

Alexa in the Garden of Epicurus

Post by "Don" of August 22, 2025 at 10:49 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

And if in fact someone posted a poem that so appealed to you that you in fact found it to be one of the most enjoyable poetic experiences of your life to read it, would you then wish that you had never read it if you found out later it had been generated by AI?

[Quote from Pacatus](#)

And I am not saying that I couldn't be fooled by a sufficiently "aesthetic" AI - but that would just make me sad and angry. Art, like passion, is a human affair.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

the limitations of hypotheticals

This isn't a hypothetical. There are entirely AI-generated bands, artwork, animation, texts including poetry right now that are fooling people or "[passing the Turing Test](#)" if you will. We are well beyond hypotheticals at this point.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

resuming that the poem did in fact cause me great enjoyment and that I could continue to read the poem in the future with enjoyment and with no necessary harmful effects, I would not wish not to have had the experience.

I don't doubt you could get pleasure from the words, but the words are literally meaningless to the software that composed them. The poem would be nothing more than a glorified random word generator spewing out a line of words that the algorithm decided were likely to be adjacent to each other given a prompt. There is no - ZERO - human emotion, feeling, creativity (other than the clever programmers) that went into those words that you find pleasurable to read. There's nothing behind the poem's expression. It's a [Potemkin village](#) of a poem. There's no there there.

Now, if you want to compare it to taking pleasure in a sunset that was unplanned and due to random fluctuations in the atmosphere... okay? In relation to that AI poem, you - the reader - are imbuing that poem with meaning. The "author" of the poem is NOT trying to communicate their feeling to you. The AI poem is a Rorschach Test. A random inkblot that you can look at and

say "that looks like a bee resting on a flower" or read a poem and say "Oh, this reminds me of a day I spent in the sunshine." YOU are imbuing algorithmically-selected words with meaning. Granted, we do SOME of this with all poetry, but the author has an intention of what they wrote if it's a *human* author.

[Quote from kochiekoch](#)

I think the ethical problem here is full disclosure. If you are given the information that the game is CGI, you know what you're getting and you can choose not to view it.

