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CV of Gratitude

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It takes a village to raise a child. Below are some of the people who are the reason I am the person I am today. Some I have known personally, through work and outside of it. Others I have only read about.

To my childhood friend Henry, who introduced me to coding in high school, where we built our first projects together. Brainstorming every day together on what to build, how to help people, how to change the world. Everything felt possible. These were some of the most fun moments of my life.

To my college roommate Dan, whose love of math and logic is so pure. Caring about ideas intrinsically, not for money or external validation. You showed me what it meant to set ego aside and enjoy deep thinking and discovery for their own sake.

To Marcus Aurelius, for holding to his values and character through trials far harder than mine. For teaching me to separate what I can control from what I cannot, and to do my best with what I can. In my toughest times, he helped me see hardships not as things to avoid, but as tests of character. For reshaping how I view adversity, and for helping me find my purpose.

To Justin Fu and Sergey Levine, for giving me a chance to help with research when I had no credentials and no background in research, machine learning, or robotics. Just a kid with a lot of curiosity and a lot of time. Without that one chance, I would not be doing research or robotics today. That one small decision completely changed the trajectory of my life.

To Kuan Fang, for guiding me to my first real publication. Until I worked with you, my research journey had been failure after failure: over a year of nothing working, day after day. I was lost. From you I learned how to do research, and what relentless perseverance in the face of uncertainty and failure looks like.

To Ashvin Nair, for close mentorship and all those fun conversations about RL and the future. Your excitement was genuine and infectious, and this was before RL really worked :) Thank you for putting in a good word for me everywhere. I would not be where I am without your support behind the scenes.

To Akshat and Jackie, co-instructors of the Charisma DeCal at Berkeley, who taught me that true charisma comes from understanding yourself and being authentic to who you are. Thank you for starting me on what has become a lifelong journey of self-understanding. It has been one of the greatest joys of my life, and it has made me a better friend, a better colleague, a better mentor, a better person.

To the many friends I made in hostels traveling across Europe, who made me believe in the kindness of people. Across differences in culture and belief, you all showed me that the human experience is shared, and how beautiful it is to understand one another and to feel accepted.

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