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Reading Response 4:

The GNU Manifesto

After reading the GNU manifesto, I was left very impressed. The values it states are some which are lacking within today's world. As mentioned in the text, people apply an egoistic attitude when it concerns creativity and ideas. We treat the borrowing of our thoughts as a crime upon our individuality and success. But this way of thinking is so backwards, especially within a platform such as the web, where sharing is at the core of the system. I believe that what the GNU manifesto declares is very brave. It lets go of ego and self-interest to benefit the greater good. For many, including myself, this is a very difficult practice to apply. But reading about GNU members' dedication to community, accessibility, influence and growth has inspired me to practice this attitude. Furthermore, the fact that they act upon these words by developing free software for a lower-income salary adds to the bravery. It's one thing to learn and accept to share, but it's another to let go of the need for a lot of money. I guess it comes to show their dedication, good intentions, and love for the craft even more. An aspect that piqued my interest within their manifesto

was the future they proposed via this approach. They suggest that by encouraging people to work on free programs we could eventually not depend on heavy-loaded jobs to make a living. Instead, we would concentrate on doing things we enjoy since productivity would increase thanks to the fruits of shared efforts. Overall, the GNU manifesto is incredibly inspiring as it illustrates the better future we can build through unity.

Word count: 286