# The Problems With All the Good Things A Chat With AI That Questions Everything

Jens Oliver Meiert

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#### Introduction

Here are two observations that you've likely made in your life:

One, you've noticed how easy it is to find fault. If you haven't found fault yourself, then you know others who find this wrong and that wrong and that other thing wrong as well.

Two, you've learned about things generally deemed desirable and good, things not connected with fault, whether these are states of being or possessions or activities.

Now, if you put the first observation to the test (looking for fault), would the second still hold (that there are things without fault)?

Would there be nothing to complain about; would there be nothing wrong with all those things desirable and good?

This question is what I'm exploring in this little book. I, an engineering lead by trade but philosophy student by heart, didn't set out to go on that exploration alone. I searched for a partner, one that everyone (almost everyone) believes will either save or destroy us: artificial intelligence (if you want to call it that).

This partner is what I used to have a look at more than 100 things that we commonly regard as "good," asking what the problems with them were.

Like, what are the problems with being healthy?

Or, what are the problems with having a great personality?

Or, what are the problems with obeying the law?

The responses are what I feature, thereby indicating: the problems with all the good things.

I'll meet you again at the end of this book.

-Jens Oliver Meiert

#### **Disclaimer**

The main body of this work, that is, all sections starting with "The Problems With...", were generated using OpenAI's ChatGPT between March and June of 2023. With the exception of introductory paragraphs (most of which were shortened to focus on the to-be-presented problems) as well as inapplicable or duplicate statements (which were removed), these responses were largely left as is.

As stated in the colophon, while this book has been produced with great care, the author, publisher, and contributors (as well as OpenAI) assume no liability for the up-to-dateness, correctness, and completeness of the information provided. Use of the information in this book is on your own responsibility.

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- 1. Lack of understanding: By not reading this book, you would miss out on the author's perspective and insights on the problems associated with the good things they discuss. This means you might not fully comprehend or appreciate their arguments, evidence, or the nuances of their viewpoint. Without understanding the book's content, it can be difficult to engage in meaningful discussions or provide informed feedback.
- 2. Missed opportunity for learning: Reading books, especially those that challenge conventional thinking or present alternative perspectives, can be a valuable learning opportunity. Not reading this book means potentially missing out on the chance to expand your knowledge, broaden your understanding, and gain new insights that could shape your own perspective on various subjects.
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#### **Acknowledgments**

Everyone we meet is a teacher. For their teachings, I thank everyone I've met.

In this post-Covid time, for this post-Covid title, I especially thank Beatriz González Martín, for her love and her patience. *Besitos*.

I also thank Vadim Gershteyn, who edited the book and challenged (and thereby helped to improve) some of its theses, as well as Yaroslav Kiyenko, who reviewed the book from a legal perspective. Thank you.

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#### **Feedback**

#### **About the Author**

Jens Oliver Meiert is an engineering lead and author who, after several years as a tech lead at Google, works as an engineering manager at Miro. He's an expert in web development, specializing in HTML and CSS minimization and optimization. Jens contributes to technical standards and regularly writes about the craft of web development on his website, meiert.com. The reason you're able to check out this book is that he also loves philosophy and agency.

Other titles by Jens Oliver Meiert:

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Journey of J. is a unique blend of photo journal and introspective diary, an unusual testament to 557 days of travel around the world. In this report, Jens Oliver Meiert shares 1,017 photographic impressions, and juxtaposes 291 personal observations. From simplified to deep, the result is a particular perspective of what happened in the traveler's and adventurer's life and in the 48 countries visited from 2013 to 2015.

Available at Amazon.

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#### 100 Things I Learned as an Everyday Adventurer (2013)

This is the book that the most boring person would write when they discovered life's possibilities. Meet Jens, a hectic, neurotic self-proclaimed adventurer, and his very individual account of one hundred different activities he tried over the course of three years (2010–2013). From rafting to security guard certifications to crocheting, everything had a lesson, and these lessons are shared in this book. Look forward to the German answer to Winston Wolfe explaining one way to live life.

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## About The Problems With All the Good Things

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