Open Source is Broken

(Long Live Open Source)

Don Goodman-Wilson

@DEGoodmanWilson

Open Source Won!

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Open Source
is inevitable

Open Source
is an unmitigated good

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I want to challenge this narrative

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(BTW, the first person to crack a "tethics" joke is going to come to a bad end.)

"At the core of the open source ethos is the idea of liberty. Open source is about inverting power structures and creating access and opportunities for everyone."

— Dear GitHub 2.0

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the Software is furnished to do so, subject to the following conditions:

- The above copyright notice and this permission notice shall be included in all copies or substantial portions of the Software.

- No Harm: The software may not be used by anyone for systems or activities that actively and knowingly endanger, harm, or otherwise threaten the physical, mental, economic, or general well-being of other individuals or groups, in violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (**https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/**).

- Services: If the Software is used to provide a service to others, the licensee shall, as a condition of use, require those others not to use the
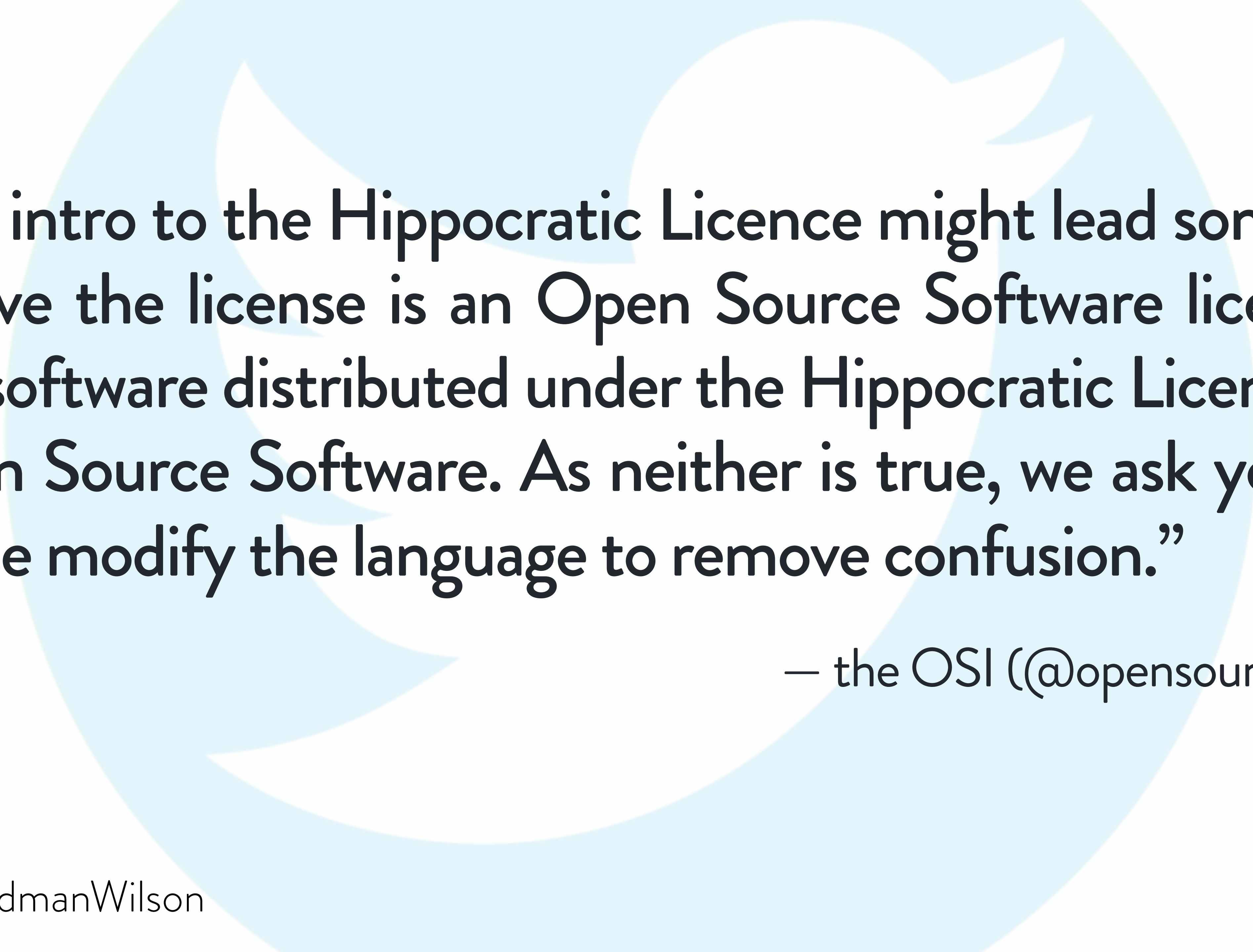
"Licences should not be political."

— some rando on Reddit

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"It's not Open Source."
— some rando on Reddit

"The intro to the Hippocratic Licence might lead some to believe the license is an Open Source Software licence, and software distributed under the Hippocratic Licence is Open Source Software. As neither is true, we ask you to please modify the language to remove confusion."

— the OSI (@opensourceorg)

Can I stop "evil people" from using my program?
No. The Open Source Definition specifies that Open Source licenses may not discriminate against persons or groups. Giving everyone freedom means giving evil people freedom, too.

https://opensource.org/faq#evil

Whiskey. Tango. Foxtrot.

A brief history of a failed Libertarian Utopia
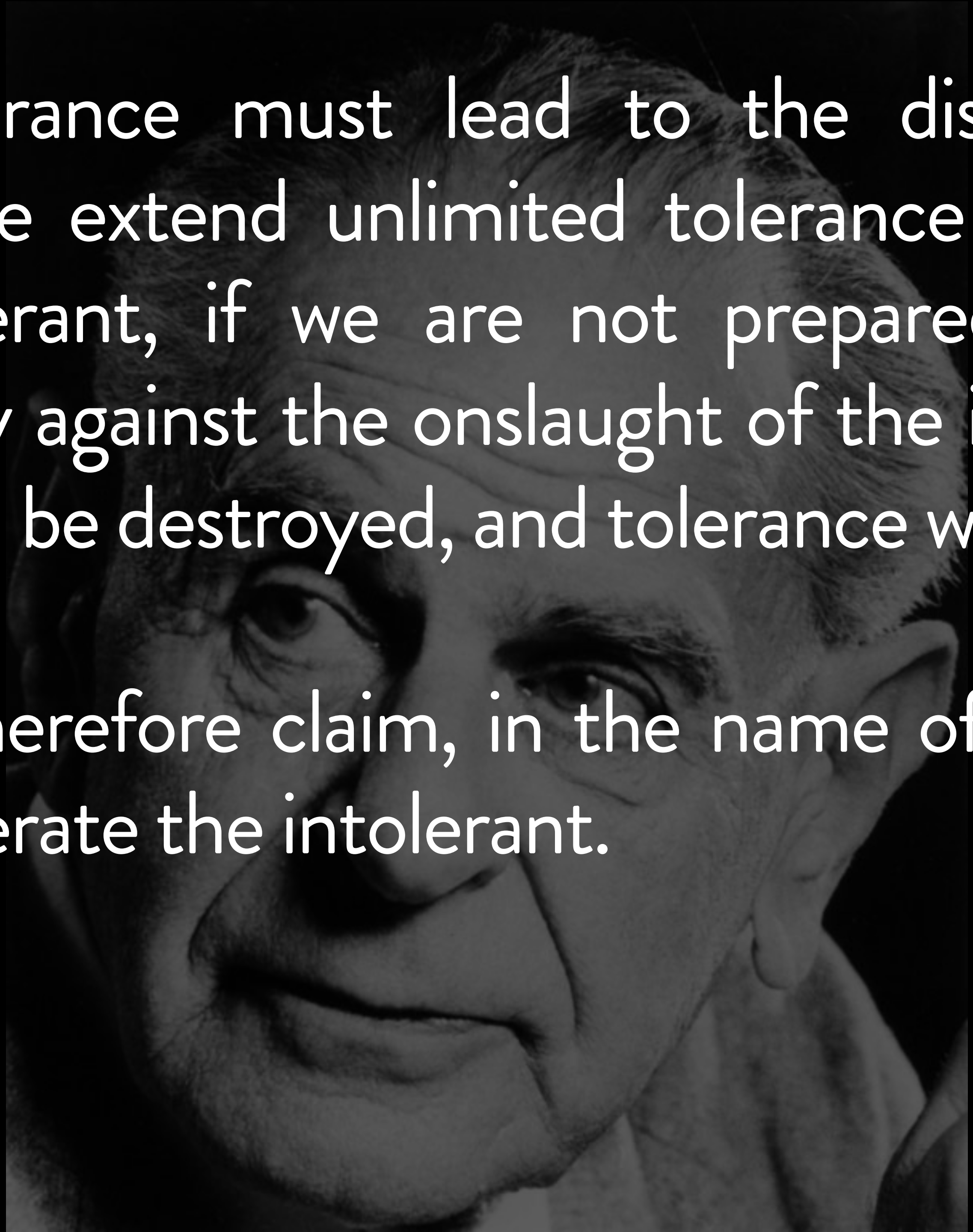
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"Open Source business is using the developer community as a force multiplier for engineering: It means they don't have to invest as much in engineering as if they were doing 100% of this themselves, because the community is actually doing some of their engineering for them...and then you take the enthusiasm of those people, and you use that to create market awareness, and you invest in that market, so know you've got your marketing...you're using open source to magnify your effect in the marketing side."

— Adrian Cockcroft, VP of Cloud Architecture Strategy, Amazon

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The Paradox of Tolerance

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Unlimited tolerance must lead to the disappearance of tolerance. If we extend unlimited tolerance even to those who are intolerant, if we are not prepared to defend a tolerant society against the onslaught of the intolerant, then the tolerant will be destroyed, and tolerance with them.

...We should therefore claim, in the name of tolerance, the right not to tolerate the intolerant.

— Karl Popper

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What do we tolerate in the name of "openness"?

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Open Source exacerbates existing injustices

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Open Source is the playground of the privileged

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Open Source prioritizes the wants of consumers over the needs of creators

Open Source incentivizes exploiting a volunteer labor force

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Let's denormalize this behavior

Stop asking the wrong questions

Is it Open Source?

Is it politics-free?

Is it enforceable?

So what questions *should* we be asking?

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What are the forces that have led us to this moment in time?

What do we owe to each other *as people*?

What does this mean for us in the room?

Don't be exploitative

Don't be duplicitous

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Imagine worst-case scenarios
and act on that knowledge

Bring diverse voices to the table

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Don't over-index on OSS contributions when hiring

All code is political

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We are not in this alone.

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http://bit.ly/ethical-resources

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