

Announcer: Bulletproof Radio, a state of high performance.

Dave: You're listening to Bulletproof Radio with Dave Asprey. Today's cool fact of the day is that, a new discovery shows that your lungs actually make blood. Anytime you come across one of those arrogant people who thinks they know everything there is to know about health and wellness and medicine, everyday we're finding out cool new stuff. In this case, pulmonologists and scientists from UCSF discovered that new role for the lungs according to experiments on mouse lung using video and microscopy. This is a new technique, relatively new, anyway, that lets you look at what's happening in living cells instead of in dead ones and is completely blowing people's minds.

Dave: And in this study they found that the lungs aren't just for respiration, but they're making blood. A guy named doctor Looney and his team discovered that lungs produce more than half the platelets that you need for clotting. And they found that the lungs produce more than 10 million platelets an hour, oops, we didn't know that before. What this means is that there's plenty of runway for biohacking, for improvements in medicine and living to at least 180.

Dave: I'm recording with a friend of mine opportunistically at a conference called Consumer Health Summit, which brings together some of the biggest authors and people helping to influence the future of human health. And my longtime friends, for more than two decades, Tim Chang who was in charge of the very well-known Venture Capital firm, Mayfield. He's in charge of their consumer practice, and the guy who's known as a conscious VC but also known as the VC with the best abs going in Silicon Valley according to BuzzFeed. He's blushing right now.

Dave: Anyhow, we're at the conference together, and I realized you guys would just love to hear his take because if you have this mindset that the world's a bad place, technology is going to eat your life, and you don't have any control, you're going to hear from a guy who's created about \$2.6 billion in Venture Capital exits, a very different story. Tim Chang, welcome to the show.

Tim: Thank you David, it's such an honor to get to do this with you.

Dave: A lot of people would have thought 10 years ago, Venture Capitalists are never going to invest in biohacking. They do life sciences, they do medical technology and stuff like that, but you were one of the first guys to look at this as a field and to say, I want to place some bets here. Why did you get into biohacking?

Tim: It was a personal transformation, a personal journey, it was core to who I was and my identity and I thank you quite a bit for that. You were a big inspiration those early days. Do you remember those early days we'd be talking about these things? We were brainstorming things like Basis, before the term wearables existed, and it wasn't easy back then. There was no category, there wasn't even a term called wearables. I remember our partners investment folks would ask me, who the hell wants to wear something on their wrist to track their heart rate? And now it's so commonplace that it's almost like why aren't you tracking, right?

Dave: Do you have any vendor partners who aren't wearing like an Oura Ring or some sort of a tracker somewhere?

Tim: These days, I think they all do because they care. And I also think it's an age thing. As us guys get older in your 40s and 50s you hit that, oh shit moment with your doctor when your doctor says, you better change your behavior or bad things are going to happen soon. And that's when you really start to take your health seriously. And it's sad that you need the, oh shit moment to happen. But that's why so many people in New York and LA and San Francisco are all getting jacked as like 40-year-old guys now because they have to care.

Dave: Well you'll definitely be one of those. I think your biceps are bigger than mine, so I guess the *New York Times* called me almost muscular and they're like, Tim is actually muscular. So, what's your, I'm a jack to Venture Capital routine, venture capitalists routine. What do you do?

Tim: Strength training and high intensity intervals. A lot of what you talk about in the Bulletproof exercise regime. I'm inherently actually lazy. I hate being in the gym. I just want to get my stuff done and go. It's so weird to see people hanging out there like it's a social club or something or like reading blogs. I'm like, no man, just do your thing and get out, right?

Dave: Right.

Tim: And so, it's really, a four to five days of high intensity intervals, but really these sets of either the five by fives on your heavy reps, right? And then sometimes alternating with eight by eights with minimal rest between those. And I find that if you time it right, you're not resting too long between them, you get your cardio in there as well, right?

Dave: All right, so you're doing five by fives, five times a week.

Tim: Varying by body parts as well, so you can do them by supersets, right? So, it'd be sort of like chest and back sets and then those sorts of things, so you can concentrate in different body parts. But for me, if you're just getting your work done quickly, you can get your sets done in 45, 50 minutes and just move on.

Dave: So, you're spending 45 minutes a day?

Tim: Yeah. I usually go two days on, one day off, three days on, two days off kind of thing.

Dave: I mean, I hate to say this, given your track record, but your ROI on that seems pretty low. That still comes to an hour a day when we get to the gym.

Tim: Well, that's why I've got a Tonal at home. And so, this a big reason I wanted to invest in the Peloton of strength because you're right, you waste a lot of time getting dressed, going to the gym, going to the locker room, taking a shower, that sort of thing, right?

Dave: Okay. So, Tonal is a company that I don't think listeners probably have heard of yet. Tonal just raised \$83 million. They're considered the strength training equivalent of Peloton as you said.

Tim: Right.

Dave: I'm an adviser and early investor, because you introduced me. And, it's an interesting idea and it's the same ethos as Peloton and even upgrade labs that Bulletproof spin out for the experience of this. It's that can I shave 20 minutes a day off what it takes to look and feel a certain way?

Tim: That's right.

Dave: All right? What other things do you do to just shave at least 10 or 20 minutes a day off of what you do to stay, I hate the word healthy, but we do to stay in a feeling good high-performance state?

Tim: Meditation's a big one. And the other one was just the daily intermittent fasting routine. You've written a lot about that, it worked wonders for me and it wasn't that hard. Essentially, I just skipped breakfast.

Dave: It's pretty easy to do.

Tim: I mean, I do it by accident anyway, for work when you're running around, right? But, you time it, you eat between say one and 7:00 PM or whatever and you're automatically on an 18-6 split. You feel great, your body gets a chance to take a break from digesting. And then lately I've been trying to put in either a five day prolong or straight up five day fast, two to three times a year. And man, those benefits last you for months.

Dave: It's pretty ridiculous, anything over about 48 hours kicks you into that. So, when my wife and kids are gone, sometimes I'll just say, I love to cook and it's nice to cook just for yourself because you can make whatever, but then you have to do dishes. So, I'll just do a straight up two and a half, three day fast because it's less work and I'm just in the flow.

Tim: Totally.

Dave: And a lot of people listening who haven't fasted are like, oh my God, it's going to be the end of the world. And the first time it's probably uncomfortable, but if you cheat with some of the stuff that I've written about the first day, you put a bit of brain octane in your black coffee and suddenly you just don't have the thoughts and the hunger cravings and all that. I found it to be pretty painless.

Tim: I noticed that too. Do you notice day two, you're a little bit hungry, but you ride through it and suddenly day three, day four, you feel really clear, clean. You're probably kicked into Ketosis by then, your brain is functioning well and yeah.

Dave: If I get any of that on day two, it turns out there are studies that show the amount of caffeine and two small cups of black coffee doubles Ketone production.

Tim: Oh, does it?

Dave: Yeah. And this is why the water only fasting people make me roll my eyes. I'm like, come on. Did you want to suffer or did you want to get it done and still get your job done and not be yelling at your kids and your wife and all that kind of stuff? So, I'll do that and I'll throw in a little bit. I'm talking even just a teaspoon of brain octane. All of a sudden that bumps your ketones. The coffee bumps your ketones, the fasting bumps your ketones, and all of a sudden, the hunger goes away.

Tim: It does.

Dave: And then you might have a thought about food, but it's not a craving.

Tim: It's not a craving. That's right. That's right.

Dave: So, you've done this three times a year. You do a five day fast?

Tim: It's the equivalent of a nutritional meditation. It's learning to sit with that craving and not get it carried away by just like reactivity to strong emotions. You realize it's there, but you don't have to go chase it. You don't have to give into it. Yeah, and I also found coffee was such a magic tool because it gives you that one thing in the day you look forward to.

Dave: Oh yeah. Yeah. I mean if you stack your fast with coffee and green tea, there's all kinds of evidence. And one of the things that we've just learned about fasting, that astounded me is that when you fast, the changes in your gut bacteria are really useful. And there's a species of gut bacteria that will actually eat the mucus that lines your gut, but it also produces new, better mucus, which is important for the barrier to work so you don't get autoimmunity. Fast for too long actually are harmful to it, but a five day fast, good news.

Dave: So, if you're doing that, what are the other manipulations you can do? And there's kind of bacteria that are present in thin people, the bacteria, DDS family. It is Polyphenols. So, if you only eat polyphenols in your tea, coffee, whatever, they're going to rise proportionally. And the other stuff, the Firmicutes family, the ones that are associated with obesity, just when the ratios off, everyone has both, but they'll drop naturally over the course of the fast. And then all of a sudden when you're done with your fast, you have better lining of the gut, more bacteria DDS, less from Firmicutes, and if you didn't feel pain during the fast ...

Dave: I noticed the muffin top, which for me, I have very little most of the time unless I've flown or I ate something I shouldn't eat or whatever. But after that, you just feel lean and tired [crosstalk 00:09:50].

Tim: It feels great.

Dave: Yeah, exactly. All right. So, you've got your routine down, which is surprising because you're dad and you're a big time VC, but you're still investing 45 minutes a day in your workout routine. Okay. And you mentioned fasting as a form of meditation, but I know because we're friends. I mean you've been meditating for quite a while now. When did you start meditating?

Tim: More in earnest starting two years ago. At first, well I admit I tried it five years ago. All I would do is sit there and fall asleep or think about stuff.

Dave: [crosstalk 00:10:25].

Tim: Yeah. And so, it took me a while and some other experiences to really tap into where you can go with it, right? And so, I have finally learned how to sit for an hour at a time. Not easy, but it's something I'm trying to incorporate more regularly. And I think what people say about this absolutely true. There's something magic at minute 40 or 45 where your mind just tires itself out of yapping at itself and suddenly this amazing stillness will occur that some people will say, oh man, it will take psychedelics or whatever to get to that state. But it's much deeper, it's more sustainable. It's that thing that people have been writing about for millennia.

Dave: Psychedelics are useful and interesting, but not without risk, but with reasonable risk to show you the state. But if you have to take them every time, I have a friend who said, I've done Ayahuasca, I'm doing 78 times, and I'm pretty sure it's not working.

Tim: And that's the thing is when people get carried away in chasing peak experiences or addicted to the vehicle not necessarily the lessons. There's a great saying which is, once you get the message, hang up the phone, right? And unfortunately, now you've got this hipster spirituality culture, which is all psychedelic and they're literally out Instagramming each other. I just did another Ayahuasca sitting. I did five days in a row and it's almost this weird one upmanship that's still fueled by pride and ego, which is crazy.

Dave: It's super funny that you're putting it just out there like that and it is. Who is it I told ... Oh I told my son this because we were talking about the nature ego and I said, "Hey Allen," I said, "My ego is smaller than yours."

Tim: Love that, that's so funny. That's the essence of it. Another joke I've heard is when's the last time you had a friend who did a Vipassana retreat and didn't tell you about it or brag about it or post about it?

Dave: Are you saying that the Vipassana is the new raw vegan? Did I hear you say that?

Tim: Yes. That's the funny thing is like all this spiritual work, it's like something we have to brag about and it says something about our inner natures of this sort of stuff, right? Whereas I've always found true masters of anything, they just say less and less over time.

Dave: I was at a thing at Google years ago, it was some sort of a debate, last minute organized thing and one of the guys in the back of the room asking questions was like, "Hey, I want to be a Vegan food activist. Do you have any advice for me?" And, my advice was, and I actually believe I swore I said, "Shut the f\* up and eat," right? And that's how you become a food activist. You shouldn't be a food activist, that just means you're a bossy jerk. But the bottom line is you eat and you have outsized results and people notice that your eyes glow and your skin glows, which wouldn't happen on that program anyway. But basically, why are you doing whatever you're doing? And when they ask, it's an invitation. But if you're one of those people who's out there, thumping your chest about your diet, you're just acting like a jerk.

Tim: You so nailed it. And I think that's the real lesson of any of this work is you become like a living invitation just by walking your talk and quietly in doing it. And people will notice and they will come up to you and ask you, what are you doing? I want to learn from you as opposed to you preaching or beating them over the head with, this is my journey, it's got to be yours too.

Dave: You've actually shifted since you started your deeper meditation practice a couple years ago. People who do a lot of meditation usually can at least if you're paying attention, you can notice that stuff about other people, but you're way quieter and way less stressed. And I don't mean stress like in the way you behave because you've always been a professional, you don't have a career that's grown the yours has if you can't handle your shit. Well there I am swearing in my own show. But basically, there's a set of rules that anyone who succeeds in business learns to follow usually by failing a few times early on, someone taking care of the wings saying if you do that again, life is going to suck. So, you know the game, you know the dance. But you can also know when someone walks into a room and they're mostly doing the dance, but inside they're tweaked. You used to have a little bit of this, you were never particularly off the thing, but you have none of it right now.

Tim: I think it's because, honestly, I just got over myself. I realized that my identity was my prison. I was so worried about having this curated, perfect identity and it took so much work. And through things like meditation, you get these little mini breaks from having to be yourself. And when you get that break, sometimes you see, my God, that identity, it's like a prison. It's like this character that takes a lot of work to play and is not necessarily any more real than a character in a movie or a script. And it's so freeing to realize you don't have to play that role all the time. You don't actually have to do anything. There's actually perfection in every moment that takes no effort.

Tim: And it's a tricky dance because all of us are wired to want to do things and be ambitious, but at the same time there's another side of it, which is, there is so much wow in every moment in a way, everything's already perfect too.

Dave: When you say it takes no effort, I got to ask, how many minutes or hours per day do you typically meditate?

Tim: Usually minimum of 30. My ideal is to be at 60 minutes, but I am not consistent every day as much as I want to be. So, I'll be the first to own that.

Dave: So, you spent an hour and a half to two hours a day in either exercise or meditation combined. How old are your kids or a kid?

Tim: Six-year-old daughter.

Dave: Six-year-old daughter, okay. So, I mean, my son's eight and I have had ... In fact, I'll just straight up admit it, I had a really nice meditation practice before I had kids. This is going back 12 years ago, but I would wake up at 5:00 AM I became an early riser for a year or two when I thought that was supposed to make me a better person, and I would replace two hours of sleep with an hour of meditation, at least it was all dialed in. And then once the kids come, they have radar to know if you wake up so you will not meditate if you're in the house, it just doesn't work. And so that was bad.

Dave: Fortunately for me, I have 40 Years of Zen and Neurofeedback and I can cram a year's worth of meditation in and just put some breathing and all. I feel like I've still made progress but much less than if I had an hour a day. How do you manage having an hour to work out, an hour to maybe whatever, 30, 40, 50 minutes to meditate and your dad time and a demanding career? What's your algorithm for that?

Tim: Just say, no, I've dropped so many things now, the networking events, the breakfast meetings, and I have a policy, no meetings before 10:30, now or even 11:00 AM because you need your think time as well, right? So, you've got to carve out time because time is limited despite your intentions and your love being infinite, right? You have to cut back on some things. So, it's been dropping a lot of things and being a parent definitely forces you to prioritize, right? You're always calculating the ROI on your time. I could be playing with my kid, I could be meditating, I could be doing other things.

Tim: But it also goes to show you how much time you maybe run around chasing things you don't really need to do.

Dave: I think a lot of us have that message that says, I need this, I need that and I need to go to this or I will-

Tim: Miss out.

Dave: Miss out.

Tim: FOMO.

Dave: So, what's your FOMO cure that you use on yourself?

Tim: What I realized was that being this simulation that we're in, none of it really matters. And so therefore, unless something evokes a hell yes or it really brings out joy for you, it might be obligation or a FOMO that's really driving the boat on that decision of what to do. And it's really fun to scan within to be like, hmm, I feel like I've got to do this. But how much of that is obligation? And, I've had some really interesting executive coaches say if it feels like obligation, don't do it. A classic one is like, "Hey, can I pick your brain?"

Dave: I'm pretty hard on those, the answer is no.

Tim: Right.

Dave: And, if you want to pick my brain for just 15 minutes, that's 15 minutes I didn't get to play ping pong with my kids and it comes from somewhere, or I'm not going to meet my obligation to my employees and I'm not going to write my next book. But to me, the burden of saying no, just the time burden because of the inbounds. And you'd probably get it worse than I do because you're a guy who can write \$20 million checks with your eyes closed with just your left hand.

Tim: A lot of emails.

Dave: A lot of emails and all. Do you have a team of know people who work for you in terms of administrative assistant, junior associates or do you farm out your nose or do you actually do your nose yourself?

Tim: To a degree. My assistant, who's a superhero and jealously guards my time for me and usually even challenges me. It's like, look, do you really need to do that? Do you need to run across town for that one? Is that really worth the loss trans of time, et cetera, right? So, you need helpers to help you say, no.

Dave: It's changed things for me in my experience is that the assistance from the Venture Capital business are some of the best in the world at doing that because of the pressure that you're under. Could you give me some money, could you give me some money? Can I pick your brain? And, you just get all greed that people who are really in the hungry ghost mentality like I have to talk to you. So, the filtering function has to be strong, and my EA, Anie, who's also a rock star who came out of a 10-plus years in the venture business. So, you and I both have professional nay-sayers working for us.

Tim: That's right. One tip I was trying to ... Do you do this too? The Warren buffet technique, which is like, you try not to book meetings at all. Just don't schedule. And if somebody really wants to meet with you, you'd say, look, ping me the day before or the morning of, or something like that. And I can free up some time. So, one practice I've done is like, no meeting, no schedule Tuesdays or whatever it is.

Dave: Whoa. I think I'm going to do that and my team will probably kill me if I do that. But I like that idea.

Tim: It guards your times, at least one day a week. You get that unencumbered time to think or process. And if things come up that emerged that you do want to do, you can slot them in at any time, right?

Dave: It's kind of Burning Man, where you have serendipity that's allowed to happen because I don't know, no one even knows what time it is, we're all just walking around with just doing whatever.

Tim: That's right.

Dave: So yeah, I would say maybe I'd benefit from structuring some more serendipity. I tend to have very structured days just because of the number of things I'm doing.

Tim: So, you can literally structure on structured days, right? So, I tried to do that one to two days a week and it's cool that freedom it allows, and what I noticed is there's time to do ... You know that Eisenhower Matrix where there is important but not urgent. Eisenhower Matrix is that the two vectors are important, not important, urgent, not urgent. We always get stuck usually in the fire drills of, the important and urgent or not important but urgent, right? Those things. And the one that never gets done is important but not urgent. And those are often the most strategic things that require, think time, proactivity, reflection, et cetera. And you have to guard unstructured time to work on those.

Dave: Okay. That is good advice. And, one of my favorite executive coaches who's been on the show, Dan Sullivan, who's just an inspirational guy in his mid-70s and he's like, I'm going to live to, I forget 150 or something like that. But, just mindset that's unbelievable. Has been teaching that for years. But I haven't been to his class in a little while, so thank you for the reminder. And, I would say I'm probably failing on that one right now, but yeah.

Tim: We all couldn't be better at it.

Dave: Yeah. It doesn't help that, I started a few companies back before I Bulletproof and they're still humming along like 40 Years of Zen, and the meditation stuff. So, I don't spend as much time as I want on that.

Tim: Totally.

Dave: But it's still out there is like a little open file.

Tim: So, I have a question for you. Do you schedule email time or only block off email in certain chunks of the day or is it more interrupt driven throughout?

Dave: I did schedule email time for years, but I found that I actually used it more as unstructured time because of the natural resistance to doing email. So, what I do now, it's more interrupt driven. But because of my assistant is awesome, she will take my emails and say, this is stuff you need to know today. This is stuff you need to reply to today, right? And if it's really urgent, she'll text me and say, you need to look at this one. So, I'm not, just checking because I have to check. I might do that opportunistically, but I feel zero obligation to reply text messages. I just don't care if you email me.

Dave: It's not that someone won't respond probably, and that I might respond if it makes it through my filters. But it's not even, I could spend two hours a day on email and my life would be no better.

Tim: That's right. But you've set up a cognitive offload for a screen, which is very powerful.

Dave: What do you do?

Tim: Assistance can help with that. I need to get better at setting up more workflows and structures that we'll do that first screen, that would be really helpful. One example is, you can give your assistant access to your email and they can read it and that makes a lot of sense because they will act as your first screen for you. The thing I'm having a hard time with, and I want to get your take on this, messaging apps I think are becoming the new mind killers.

Dave: They're horrible.

Tim: And I'm live on probably five different messaging networks and they are purely interrupt driven but expected to be always on and always responsive. And people get upset because delays in these messaging apps that show that you read it but you haven't replied yet, create stories in their heads that you're blowing them off or whatnot. And you can literally ping pong between messaging apps all day long because they're interrupt driven by nature.

Dave: I haven't done this yet, but you just inspired me. Sometimes when people have vicious mean voices in their head, the best thing to do is to poke the dog. So, on the iPhone there's a little thing you can do where you can, I think it's like the auto correct function, but I do it so you can have, your address, you type three letters and it comes out. So, you can have a little message that says, I'm blowing you off until later.

Tim: That's so interesting.

Dave: And so, you just feel like BO, for blow off. So, you're just, BO, BO, BO.

Tim: It's like auto responder.

Dave: Exactly. But you have to actually have [crosstalk 00:24:11] two letter auto respond.

Tim: Right, right.

Dave: Because here's the deal. I remember I've talked to a relative of mine, a millennial. She's like, "Well, I texted him, he didn't text back. What does it mean?" I'm like, it probably means that he's in the bathroom. It probably means he was doing something, it means nothing. It wasn't about you, it was about him. But all of us have that annoying thing. So I guess I stopped caring what people think if I don't respond, even if they are people that you care about, it's like if they're going to run that story in their head, it's going to cost them, but it's not going to cost me because if I make my life around managing the stories and people's heads, that's bad.

Dave: That said, you're competing to get deals with other big VCs and there's going to be times when you have to manage that because it's like playing poker, right? So, maybe and you don't want to apply that everywhere. The other app that I want you to fund is an auto

responder that looks at every single messaging app on my phone and makes up something like I'm driving now.

Tim: Oh, that's, excuse on demand as a service.

Dave: It randomly chooses from 10 of them.

Tim: Right, right, right, right. I'm cooking. I'm talking to my mum.

Dave: I'm sorry, I'm in the bedroom right now, and get all sorts of embarrassing ones. It seems like something you can do.

Tim: That's hilarious. You know, you'd think at some time it'd be like, hey, my bot will talk to your bot, they'll figure it out.

Dave: I think it's probably already happening to be honest. I mean, you saw the Google auto responder a while back. Yeah. And have you played with Otter? There's an email out that's supposed to do that stuff. I tried it for two days, it wasn't worth it.

Tim: Oh, I will check that out.

Dave: Sorry, that's not Otter, it's Astro.

Tim: Oh, Astro, I will check that out.

Dave: So, there's a few things out there, but I've spent a lot of time looking at this and I finally just decided there's a fetishization I used to have in probably the mid 2000s, because I'm a computer hacker by training and you can automate and all this. I would be willing to spend 16 hours of my time automating a process that costs me 10 seconds a day, and the ROI on that is never there. But it was sort of just like, I'm going to dominate this 10 second steal of my time every day, no matter what it takes. And I feel like a lot of the modern productivity movement has gotten there, and I'm to the point where I probably could solve this problem. I could probably go start a company about this if I really, really wanted to, but I don't want to. So, I'm going to hire someone to help me with it because I'm in a position as a CEO where I can.

Dave: But for the rest of us out there, it feels knowing your investment philosophy, it feels like you could save 10,000 lives. We're talking about in two second increments, right? If you just save everyone two seconds per day, that's whatever two seconds times 300 million in just the US, right? And it's snowballs. So, do you think about your investments that way?

Tim: I do. I think a lot about, again, is this good for society and good meaning? Is it helping your cognitive health? Because a lot of what this every little decision choose up mental bandwidth and it wears on you. It drains your willpower as well. And you ever feel yourself exhausted just looking at the little red dot notifications even, right? And so-

Dave: What do those red dots mean?

Tim: Basically, it's like it's chewing up your willpower and your mental bandwidth, but can you save mental bandwidth for people? Can you avoid distraction, distraction, you've talked about this distraction as a mind killer. Context switching is a mind killer, right? And so, I've been thinking a lot about how do we help automate these things, but also maybe just add a bit more mindfulness to things. And what I mean by that, your point on us fetishizing automation is the heart of Silicon Valley. We love to make things convenient to the point that you don't touch or talk to another human being.

Tim: But I realized something that which we make convenient, we lose connection with. When food is at McNuggets, do you care how it got there? What animal it came through? What process? When it's that convenient and abstracted, you have no connection with the origin of where it came from. So, the price, the hidden price of making something convenient through technology is to lose connection with the source of that thing you made convenient. We're doing that now to human relationships, right? Because when everything is just via an emoji or text, you've lost out in the body language, you've lost out in the eye contact, you've lost out in this in person mimetic communication that animals can have physically been when we're wired for, right? And you lose so much meaning there.

Tim: So, that's the thing is can we go back to slow tech that maybe is inconvenient but makes you a little more grounded or mindful. And in a way, I don't know, meditation's the original behavioral technology for that. I think that's why I do it because although it seems like you can't pull an hour from your day, if you can invest an hour for that meditation, it'll help you sail through the rest of the day and drop all the other bullshit that you might've just gotten caught up in like that Facebook flame war about you or something that you would have otherwise gotten sucked into or something.

Dave: Yeah. I gave some advice, I was interviewed on stage the day before you spoke at Consumer Health Summit here, and people ask about, what do you do about trolls? And, my final meditation after having dealt with a few like very focused, targeted, financially motivated troll tax was I just arrived at the say my name. Oh, they're talking about my work, that's awesome. Could you talk about it some more, and it generally it works. But to get there, I had to do a lot of meditation.

Tim: You really do. And what you're learning is if someone hates you, that's not your business. Similarly, if someone loves you, that's neither your business either, that's their business.

Dave: Yeah. You don't control other people's emotions. You never will. You can manipulate them, but you can't control them.

Tim: Right, right, right, right.

Dave: And if you make it your business to manipulate a hater to make them love you, they probably won't. But you'll be unhappy as a fact.

Tim: And then you wasted all that time and energy.

Dave: Yeah. You could have just used it eating chocolate and bent that off.

Tim: So back to your original question, I think the reason I'm a little more still these days is I care a little less about what people think about me. Growing up, with Asian tiger parents, I was programmed to please people and try to get perfect scores. They were all external validation measures, I was like a heat seeking missile for that and learning to let go of that and just care a little bit less about what people think about me has been so freeing. All of us are stuck in that trap, and the ultimate freedom is to not worry as much about what people think about us. Not worry about as much of what you think about you even.

Dave: And you did this in two years of mostly daily meditation.

Tim: That, reading a lot of texts, and talking to a lot of people. And the biggest thing finally not being so scared to be vulnerable, I think with friends. What I noticed is you bond with people through vulnerability, and so in many ways, I think vulnerability is the ultimate superpower. All of us are just looking for someone to be vulnerable as an invitation so you can open up your hot messiness and be like, me too. I'm a hot mess too.

Dave: It's tough for everyone to be vulnerable and probably harder for men than women just because of socialization, but it's harder for executives and extremely powerful people. And, you're in both of those shoes just being powerful in the Venture Capital business, the big dog firms, you're out there and you're in a leadership position there. So, that is probably the hardest position of all to be vulnerable in. What specific meditation, visualization or practices or anything else did you do to be able to first turn on your vulnerability?

Tim: Oh, there's a meditation, Jack Kornfield teaches this one loving kindness. It's about empathy and compassion for other people. And you literally send all the love you can for that person, try to understand their viewpoint, they're perspective, take their viewpoint. That's super helpful. And so, when I work with a founder and just envision, my God, all the stress they're going through makes it a lot easier to have compassion but also open up and be like, man, there's a lot you're juggling, and try to be in that more vulnerable space.

Tim: And also being outside of the boardroom where you have to have your game face on, being able to take a walk or just have a coffee with him or her and be in a more private setting where you can take the game face off and be a bit more authentic about things too I think helps a lot. Usually when we're in these official settings, that's when your game face is on maximum and you're so worried about how you're perceived.

Dave: So, do you cultivate like a community where this is my no game face community versus my public Instagram image kind of thing?

Tim: Yeah. A big one for that was I'm trying this thing now we're on social media. I try not to promote myself. I want to promote others and ideas, and so maybe you can use ... Social media doesn't have to be bad. What if you used it, not about the me part of media but others or ideas or causes or something like that. So, that's been one practice I've tried. And then, another is to just practice vulnerability with a lot of friends and a men's circle. I think every guy should have a men's circle and it's been super powerful to have a set of brothers that you can just totally open up to.

Tim: Typically, men were so bad at that. We go to sports bars or go to sporting games to avoid talking about feelings because it's easier just to, I don't know, watch the Red Sox's player and talk about that instead, right? It's a substitute for talking about what you really feel, but as we get older, I think men really need men's circles just like women need women's circles, and when you have that and you can spill your guts, oh my gosh, is that liberating? People can talk about like, I think my marriage is failing. I think my kids hate me. Really let it out there because, you don't feel so alone because you realize we're all dealing with the same bullshit. You're not alone everyone. Nobody's crushing it, everyone's a mess.

Dave: It's one of those reasons that some of the most powerful personal development events I've ever been to are ones where it's an event because there's more than one person there, it's not just you and a therapist on a couch. It's you and a group of people and then you look around and two magic things happen. One is you can tell yourself, thank God that's not me when you hear about someone else's crap, right?

Tim: Right.

Dave: And then you can dump what feels to you like it's really big and share it. And people look at you and generally they're supportive or they just don't care. As in not they don't care about you, but they didn't think any less of you.

Tim: They never thought less, they might think better of you even.

Dave: Exactly right. So, all the fear goes away and then all of a sudden like, okay, that was liberating because I realized my life is not as bad as I thought compared to other people, it's average or maybe even above average, but most importantly, no one cared about my deepest, darkest, most shameful of stuff. They were all just a hall of mirrors in my head. I first tried something like that when I was 30, and man, it really was transformative and that's why I build that in on the personal development side of what I do around the Bulletproof coaching stuff, around the neurofeedback stuff. Because if you don't have a witness to whatever the heck was going on your head, you'll hide it.

Tim: No, it's true. In fact, I think your journey was inspirational because it started from a place of desperation and vulnerability. You would talk about "I was overweight, I was dying."

Dave: You knew back then.

Tim: Yeah. It was basically because you felt like you were going to die if you didn't change, right? And that's a great motivator and to share that I think is powerful. It's vulnerable, it's authentic. People relate to that because they're probably feeling the same. Keith Ferrazzi taught me a really great technique. Next time you hold a dinner salon or a gathering when it comes to around of self intros, ask everyone to state their name, maybe what they do, but most importantly what they're struggling most with life in right now. By the third or fourth person, people are just spilling their guts and revealing their deepest, darkest secrets. And the amount of bonding and closeness and empathy you feel for everyone in the room immediately is really striking.

Dave: I went to Keith's dinners recently where he did that, which was really cool down in LA. And so, this'll be funny, it's [inaudible 00:35:34]. But the one thing that I struggle with the most is the word struggle because there's something around, I attempted to do this and I failed. But my attempt was clean, and I used all of my effort for the results, and I still hit the wall. And that's okay. But if I'm struggling with it, it means that I wasted effort that should have gone to the activity in the struggle. I created friction like the word struggle itself means self-created friction. Because you don't have to struggle.

Tim: That's true. That's true.

Dave: And so, my path of meditation and take back all that stuff has been to learn struggle is unnecessary. Pain will happen, but you don't have to struggle in response to pain. And effort will happen, but you don't have to struggle in response to effort. And if you have the learning and the control to not struggle, I can say I'm working really hard on this and I fail every day at this, but I'm now struggling with it. I'm grateful for the failures because I'm still learning and that mindset for me it feels liberating versus struggling. So, they asked me the question, I'm like, am I the arrogant jerk who's going to criticize struggling because I'm better than everyone else or am I just going to say, set it aside and just say I'm working on, which is what I always do.

Tim: Working on is really good too, but that you've hit the punchline of a lot of this is that pain will happen in life. Suffering doesn't have to because suffering is the story we wrap around that, right? Suffering is when you create a narrative that says woe is me, I'm the victim. Why does this always happen to me? Right? That's our minds that are built to be basically narrative creation engines, right? It's a survival mechanism because you're always looking for cause and effect so that you have better survival strategies. But that leads to us writing stories around everything that arises.

Dave: Very well said. You sound a little bit more like a monk than a VC though.

Tim: I mean it's starting to. After 20 years of doing this, I realize I don't have a clue. Any rule or heuristic I tried to make, always got broken. Things that I thought were slam dunk, total craters, something that was a random flyer, no idea if it worked, blew up and became a huge success. So, what I realized is just, I don't know. And all I can do is be curious about things not be too attached to that outcome. But I love this notion of falling in love with the process, the journey of building things. It's almost like a form of play or curiosity. It's like, I don't know if those will be big enough, but it's fun to build.

Dave: It's fun to build, but you're also in a place in life where if you screwed up real big, your family is still going to eat.

Tim: That's fair. And I wrestle with that a lot. There is this saying sometimes that enlightenment is a rich person's game, right? You have to have the luxury to go do this Vipassana retreat or doing Ayahuasca sitting or whatever, right? But I'd like to think there could be tools and approaches for even those who are in the midst of the struggle that don't have a lot of resources to find a bit more peace and maybe these meditative or mindfulness type of practices to find flow. Even in that, in the midst of that scarcity survival mode.

Dave: It feels like there are a set of practices like improving sleep quality, learning how to meditate or do different nostril breathing techniques and things like that, that have no cost. But then you're dealing with someone and saying, well, yeah, they have no costs, but Tim gets an hour a day. I take public transit to work, which takes three times longer than someone who takes an Uber and I can't afford an Uber. So, even just the luxury of time-

Tim: Time is a luxury.

Dave: To meditate, right?

Tim: Time is a luxury.

Dave: It's part of it.

Tim: You know what I keep wondering, maybe there's nothing sacred about sitting on the pillow. What if every moment the in between moments can be a meditation, too.

Dave: That's what the master's all say. That's what they all do.

Tim: So even when you're waiting in line for Starbucks or whatever, that can be a moment. It's just tuning into that presence, the wow in that moment, right?

Dave: Right. I believe that there will be, and I'm actually actively working on creating technology for enlightenment to make it faster to reach that state of enlightenment. Just by using stuff to remind the mind to pay attention to that. And I'm not saying I know all the details, but I like to think that there's been some progress in that space.

Tim: I think you've been working on it like 40 Years of Zen and those sorts of things.

Dave: That's the kind of stuff I'm talking about, but even just initially talking about heart rate variability, that's why I joined Basis as the co-founder of the North American stuff. Basis, if you're listening was a wristband company, one of the very first ones that did wrist tracking and the first one to get heart rate from your wrist, the way your Apple watch does today. And I joined it because I think we can get this heart rate variability, which is a measure of stress from the wrist. And we never did it. But that was what excited me

about the thing was what if I could show people in real time, they're more stressed when they meet with their boss. Let's go work on the stress.

Tim: That's right.

Dave: That was one of the first technologies that might've led there because heart rate variability is tied to Alpha brainwave states.

Tim: That's right.

Dave: So, I feel like there's a renaissance coming, but are you investing in these neuroscience kinds of things? I'm not asking for money for 40 years and Zen, not the sun investment thing. But I'm just like as an investor, what's your ...

Tim: Neuro is the big new frontier. We've got new areas like digital vagal nerve stimulation with things that are ... For example, just like a Bose headphones form factor you could do for that, right?

Dave: I love that.

Tim: We've got TMS, right? With a magnetic transcranial stem. We've got-

Dave: Use it.

Tim: Right. Halo Neuro, we've got the reading technology interacts on muse headsets those sorts of things. But there's all these new modalities we're opening up. We're now going to see the rise of digital pharmaceuticals. Digiceuticals like Adam Gazzaley at UCSF and Achille they're on the precipice of getting FDA approved for video games to be able to treat ADD and those sorts of things. Pear Therapeutics I think is on that path as well. So, we're going to have digital tools that can be reimbursable by payers and insurers along these neuro pathways, which would be really exciting.

Dave: A lot of the reason that I started the early, the definition of biohacking and all is that I realized the body would do stuff that was scary and awesome. One of the things I did is I did visual retraining of the nervous system in my eyes and the muscles in my eyes and I went from 2016 back to 2015 but I did it with manual tools and it was incredibly exhausting and all, and I look at what is going on there. There's classic disruption of the whole eyeglass industry. If you can have a piece of tech that shows someone's eyes how to behave themselves so you can train away, what would otherwise require glasses, I think it's inevitable.

Dave: But you're a consumer-focused VC. A lot of the stuff is medical and the medical focused VCs have very different evaluations. Medical companies spend \$100 million in clinical trials and they're worth billions of dollars in acquisition. What's happening between how do you know if it's medical versus consumer?

Tim: Awesome question. This ties back to the very first question you asked me about how did I get started investing in this type of area because traditionally it fell between the cracks between traditional health care VCs who only understood, for example, FDA pathways, reimbursement or whatnot. And regular consumer internet VCs who only understood say, in APP purchases or subscription model and that kind of stuff.

Dave: The vapid stuff.

Tim: Right. But it's opening up now. There's more and more investors that understand this new area where you can have new approaches to go to market where yeah, you could apply for clinical trial and go FDA route at down the road, but you can go to market initially even with direct to consumer, right? There are optimizers or early adopters or whatnot. Happy to pay out of pocket. Maybe these things qualify for FSA HSA spend plans from your employer, those sorts of things. But this allows you to play the game differently than just waiting to get FDA approved or to go through the painful long kind of like slow sale cycle of just going through the benefits consultants or whatnot to reach employers, that sort of thing. So, you're broadening this market of things that have FDA or health care applications down the road, but you can start with direct to consumer first.

Dave: I love that answer. Having worked for, before I did Basis which you ended up investing in. I was at a pure medical play, a company as an advisor, I'm doing a stick-on cardiac monitor that today you can do on the back of your phone for a couple hundred bucks, a company called Cardiac [inaudible 00:43:57]. But back then they were spending amounts of money that made me cry as an entrepreneur on just dumb trials that didn't do anything, even though the data was very clear and it shows how wasteful it was and how slow it was to do anything. And I said, where's your video game in marketing? And they all laughed at me, but I'm seeing almost everything that is medical has a nonmedical use. Other than surgery. But even then, there's cosmetic surgery that, maybe I optimally wanted to improve my liver ducts because I wanted a high-performance liver, I have no idea.

Tim: Right.

Dave: But other than those weird cases where it's going to be medical on both sides, it seems like there's a huge swath of things where you and I and a sane human being would say that is something that humans can just do. But there's also a regulator out there who is happy to say, I need a bigger regulatory budget, right? And these digital therapeutics, look, if I'm going to look at blinking lights, we've had light on goggles for 30 years, that'll put yourself in a different brain state. And I've used them on airplanes and people make fun of me. But someone could walk in tomorrow and say, this is not something you have a right to use. So, where's your take on medical freedom as just a basic human right and all this?

Tim: This'll get it pretty interesting because I have a company like Lumosity, they got to taking down my FTC, right? That was carefully watching these claims, and so that can arise as well because we need to be careful about, I guess the claims we're making for

some of these sorts of things, especially if they're diagnostic, that's where people get really spooked when you're making-

Dave: If you diagnose, treat or cure anything, you're a drug even if you do it with wheat grass powder. But that's only in the US and some other highly regulated regimes. Right. So, it's really bizarre that people ... There was a famous case where a guy who made cherries, he was a cherry grower, and he said cherries had some health benefit that they do in 20 different studies, but when he did that, his cherry crop was seized. And so, I think there's a climate of fear around saying that something works when there's three studies that do, when the reality is that most of what we think works including in pharmaceutical drugs, we think it works, but we're gathering more data and may change our mind later. wouldn't it be cool if we could all just say that about flashing lights in your eyes about all these different cool, new things coming along? My fear is that it may take 10 or 15 or 20 years for the companies who make cool stuff to be able to talk about it working.

Tim: Right, right, right, right. Because they may be required to have some clinical body of data to make that claim or they'll be taken down, right? That sort of thing. So.

Dave: One of the things that brings me joy is that there is no one on earth who can stop an influencer from saying that something worked on their own channels. Right? So, if you make something that you know very well, say cures Alzheimer's disease, you're not allowed to say that unless you're a drug company. But if someone or another, some big celebrity picks it up, and says this worked and then there's a huge wave of things, people talking about it. So, I feel like social media and communities are actually the way claims are going to get out around foods, around devices and things like that. Do you look at that when you're investing in companies and sort of say, is there a route around saying what we know is to be true but we're not allowed to say?

Tim: Yeah. The thing is now that we're in the attention economy, sometimes celebs and influencers have more say, more sway over audiences than more of these official platforms. That could be good and bad, right?

Dave: It can be a bad thing.

Tim: It could be bad thing like Anti-Vaxxers, that sort of thing, but every startup now is trying to leverage content marketing and micro and macro influencers for these strategies, YouTube videos, Podcasts, et cetera, because it's the new way to try to get attention and not be dependent just on Facebook or Google ad spend, those sorts of things. It's all story based these days.

Dave: Yeah, it is story based. All right. You brought up something that we're going to have to talk about now. You've talked about Anti-Vaxxers here. As a guy who's married to a medical doctor, author of a book on fertility, I am not pro or Anti-Vax whatsoever. They're a tool set and it pisses me off when people say fat is bad for you or fat's good for you. I'm like, could you tell me which fat in what state, what time of day for which human being, because that's the reality here. And I kind of feel like social media and a

lot of the tech out there has made it so everyone is on the extreme, a vaccine won't you kill you. Well obviously not, because we have people alive.

Tim: That's right.

Dave: And on the other end, you should have all the vaccines possible, which I don't know. I've seen some evidence and I would say a more conservative schedule might be a good idea, especially for certain genotypes. So, how do you navigate that conversation when you're looking at it as an investor and as a human being?

Tim: What you've just highlighted is the inevitable outcome of when media models are free and ad based. Because you therefore have to be an extreme to stand out from the noise of all the other content and get noticed at all. It either has to kill you immediately or it's the best thing ever. Everything else falls on deaf ears in the sea of content, fighting for your attention out there. That's what's happened now, that same thing's happening with politics, everything else as well. And it's a flawed business model because our brains are wired for danger, novelty, all these sorts of things. I remember we had talked about these five F's, right? All human behavior is because you're trying to judge whether you should fight it, flee from it, feed on it, fuck it, or friend it or follow it, right?

Tim: And so, it's always looking for these dangerous signs. So, content has to take these extremes just to get attention at all. And that's terrible because the real answer, just like you've said, the answer is always, it depends. But the human brain hates that. It wants to minimize uncertainty and it wants shortcuts, heuristics, and quick causality, right? And that's a problem is we're fighting the operating systems and our brain has to deal with that because the reality is complex and nuanced. But our story making engines and our brains don't want to deal with that.

Dave: What are you going to do as an investor to help fix that problem?

Tim: I've got one recipe which is people hate when I say this. I don't know if freedom of choice is always a great thing anymore because when technology is created so much abundance of choice that you can't process all the choice. And remember how I talked about every choice creates cognitive load. You've overloaded your brain with too many things to choose and select from. So, if instead I can help you through cognitive offload first, by winning your trust, by revealing hyper transparently all the data, all the science, the reproducibility, who paid who what, give that full recipe. You win through trust and being open, then you will be able to make money through the convenience of it.

Tim: I've given you the full playbook. This is what I do. Here's how you can do it. For the 10% that are motivated to do that, they will. The 90% will say, good, I trust you. Please do it for me. That's a way to maybe offload that decision. I would do that with you and food. If you offered me a Bulletproof personalized meal plan, I'm like Dave, I trust you. Just tell me what to eat when I'm not even going to think about anymore, right? That is a form of cognitive support provided that I know your agenda, it's in line with my agenda. You're an open book about how everything is done. The data's all there.

Dave: And, it's interesting because if you're feeling skeptical about it, look at Spotify music recommendation engine. It's offloading the task of listening to a bunch of crap to find the stuff you like because it's mostly right. And I think the same thing happens with, well allegedly Amazon's recommendation engine, although it seems like it's gone backwards in the last year because there's so much cheap stuff on there now.

Tim: You know what's missing from that whole recommendation algorithm is the open sourcing and revealing of who paid who what to promote it. If that was all open, we'd have more ability to discern I think what got placed there by who and what. A great example of that is, I didn't realize this, one of the original FDA food pyramid recommendations didn't have so many carbs and all these other things in there, but it's all food, political lobbying interests that reverted it and whopped it. None of us knew that story. We didn't know who paid who what to break all those categories out and change the way that pyramid was shaped, right?

Dave: It's totally true. And, it's funny because paying to get someone's attention is a normal business behavior, it's called advertising and marketing. And at the same time, you can also have corruption which is paying for stuff. And there are times when it crosses the line, but figuring that out, A that it even happened or B, whether it was inappropriate or not, sometimes it's a matter of transparency and other times you just don't know.

Tim: That's right, because a lot of content marketing is presented as factual, scientific or whether articles with no indication of who paid for it, and with what agenda behind it.

Dave: Absolutely. It's one of the reasons on Bulletproof Radio, at the end of or beginning wherever we put it. There's a little thing that says, hey, I run ads in here, right? I have sponsors, right? And it's great because running a podcast like this is actually expensive and so I feel super clean about it, but I disclose that even though podcast as far as I know, aren't required to, I fear it will be someday, so I'd rather mention it.

Tim: And that's how you win trust. You just open up and show, look, here's all the money flows and from what? And there's an agenda.

Dave: Yeah. The deal is you don't get on the show unless you're worth the audience's time. And I don't care about money.

Tim: Exactly. Exactly.

Dave: Everything else, and we'll talk about it.

Tim: Oh, speaking of which do you run at Patreon? I need to support you on the Patreon.

Dave: I don't do Patreon, right? I figured Patreon's an interesting model where for people who haven't it, if there's someone who has a cool blog, you can give them a buck a month or whatever and then they make enough of an income to become a good journalist. You get enough followers, you get a \$200,000 a year and you're making more than you did in your day job, and you've created something of value. I love that model. Patreon didn't

exist when I started the Bulletproof blog where I would've been in the early days, it just took off so fast. It probably would've been a great thing.

Dave: What I did is I said, look, if you like this, you got to try the coffee because it's going to work. And then it does. And it did, and it still does. So, the people who consume the content and get value from the show, they're going to order the Bulletproof bars, they're going to order the Bulletproof coffee.

Tim: That's true, I do.

Dave: Thank you. And if they don't, it's because either the coffee didn't work for them, the bars didn't work for them or whatever reason is I still want them to get the knowledge and I just made peace with that. It's okay that someone hears this who never pays me a penny, because I think the knowledge speaks and stands for itself. And that was one of the sticky points with the Patreon model is if you have something that's so valuable, don't you want to share it more broadly and not just to the people who spend a dollar and, if content wants to be free if I'm an old hacker, I guess that's how I think about it.

Tim: Right.

Dave: Tim, I've got one more question for you before you rush off to the airport, and you might have one of the most interesting answers to this. I replaced my game changers question after I wrote the book based on the podcast, and this is a question about longevity. I've been really public, I'm going to live to at least 180. What's your number?

Tim: Man, that's a good one. I'll be candid, a lot of this biohacking stuff I did, I was scared to die.

Dave: Absolutely [crosstalk 00:55:03].

Tim: I was like, I want to be around forever. But now I realize it's not duration, it's depth and quality. I've never said this publicly or out loud before, but I toy with the idea of just having a massive going out party someday.

Dave: It's great.

Tim: I don't know, call it 80 years old or whatever. What's that notion your health span, not lifespan, when I can no longer be fully living life to the fullest in the way I want to be. Maybe I just take all my remaining resources, give them away to all charities and I want to save, I don't know, 100k and throw the best going out rave party ever and the stroke of midnight it's like I'm outie, nobody cries. See you, I love you.

Dave: That is a beautiful image. My grandfather did something similar. He didn't give everything to charity because he wasn't super wealthy, supported all of his kids and whatnot. But he said, all right guys, I just had this kidney thing. They're telling me that if I work really hard for a year, that I can probably get to the point where I can sit on the couch and watch golf and do dialysis three times a week. It's like, I don't want that life.

So, he said, all right, everyone come here, I'm going on the wine diet and he stopped eating or drinking anything except for wine. And, given that his kidneys weren't in good shape, two days later he was done. But he was surrounded by loved ones and all.

Dave: And it takes courage to do that. But it's an approach to death that looks at death very differently than most people who are like, I'm going to scramble for the last minute of crappy quality life.

Tim: Yup. So, and Dave, I want to share this with you, but I've been thinking of things like meditation almost as a chance to go rehearse for your eventual death someday. Because when that day comes-

Dave: You're suddenly Buddhist.

Tim: Kind of, but you know what? Your body, your physiology, your brain, your ego is going to go fighting, kicking and screaming, no one more day. One more moment. But there's another way which is like, oh, I'm graduating and to accept that, right? And maybe that's a more peaceful way to go. So, I do think about that of should we have a discussion hand in hand with longevity but also about graceful noble end of life because it's so taboo. We don't want to talk about it because it's scary, but there could be different ways to die too.

Dave: There are and my real number isn't 180, it's, I'd like to die at a time and by a method of my choice.

Tim: That might be it.

Dave: That's my real deal here because if I'm done and I feel like there's no reason to be here, I'd like the legal right, which actually it's a human right, whether or not it's legal to check out when I decide to. And to do it in a way that maybe I want to go skydiving without a parachute. It might be really fun for a minute before you hit the ground.

Tim: Totally.

Dave: I have no idea. But whatever the choice there is, it feels like it's a personal one and one you'd share with your family and your community and be celebrated, but, man, the taboos are so strong.

Tim: The taboos are so strong, right? And that's actually the real question behind longevity is why it is you're trying to live longer and do you just want to eke out more time or is it more about, again, that health span, the quality years. If you can get 180 years of quality life, that's going to be awesome.

Dave: That's all I want, right? I'll leave before then if it's not quality. But, the question about death as something you prepare for with meditation, when you get deep in the Buddhist teachings, I remember going to bed in Nepal's learn meditation from the masters. And, I have a side of me, I don't expose that much of because it's frankly too weird. But I've

had a chance to meet some epic level guru people who have studied this stuff for thousands of years and they'll talk about stuff like that. And those shamanic side of things.

Dave: And, I remember actually my grandfather, the one I just mentioned, he was a devout atheist his whole life. Just, the other stuff is bs, but on his deathbed, and he made peace with the fact that he was going to die. He said, I realize I've never done this before, so I'm going to be really curious about it. And he raised his own curiosity, which I think it helped him overcome whatever fear he had there. And your place was scientific curiosity and observation. And, in his thing was, well, okay, if I have observation, then hypothesis and tests. So, I'm going to make the observations that I don't know. So, I'll observe, but afterwards the only test is if I can leave a sign for you guys, if that's all real I'll do something for you. And we're like, how would we know?

Dave: But it was a fascinating take on that to flip it around from fear to I wonder what that is because it's inevitable. I feel like if in the longevity world we were to just dump the fear of death, which is like, look, it's going to happen because the universe will end at some point. So, if we can just accept that, let's get onto the quality thing, which if you do it right, will usually extend the length.

Tim: That's right. And wouldn't it be interesting if then longevity was available to everybody then it would bring up the question of like, oh you get to choose when you want to check out now and how, because then you'd want to check out frankly, because you'll probably get bored.

Dave: Yeah. I'm really okay with that. When my responsibilities are done to my family and there's no more pleasure from loving community and serving others and I feel like every stupid thing on the planet that needed breaking and remaking has been done, I feel like that's going to be several hundred years. I'm not worried. But of course, you're like, there's nothing here for me, why wouldn't you go? So. But I think maybe that's an unusual mindset. Who knows?

Tim: Or maybe that's where we're all supposed to get to.

Dave: Let's hope that's how it is.

Tim: Yes.

Dave: Tim, I do appreciate your perspective as a human being and especially human being directing hundreds of millions of dollars into the future of humanity. That's what VCs actually do. So, thank you for your work just as a person and at Mayfield. And thanks for being on Bulletproof Radio.

Tim: Thanks for being one of my longtime heroes and inspirations. I really value this friendship we've had over time and it's been such a gift to see us both evolve on this path.

Dave: Absolutely. And likewise. If you liked today's episode, you know what to do. Support Mayfield backed companies. I'm totally just kidding there, but you know what to do. Go out there and if you liked Tim and what he had to say, check out his Instagram thing, it's @Timechange as in, Tim Chang with a couple extra letters in there. And while you're at it, pick up a copy of Game Changers because you'll find a surprising number of things that Tim just mentioned are codified in these 46 laws that are in that book.

Tim: Yeah, definitely.