

My Most Important Teacher

A Tribute To Charles T. Munger

Cicero. Darwin. Feynman. Munger. A fitting list of intellectual behemoths across different periods in human history.

Charles T. Munger passed away on 29th November 2023 at a California hospital, just a few weeks short of reaching his centurion.

It is difficult to write an adequate tribute for Charlie Munger. He was one of the greatest investors, teachers, and wits in human history. In the coming days, media outlets will run obituaries that document his rich life and several accomplishments. All of these articles will be inadequate when it comes to explaining the impact Charlie had on countless individuals, most of whom he never knew personally. I count myself in this group.

Charlie's teachings changed the trajectory of my life. I think about his ideas on a daily basis. In my mind, I vicariously talked to Charlie every day through his ideas and models. He is the most important teacher I have ever had.

Charlie was adamant about the pleasure of living and working in a seamless web of deserved trust. He was obsessed with finding ways to generate positive outcomes; crucially, not only for himself. He wanted every stakeholder to benefit, too.

Charlie's relentless self-study in an astonishing spectrum of fields and advocacy for multidisciplinary learning turned him into a cultural icon. His mantra was to be naturally interested and curious about everything. "Always ask why" was a common utterance by him. He adamantly believed with you will occasionally uncover a few insights from multidisciplinary learning that will give you tremendous opportunities that other people couldn't think of.

Poor Charlie's Almanack was the most comprehensive singular publication that captures the essence of Charlie's philosophy and manner of thinking. When I first came across the book in 2016, I treated the book as a treasure trove and read it cover to cover multiple times. Each time I reread it, I learned something new. I still find myself going back to multiple sections of the book with after new experiences to continue to be awed by Charlie's forethought.

Charlie's qualities of a polymath made it a pleasure to be in his audience. He imparted his wisdom freely on those lucky enough to be in attendance. He truly reached the pinnacle of business success.

Charlie once said "I would say that if you make yourself a very reliable person and stay reliable all your life, faithfully doing whatever you engage to do, it will be very hard for you to fail."

Charles T. Munger was by all accounts a very reliable person. He was so much more as well. His legacy will live on perpetually through the ever-curious individuals who will always ask "Why?".

I have nothing more to add. I send my deepest condolences to Charlie's family, friends, and colleagues.

Moiz Saeed, CEO, Gulfrock Capital

30 November 2023