

Paradox of Tolerance, self-criticism and being humble and kind

Opening doors and keeping them open

Short intro

- I'm Peter.
 - I don't work in IT.
 - I am not a philosopher (... studied B.A.).
 - I have more than 15 years of experience in procrastination (sitting somewhere and spending the time reading and or thinking about everything *and* nothing).
 - I don't like arguing (when unnecessary) and there is no one I hate.
 - This is my fourth consecutive Congress and my first talk on a stage *EVER* (well, almost).

I. Paradox of Tolerance //
L'enfer c'est les autres.

**„Less well known is the *paradox of tolerance*:
Unlimited tolerance must lead to the
disappearance of tolerance. [...] We should
therefore claim, in the name of tolerance, the right
not to tolerate the intolerant.“**

– Karl Popper, The Open Society and Its Enemies, Vol. 1, 1945

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„L'enfer c'est les autres.“

[„hell is other people“]

–Jean Paul Sartre, Huis Clos [No Exit], 1944.

**Is there a problem?
Not necessarily.**

**But there could be, if
we resort to these
nuclear options too
quickly.**

As a group ...

Example I

- Politics in „Chaos“:
 - CCC/Congress seems to increasingly take a decidedly left wing/liberal stance
 - I love that, but others utter that they feel *alienated*.

Example II

- There is this right wing party in Germany I will not name.
- I dislike them. I disagree with just about every single one of their *too well known* positions.
- But: Calling them Nazis does not help, even if **some** certainly are.

Example III

- „Hackers against Climate Change“
- Topics:
 - How can we help proving it,
 - fighting it,
 - communicating it. *Awesome!*
- **Not:** Aren't we a part of the problem? (All those devices, cloud services, coin-minings, flights to Congress.)

or as individuals...

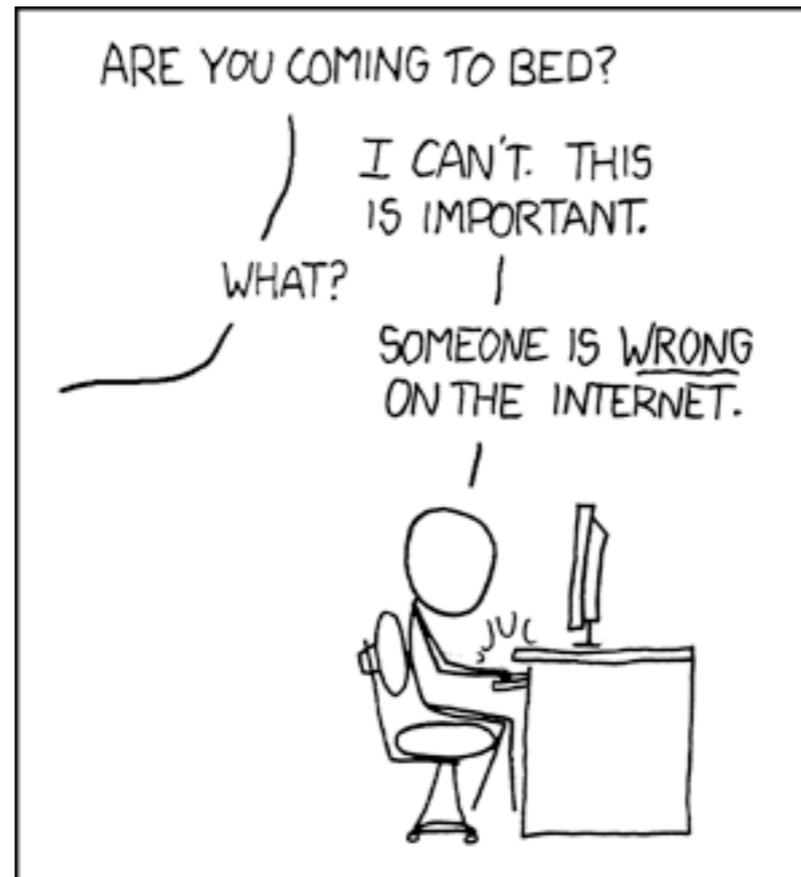
Example I

- Reactions in social media
- Strong emotions.
- Blocking // fighting back.

Example I

- Reactions in social media
- **Strong emotions.**
- Blocking // fighting back.

Example II



**Again, this isn't a
huge problem.**

**If you snap, it's fine.
We're all *human*.
Emotions are difficult.
And people are bad sometimes.**

Let's *breathe.*

... and read an
important part of the
Popper quote ...

„Less well known is the *paradox of tolerance*: Unlimited tolerance must lead to the disappearance of tolerance. [...] — In this formulation, I do not imply, for instance, that we should always suppress the utterance of intolerant *philosophies*; as long as we can counter them by rational argument and keep them in check by public opinion, suppression would certainly be unwise. [...]“

— *Karl Popper, The Open Society and Its Enemies, Vol. 1, 1945*

**... and re-think *Sartre* by
considering the possibility that the
hell we are experiencing might be
just in our head.**

**... that (part of) the problem
may be that we just have a
bad glimpse of these others.**

**Because most likely
they're human too and
not even psychopaths.**

**Even if they may be terrible in
some ways, they may also
contribute something of value.**

**Attempt to change your own
perspective, trying to imagine,
trying to understand.**

Try to introspect, to self-criticise, to discuss before we „condemn“ others.

Be humble and kind.

Be excellent.

**(And when you can't
sometimes, that is *totally*
fine.)**

Thank you!

Contact

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(Also I have a blog and a podcast, but this was not for self-promotion.)