, time horizon, and opportunity set?

Risk isn't volatility. It's the chance of permanent capital loss. It's dilution, misaligned incentives, poor execution. It's buying at the wrong price and getting stuck. Return isn't just a number; it's a function of scale, duration, and conviction.

A 30% return on a \$10k flyer is cute. A 30% return on a \$700k position is a different game. Which is why risk has to be understood in context: not just emotionally, but structurally.

Your tolerance isn't just a personality trait anymore. It's strategic. It's tied directly to your **capital intent**; whether you're optimizing for expansion or defense. Every dollar has a job. Every risk needs a reason.

At this level, your job isn't to avoid risk. It's to **own it intention-ally**.

Lesson 02

Advanced Asset Allocation

Beyond 6-figures, you're trying to deploy capital in a way that actually matters.

And that means facing an inconvenient tension: Do you want to concentrate for outperformance, or diversify for durability?

There's no universal answer. But at this level, your structure needs to serve your intent.

Concentration builds wealth. It's how most seven- and eight-figure portfolios are built. One or two big winners with heavy weightings did the heavy lifting. Palantir. Tesla. Nvidia. Netflix. Apple. You name it. Many people became wealthy through one concentrated bet. The math is simple; concentrated bets on asymmetry move the needle. Broad exposure doesn't.

But...

Resilience keeps you in the game. When portfolios get bigger, the emotional stakes get higher. Down 10% on \$10k is annoying. Down 10% on \$1M is \$100,000. Suddenly, the sleep test becomes real.

So the balance is this: you want enough

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concentration to outperform, but enough resilience to survive the parts of the cycle that punish conviction.

Practical Framework:

Core (60-80%) High-conviction, long-term holdings you understand deeply. These are your pillars.

Opportunistic (10-30%) Asymmetric ideas. You size these smaller, knowing they're riskier.

Cash (10-20%) Dry powder. Strategic liquidity that lets you act decisively when the world panics.

At this level, your capital structure is like a machine and every part has a function. Some parts **generate**. Some protect. Some wait.

Your job is to build the machine that aligns with your temperament, your goals, and your edge.

Not too tight that you crack. Not too loose that you underperform.

That's the real skill.



Lesson 03

The Edge of Time

One of the biggest edges you can have in this game is also the simplest: time.

Most people treat the stock market like a casino. They're glued to screens, refreshing their portfolio every ten minutes, trying to guess what happens tomorrow, next week, next quarter. They're not investing, they're speculating on noise.

But here's what they miss:

Real value doesn't appear overnight. It's built.

Every single day, the companies you own are out there – operating, selling products, providing services, building infrastructure, strengthening their brand, improving their margins, expanding their reach.

You might not see it reflected in the stock price today. You might not see it next month.

But under the surface, something is happening. **Value is being created** in the real world.

When you stretch your time horizon long enough, that value starts to compound.

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The factories, the software, the distribution, the partnerships, the customer loyalty, the intellectual property – it all adds up.

The company becomes bigger, stronger, more profitable simply by continuing to do what it does best.

That's **time arbitrage**.

The ability to look past the noise and see what others can't – because they're too busy staring at a 5-minute chart while you're thinking in 5-year increments.

Over time, the gap between perception and reality closes. Speculation fades. Fundamentals win. That's why we don't trade. That's why we don't obsess over day-to-day moves.

Because we understand that the real game is played over years, not days. The longer you can **stretch your time horizon**, the fewer competitors you have.

Very few people have the patience to wait while value silently accrues behind the scenes.

But that's where the money is.

WEALTH CURVE STAGES:

Stage 1: Start the Engine

Every dollar is earned. Your savings rate and discipline matter more than CAGR. You're not compounding wealth, you're building the base that will.

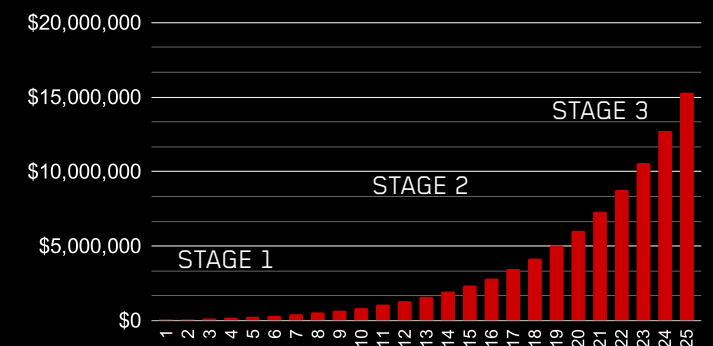
Stage 2: Let the Machine Run

The portfolio starts to take over. Compounding begins to do the heavy lifting. Patience, clarity, and staying the course matter more than tweaks.

Stage 3: Capital as Leverage

Now your wealth moves the needle. One bold allocation, one right decision, and the absolute numbers get staggering. Discipline matters more than effort. This is where legacy starts to form.

Wealth Curve Stages



Lesson 04

99 No's, 1 Hell Yes

If you want to win this game, you need to expose yourself to **plenty of ideas**.

You need to keep your radar on, scanning the market, reading, observing, connecting dots. The more ideas you encounter, the more likely you are to stumble upon the few that actually matter.

But you don't chase every idea.

You don't waste energy on mediocre opportunities. You need to think of it like swimming upstream in a river.

The current is filled with noise.

Speculation, headlines, hot stock tips, distractions disguised as opportunities.

Most of it is junk. Some of it is outright dangerous.

If you just float and let the current pull you, you'll get swept away by mediocrity and confusion.

Your job is to **swim against the current**, eyes open, deliberate, focused.

Ideas will float past you every single day. Most of them, you have to let go.

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You have to build the muscle to ignore, discard, dodge 99% of them without hesitation.

Because at this level, it's not about being busy; it's about being **precise**.

You don't waste your time chasing small wins. You don't trade meaningful progress for meaningless activity.

Your attention is finite, and it should be reserved for the big numbers. The ones that can actually bend the curve.

Because one great \$300k position can move your portfolio. Ten cute \$5k trades won't.

This is why most people underperform. They think the goal is to do more. It's not.

The goal is to **filter harder**.

To say "No" ninety-nine times out of a hundred and when that one hell yes moment shows up, you strike hard and with conviction.

That's how serious wealth is built.

CASH BUYS COURAGE:

David Tepper didn't get rich by chasing hype. He got rich by waiting. In March 2009, while the world was frozen, he bought bank stocks; Citi, Bank of America, others—at prices that looked suicidal. They went on to 5x, 10x, or more.

Why could he do that?

Because he had the cash.

Same story with Seth Klarman. His firm, Baupost, is famous for holding 20-30% of its portfolio in cash—sometimes for years. Critics call it lazy. Klarman calls it an option with no expiration date.

When you're managing a seven-figure+ portfolio, cash isn't drag—it's dry powder. It gives you the ability to buy when others are selling, to act when others are scared, and to make moves that actually move the needle.

The market always offers moments of irrational pricing. But you only get to take advantage if you're ready—financially and mentally.

So we hold cash not out of fear, but preparation. Because in a storm, conviction is priceless, and cash is what lets you use it.

Lesson 05

Non-Negotiables

At this stage, you are no longer learning how to start.

You're not here to figure out what a P/E ratio is or how to structure portfolio.

You've made it far enough that you already know the game. And to keep playing at this level – to consistently aim for 20%+ annual returns, year in and year out – there are principles that are **no longer optional**.

These are the non-negotiables.

The basic operating system every serious, long-term investor must have embedded in their decision-making.

If you don't have these under control, you're not playing the same game. You're **gambling**.

A) Portfolio Management

You don't just buy random stocks. You build and manage a portfolio like an operator:

- 1/ Optimal number of companies in your portfolio
- 2/ Sector diversification
- 3/ Cash position management

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4/ Hedging strategy – if and when

5/ Proper position sizing

6/ Scaling in and out without emotional decisions

7/ Scaling plan

B) Valuations

You can't pay whatever price. You need to know how to value what you buy:

1/ Valuation approach for value stocks

2/ Valuation of dividend-paying companies

3/ Valuation of growth companies

4/ Which financial ratios to prioritize

5/ Revenue and net income modeling

6/ Running realistic projections for company performance & stock price range

7/ Comparative valuation

8/ Valuation of cyclical companies

9/ Valuation of growth companies in bull & bear cases

C) Qualitative Metrics: You must understand the business

- 1/ SWOT analysis
- 2/ Moat analysis
- 3/ Management evaluation + Conference calls
- 4/ Asset-light vs. asset-heavy business models
- 5/ Industry dynamics + Porter's 5 Forces framework

D) Quantitative Metrics: The numbers do matter

- 1/ Core financial ratios (P/E, P/S, etc.)
- 2/ Advanced ratios (P/FCF, ROIC, ROE, PEG, etc.)
- 3/ Share buybacks vs. dilution
- 4/ Total addressable market (TAM)

E) Financials: You must speak the language of business

- 1/ Income statement – revenue, margins, profits, red flags
- 2/ Balance sheet – assets, liabilities, leverage, health
- 3/ Cash flow statement – where the money is really going
- 4/ Key takeaways from annual and quarterly reports

F) Macro & Economic Context: Can't control, can understand:

- 1/ Market cycles and how they affect returns
- 2/ Macro forces that influence individual companies
- 3/ Interest rates, inflation, Federal Reserve policy
- 4/ Corporate tax landscape
- 5/ Recessions and how to behave during them

G) Mindset & Philosophy

- 1/ The power of compounding
- 2/ Focusing on value creation, not speculation
- 3/ Long-term investing

Lesson 06

Owning the future

"I love the future – all my money's in it."

Once you've crossed into the 7-figure territory, it's not enough to just be in a megatrend. You need to own the companies that **define it**.

Every decade has themes. Only a few companies actually monetize them.

AI isn't a moat. Neither is climate, biotech, or digital transformation. What matters is: Who's building the **value stack**? Who's extracting the value? Who can't be replaced?

Owning the right name inside a supertrend creates exponential upside. Owning the wrong one makes you a bagholder with good taste.

We're not just predicting the future, we're voting for it.

When you have 7 figures in the market, capital becomes a tool of influence.

Every dollar you deploy is a bet on how the world will look 10-20 years from now. That's both a responsibility and an advantage.

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You get to say:

1/ I believe this company will be a **dominant force**.

2/ I believe their vision, execution, and culture are the real deal.

3/ I want to benefit from their growth and be part of the arc they shape.

This is **intentional capitalism**.

And it separates you from the tourists.

You don't need to own every player in a trend. You need to identify the kingmaker.

1/ The company with structural advantages, not just marketing hype

2/ The team that executes relentlessly, not just tweets well

3/ The balance sheet that outlasts hype cycles

Because in a world of exponential change, the winners take all; and your job is to find them early enough to matter, but late enough to be right.

MOATS AREN'T OPTIONAL THING, THEY'RE THE ONLY THING:

Every dollar now needs to be locked behind a moat. Not a cute narrative, not a buzzword; a real, defensible economic fortress.

We're looking for businesses that:

1/ Cannot be easily copied

2/ Are deeply embedded in supply chains or consumer habits

3/ Have pricing power, distribution power, or network effects

And preferably... all of the above

Whether the advantage is IP, scale, brand, switching costs, or founder obsession, we're not buying companies that might win. We're buying the ones the rest are trying to survive next to.



Lesson 07

US Tech Hegemony

In the game of Civilization, players can win through science, culture, domination, or religion. In our world, scientific victory; driven by technological progress; is the true path to global dominance. And the US is not just leading that race; it's solidifying its hegemony by **attracting capital** and earnings from every corner of the globe.

Many people believe that investing the majority of their net worth in US stocks is a risky proposition. They argue that relying solely on the US stock market exposes investors to potential losses if the market underperforms. The conventional wisdom advises diversifying investments across global markets to seize opportunities wherever they arise.

But here's where I strongly disagree.

Today's companies operate on a global scale, offering their products and services worldwide. The growth of these businesses outside the US is surpassing their domestic growth, **amplifying** the US hegemony.

The US market houses the majority of the best brains, top finance, and existing

technological leaders. This concentration of talent and resources positions the US as the market to watch.

It's crucial to note that investing in US companies goes beyond mere patriotism. It's about identifying businesses with high growth potential over the next decade or two. While opportunities exist in Europe and Asia, the US offers the most promising prospects. Contrary to popular belief, investing substantially in the US stock market is a prudent decision. The US dominance in the tech world, driven by its global reach, talent concentration, and investment inflows, solidifies its position as the leader in the field. The trajectory of US corporations and their **increasing earnings from overseas** markets further strengthen the US hegemony.

As the world becomes more interconnected, the US will continue to reap the rewards of its tech dominance, perpetuating its hegemony in the years to come.

It's time to embrace the power of US tech and seize the opportunities it presents.

The First 7 Figures in the Stock Market

Stillness is a Strategy:

Most people think the hardest part of investing is figuring out what to buy. It's not.

The hardest part is sitting still when nothing needs to be done.

At seven figures, the temptation to tinker is constant. You feel like you should always be optimizing, rotating, upgrading, doing something. After all, you've made it this far by being active and intentional. But that same impulse, left unchecked, becomes your biggest liability.

Because the game isn't about constant motion. It's about precise deployment.

The best investors in the world spend most of their time waiting. Sleep waited years before buying Costco. Klarman sits on billions in cash for long stretches. Druckenmiller flips from 80% risk-on to nearly flat in a week—and then sits.

Doing nothing is often the hardest work of all.



Lesson 08

Compensated for What?

"You get paid to be right. You get paid to be brave. You get paid to be the pillar in the storm"

Most people misunderstand what investing actually compensates you for.

They think it's mostly about being smart. Analysing companies, predicting macro, doing the proverbial due diligence. Buying low and selling high with perfect timing.

And to some degree it is all of the above, but there is one more brutal and unspoken part.

You get paid for **holding the weight**.

For making a decision that feels uncomfortable.

For staying in the game when others fold.

For owning your calls when the market disagrees.

Uncertainty is a feature, not a bug.

People pay insane **premiums for certainty**. That's why Treasury bills yield 3% and startups can 100x.

Uncertainty is exactly why outsized returns exist in the first place.

When you make a well-researched call with incomplete information, and you hold, it's not luck when it works. It's courage turned into capital.

The heaviest decisions are the most profitable.

The ones that haunt you. The ones where your voice shakes when you explain it. The ones where nobody agrees—but deep down, you know you're right.

Enduring pain when others seek safety is what gives you a shot at asymmetric upside. And the more capital you manage, the more pressure you'll face to act.

Real wealth is built by making fewer, bolder decisions and owning them. Through noise. Through drawdowns. Through moments of doubt.

If you can't carry that weight, the market won't pay you much. But if you can, the rewards are **extraordinary**.

The First 7 Figures in the Stock Market

Market Fluctuation:

Wall Street plays the game in quarters. You're playing it in decades.

Most fund managers are judged and paid based on 12-month performance. Their bonuses depend on short-term outperformance, not long-term compounding. That's why they obsess over earnings calls, macro predictions, and monthly flows. They can't afford to look wrong, even temporarily, so they shuffle portfolios to protect their year-end bonuses

You can. And that's your edge. You're not managing someone else's money. You're not optimizing for quarterly optics. You're building real wealth over a lifetime.



Lesson 09

Temptation of Shiny Object

The distractions don't disappear at this level, they get more sophisticated.

You're no longer getting lured by meme stocks or spammy newsletters. Now the temptations come with better packaging: macro calls from billionaires, high-end fund pitches, hot AI names everyone swears are the "next Nvidia."

The danger isn't foolishness; it's false confidence.

Because now you have capital, competence, and some wins under your belt. You think you're **immune**. But the bigger risk is doing too much; tweaking, rotating, overtrading; not because you should, but because you feel like you need to. You might forget what made you successful in the first place.

You'll be tempted by:

- 1/ "Smart" people making loud predictions
- 2/ Fancy decks promising 20% IRR
- 3/ Overweighting the story you heard at lunch
- 4/ Selling boredom instead of trimming

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weakness

5/ Taking a "tiny" position just to feel involved

6/ Complicating your portfolio to feel like you're managing something

The market rewards clarity, not motion.

Look at how Klarman operates. Or Druckenmiller. Or Sleep. The common thread? Discipline. Waiting. Letting others chase heat while they sit on cash – until it's time to strike.

At this level, your real edge is the ability to ignore 99% of what's going on. And wait for the 1% that actually **deserves** capital.

Most people don't lose money because they make one terrible mistake. They lose it inch by inch, distracted by noise, pulled into average ideas, and eroded by motion.

Resist the temptation to play when there's no edge. Hold still. Be patient. Let the game come to you.

Temptation never disappears. It just upgrades its costume. Stay sharp.

Preservation of Fire:

Success creates comfort. Comfort dulls hunger. And once you're managing real capital, the danger isn't failure; it's coasting.

The hardest part of growing wealth isn't the first million. It's staying sharp after. Once the bills are paid, the urgency fades. You have more than enough. "Enough" is where ambition goes to die.

That's why the pros treat wealth like fuel, not a finish line. They keep a fire lit under their chair. Not because they need the money, but because they refuse to go soft.

Never forget what got you where you are. Focus, ownership, discomfort, and the willingness to think independently.

You can be wealthy and still be hungry. That's what separates investors who plateau... from the ones who compound into legends.

Hunger isn't about need. It's about refusing to settle.



Epilogue

Cabo, 2040

You sit down in the shade. The sun is warm, but not hot. The ocean's nearby, calm, constant, indifferent to the noise of the stock market.

It's been nearly two decades since you made the decision to stop chasing and start owning. To build conviction. To stay in the game, even when it hurt. To resist the urge to overact when others panicked. To deploy only when it truly mattered.

Now the portfolio stands in the background. Quiet. Massive. It doesn't need babysitting. It compounds in silence. Monolith.

You didn't get here by chasing the hottest names every quarter. You got here by being early, holding long, thinking clearly, and trusting the process.

The fire drills faded. The volatility became background noise. And the long view paid off; slowly, then all at once.

Now the real asset is time. Freedom. Space to create, rest, think, and live exactly how you want. Everything taken care off.

You don't check your net worth every day.

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You don't need to. You already won.

But Cabo? That was just an illusion. A milestone. A marker.

There's **more** to build. More to explore. More bets to make. More risks to take. More companies to create. More cars to drive. More art to fund. More friends to make. More strange corners of the world to disappear into.

The game didn't end. You just leveled up.

Welcome to the other side of discipline.

Now take a deep breath. Smirk. And get **back** to it.

Because this isn't the finish line. It's the launchpad.



BONUS

25 Tenets

1) The simplest businesses with the clearest runway usually win. You don't get bonus points for owning something complicated. Stay simple. Stay sharp.

2) Volatility is not risk. Risk is losing your money permanently. Forget the daily swings, your real enemy is permanent loss. Your portfolio swinging 20% in a year isn't a risk if you own strong businesses.

3) Markets, rates, recessions; nobody gets it right every time. What you can do is be positioned to survive whatever comes next.

4) Markets always swing too far in both directions. Your edge is moving the opposite way: buying when others panic, trimming when others lose their mind.

5) If it feels easy and obvious, you're probably too late. Real opportunities usually feel wrong at the start. They feel uncomfortable, uncertain, risky.

6) A great business compounds its advantages over time. A mediocre one slowly rots. Own the right side. Good businesses get better. They build deeper moats, stronger brands, bigger customer bases.

The First 7 Figures in the Stock Market

Every year that passes, the compounding engine speeds up.

7) Risk comes from not knowing what you're doing. Risk is stepping into something you don't understand and hoping it works out. The market doesn't forgive ignorance. It punishes it. Your job is to minimize unknown risks through competence.

8) Concentrate your bets when you have an edge. There's no trophy for owning fifty stocks you barely understand. At this level, you're not trying to be "kind of right" on dozens of things. You're aiming to be dead right on a few.

9) High returns are born in periods of low expectations. The market rewards bravery, not comfort. When the future looks bleak, stocks are dirt cheap. When things are messy, valuations collapse. That's when the biggest gains are hiding.

10) It's better to be roughly right than precisely wrong. You don't need perfect models. You don't need fifteen decimal points of accuracy. Business is messy. Investing is messy.



11) What you don't own matters as much as what you do. Most investors think only about what to buy. Few think carefully enough about what to never touch.

12) Systems are better than predictions. Amateurs want predictions. Pros want systems. If your success relies on guessing the next quarter, the next Fed move, the next headline, you're playing a fool's game.

13) The best businesses win because they solve a real problem better than anyone else. Business isn't about buzzwords, branding, or flashy marketing. If you strip everything away, all the noise, all the hype, the companies that win are the ones that deliver real value.

14) Avoid "career risk" investing. Professional money managers don't invest the same way private investors should. They have one goal: keep their job. That means they make "safe" choices – buying popular names, hugging benchmarks – even when it's obvious those choices are mediocre. You don't have that constraint. You can swing at fat pitches without

worrying about explaining yourself to a committee.

15) Watch how management gets paid. The mission statement sounds good. The annual letter sounds good. But incentives tell the truth. If management gets rich from stock price popping this quarter, expect short-term games. If they get rewarded for growing free cash flow over years, expect real value creation.

16) The best businesses get stronger through recessions. Anyone can look good in a bull market. Even garbage floats when the tide is high. During recessions, the best businesses tighten their grip on the market. They keep growing, stealing share from weaker competitors, solidifying customer loyalty.

17) One right decision every few years is enough. You don't need to find new brilliant ideas every month. You don't need to reinvent your portfolio every quarter. You need one or two truly great decisions every few years, and the conviction to hold when it gets hard.



18) You don't make money by being right, but when others realize you were right. You can find the best company in the world. You can buy it at a great price. You can be 100% correct in your analysis. But until the market wakes up and sees what you see, you're just sitting there.

19) Bear markets are when wealth transfers from weak hands to strong ones. Fear doesn't destroy wealth, just moves it. Selling at the bottom is not just giving up your shares, it's gifting your future gains to someone else.

20) Dividends and buybacks matter more than hype. Anyone can talk about "growth potential." Real businesses send cash back to owners. Dividends and smart buybacks prove that a company isn't just growing, it's profitable and efficient at returning value.

21) Every bull market sows the seeds of its own destruction. Nothing grows forever. Booms create excess optimism. Companies over-expand, investors overpay, lenders throw caution away.

22) Great businesses generate free cash flow, mediocre ones generate promises.
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Revenue is easy. Hype is easy. Free cash flow – actual surplus cash after all expenses, reinvestment, and debt service – is hard. The best companies print cash year after year, cycle after cycle. The mediocre ones sell dreams and future projections. If you can't see the cash building up on the balance sheet, it probably isn't real.

23) A stretched valuation turns a good business into a bad investment. The company might be amazing. The management might be world-class. But if you pay too much, you still lose. Price always matters.

24) Most turnarounds don't turn. Broken businesses are broken for a reason. Management promises the world. New strategies are announced. Press releases fly. But in most cases, decline is terminal.

25) Financial engineering can mask weak fundamentals, for a while. Companies can play games with earnings. Buybacks, aggressive accounting, debt-fueled dividends; create the illusion of health. But fundamentals don't lie forever. Eventually, the bill comes due.



