

Laws of Life, Book One: Ditch the System. Design Your Life

Chapter Four: Never take the advice of anyone, on any specific thing they have not proven to be highly competent at.

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CONFIDENTIAL

BRIEFING OBJECTIVES: SURVIVING THE NOISE



Filter Advice. Separate actionable intelligence from subjective noise.



Seek Proven Competence. Identify and extract value from practitioners, not theorists.



Avoid Confirmation Bias. Recognize the psychological trap of seeking validation over truth.

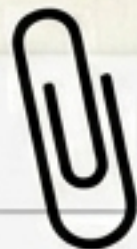


Remain Humble. Maintain the capacity to accept low-risk suggestions and acknowledge personal ignorance.

“Never take the advice of anyone, on any specific thing that they have not proven to be highly competent at.”

Pattern recognition indicates that filtering out the words of fools is a prerequisite to hearing the advice of the wise.

HISTORICAL ORIGINS



Archival Citation:
*The Richest Man in
Babylon* by George
S. Clason (1926).

The Primary Directive:
Secure the advice of
those experienced in
the profitable
handling of gold.
Let their wisdom
protect thy treasure
from unsafe investments.

1920s 1920 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 1930

Annotation: This law scales beyond money; it applies to all complex life decisions.

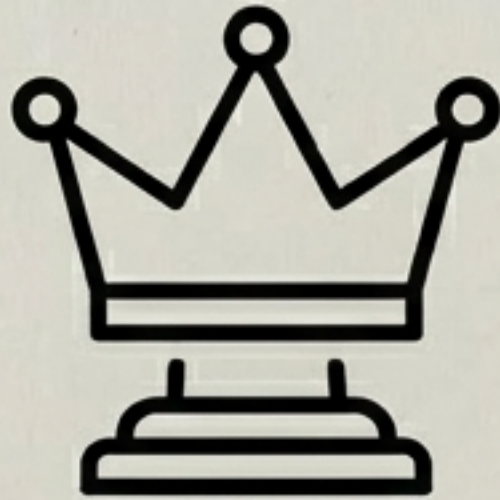
ASSET PROFILE: DOMAIN SPECIFICITY

Subject: Great Uncle Stephen

Background: Married and divorced three times. Retired as a blue-collar millionaire in a state with alimony.

DOMAIN	STATUS	ACTION PROTOCOL
Wealth Management	[PROVEN]	Take Advice
Relationships	[INCOMPETENT]	Ignore Advice

RECALIBRATING THE FILTER: COMPETENCE OVER EGO



“Don’t listen to anyone unless they are doing better than you.”

Assessment: Arrogant, subjective, and impossible to accurately quantify.



“Are they a contemporary who is good at what they do?”

Assessment: Objective, measurable, collaborative.

EXTRACTING VALUE FROM CONTEMPORARIES

PROFILE A: AUTHOR



- Higher overall listenership
- Earns a full-time living
- Superior delivery and scale

PROFILE B: PEER



- Smaller audience, less overall experience
- BUT possesses specific, actionable intel on new distribution platforms or social media

Tactical Takeaway: A peer doesn't need to match your overall success to provide critical, specialized intelligence. If they are good at what they do, listen.

THREAT IDENTIFICATION: ILL-INFORMED ADVICE

The Smoke Alarm:

Taking fire prevention advice from people whose own houses are currently burning down.



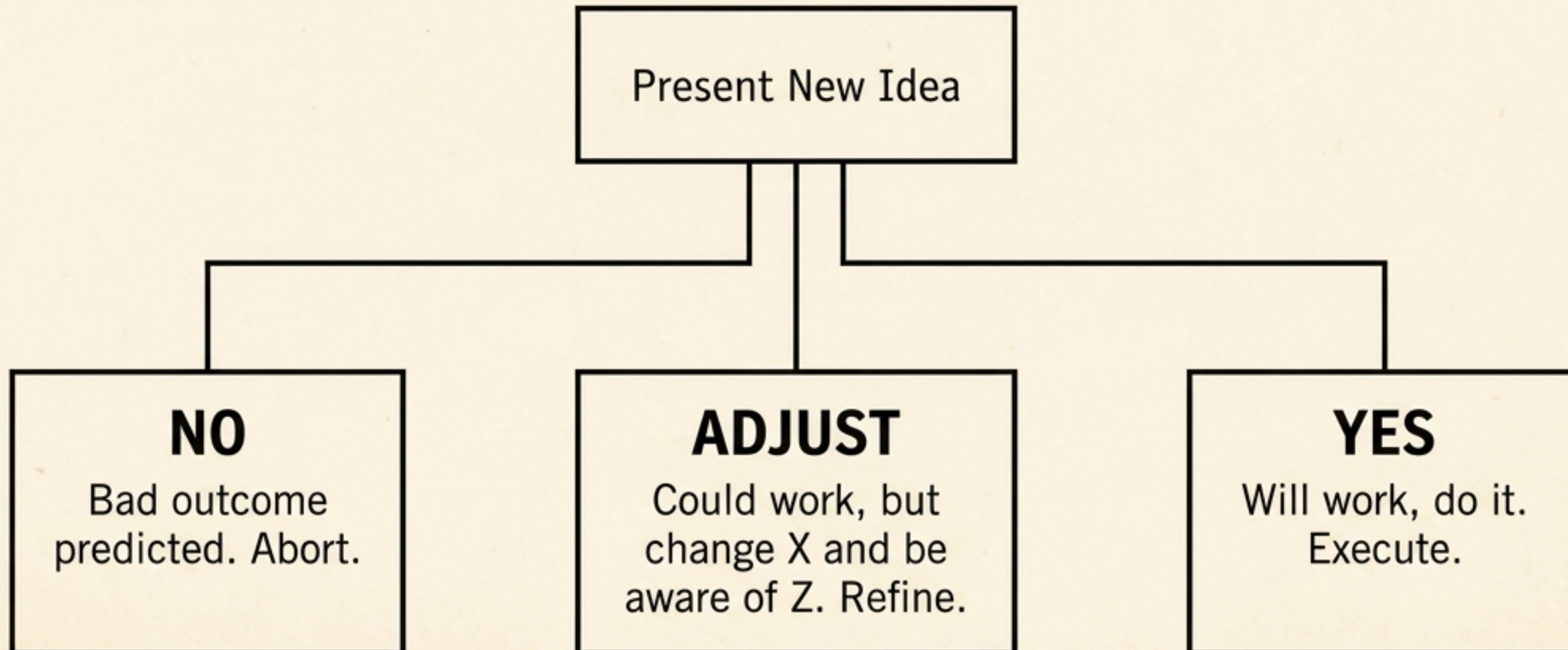
The Silver Trap:

Gas station owners suddenly buying silver based on a trusted uncle who knows nothing about the metal market.

DIRECTIVE: IGNORE THEM

PREVENTATIVE COUNSEL: AQUAPONICS

Asset: David | **Profile:** Licensed plumber, complex systems builder, aquaponics expert. | **Protocol:** Bounce new brilliant ideas off competent counsel before spending time, money, and sweat.



DOMAIN ISOLATION

Asset: Neil from England (Multi-millionaire, 2x Branson Award Winner, Technical Recruiting/Wealth Management Expert).

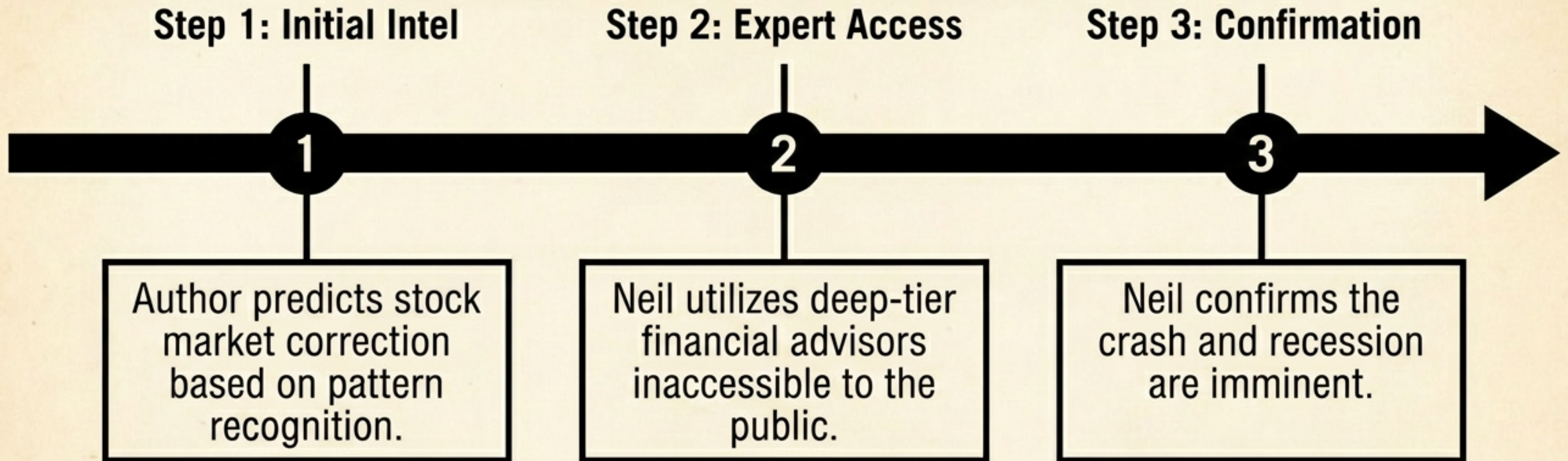
Query: Aquaponics bulkheads?	[MISMATCH] (He would tell you to bugger off)
Query: Podcasting hardware?	[MISMATCH] (Not his field)
Query: Financial positioning?	[MATCH] (Readily accept advice)



Mutual Respect Indicator: Neil seeks the author's advice strictly on blockchain's impact on recruiting, acknowledging his own limits.

VERIFICATION OF PATTERNS

Scenario: Recognizing the pattern of an impending 2008 market crash.



Result: Hard-earned dollars protected. Deeper expertise verifies initial pattern recognition.

PSYCHOLOGICAL THREAT: CONFIRMATION BIAS

Definition: The tendency to interpret new evidence as confirmation of one's existing beliefs or theories. Deciding what to do *after* which, and which, and then selectively seeking a person to validate it.

THE TRAP

Deciding what to do first, and then selectively seeking a person to validate it.

THE REALITY

Validation is not advice.
Attached emotion instantly neutralizes the pursuit of truth.

CASE FILE: THE RESTAURANT ILLUSION

Case File 01:
Bill & Uncle Dan

Subject: Bill wants to open a restaurant.

Chosen Advisor: Uncle Dan (Brilliant Aerospace Engineer, deeply respected by family).

THE FLAW (Desired Intel)	THE UNHEARD REALITY (Required Intel)
Dan knows nothing about restaurants. Bill seeks familial endorsement and encouragement, avoiding reality.	An actual restaurant owner would warn of 80-hour weeks, 3-5 years' profitability, and the necessity of 3-6 stores for passive management.

CAREER RECONNAISSANCE PROTOCOL

Directive: Do not ask your parents about fields they don't work in.
Ask current practitioners.



Entry Level

Who is hiring right now? What specific skills are demanded today?

3-5 Years In

What is the fastest alternative path to a degree? (e.g., tech bootcamps).

10 Years In

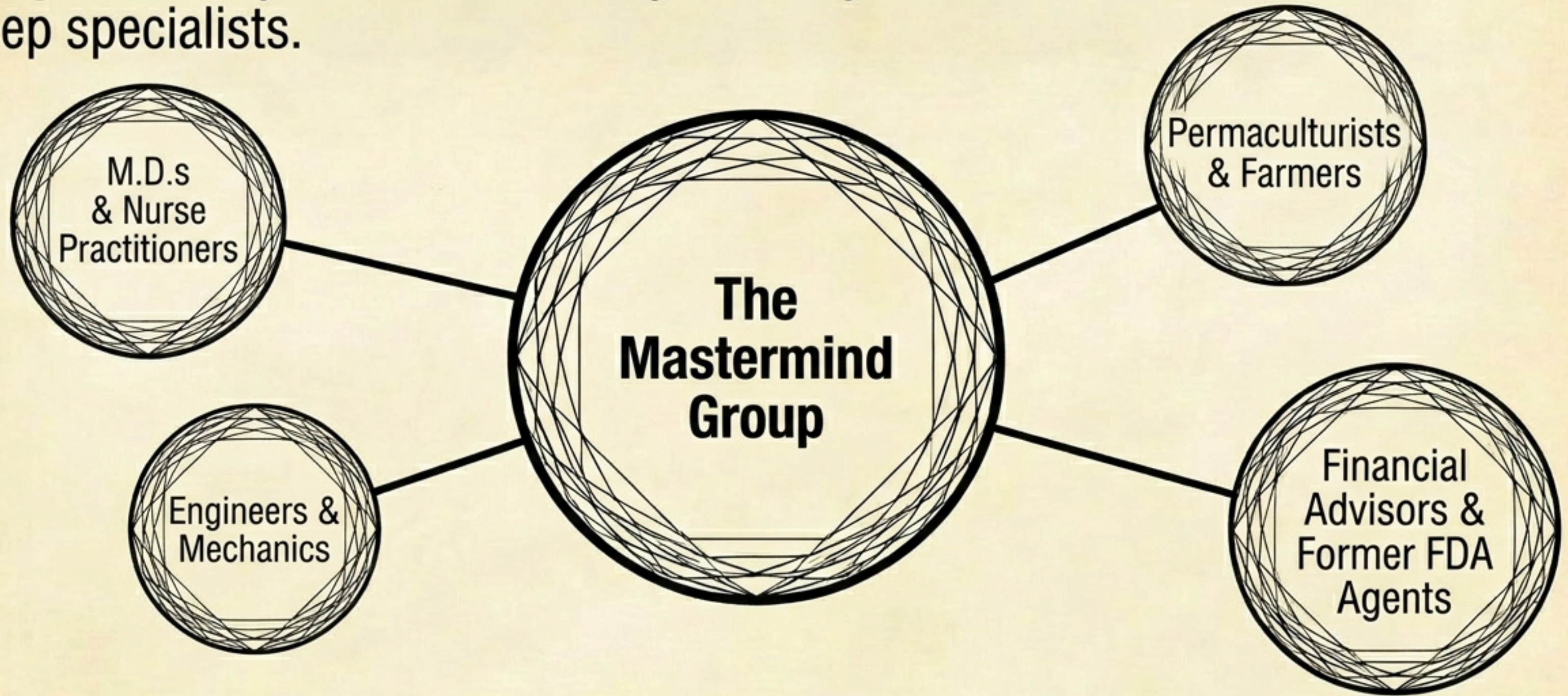
Are you happy? What are the geographic opportunities for specialization?

Near Retirement

Get a total, unvarnished view of the potential, the good, and the bad.

BUILDING THE MASTERMIND

Concept: Follow your own advice by curating a diverse network of deep specialists.



Core Truth: No single individual can provide total depth across all domains. Outsource your ignorance.

HUMILITY CHECKPOINT

Premise: Do not use the law to be arrogant or dismissive of helpful intent.



Mark Twain Addendum: It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble.
It's what you know for sure that just ain't so.

FILTERING THE VOICES

THE W.I.S.E. METHOD

How to Know Whose Advice Actually Matters.

Done correctly, this is not arrogance; it is discipline.
A simple rubric to determine who deserves your attention when a decision matters.

THE W.I.S.E. PROTOCOL BREAKDOWN

[W] Who Has Actually Done It

Have they executed in the real world, or just read/watched theories?

[I] Is Their Competence Proven

Seek repeated success and problem-solving over time. One lucky outcome does not make an expert.

[S] Specific to the Situation

Ensure their specific knowledge maps directly to your exact question.

[E] Evidence Before Opinion

Competent people explain why based on outcomes and patterns. Guessers use strong opinions with zero proof.

LAW FOUR: DISTILLED INTELLIGENCE

- ✓ **Competence & Specificity:** Counsel requires proven track records. Competence in one field does not transfer to another.
- ✓ **Evidence vs. Noise:** The louder the opinion, the less likely it comes from experience. Real experts build on results, not theories.
- ✓ **Confirmation Bias:** Decide after seeking advice. If you've already decided, you are only seeking validation. The best counsel often challenges beliefs.
- ✓ **Humility:** Wise people ask questions before giving advice.
- ✓ **Cost Prevention:** Seek the competent to prevent expensive mistakes. Ignore business opinions from those who have never signed the front of a paycheck.

IMMEDIATE ACTION: SELF-AUDIT

Prompt 1: Who am I currently listening to?

Prompt 2: Have they actually done the thing they are advising me on?

Prompt 3: Is their competence consistently proven over time?

Prompt 4: Am I seeking the cold truth, or just looking for validation for a choice I've already made?

FIELD EXERCISE

TASK: Identify ONE major real-world decision you are currently facing (career, business, investment).

EXECUTION: Run the W.I.S.E. Method on your current primary advisor for this decision.

OBJECTIVE: If they fail the W.I.S.E. protocol, cease action until you secure counsel from a verified expert in that exact domain.