

# Alexa in the Garden of Epicurus

Post by "Don" of August 22, 2025 at 1:17 PM

## [Quote from Cassius](#)

1. Don't we have to be certain that *\*all\** AI generated pleasure is going to harm us more than help us in order to reach that conclusion?
2. Because certainly there are *\*some\** major benefits to AI or else it would not be "taking the world by storm."

Those are two very different statements.

1. "*\*all\** AI generated pleasure" - I'm not sure what you mean by this. The "pleasures" "generated" via AI go beyond what we're primarily discussing in this thread. I'm particularly concerned about the generation of artwork - prose and image - by AI algorithms. Machines are not "creative." They're "generative," in that they will indeed generate images and text but there is no creativity involved. It is a concrete process governed by an algorithm put in place by programmers (even if one says an AI engine "learns" from its large language model or "training" data. The learning is programmed into the machine.

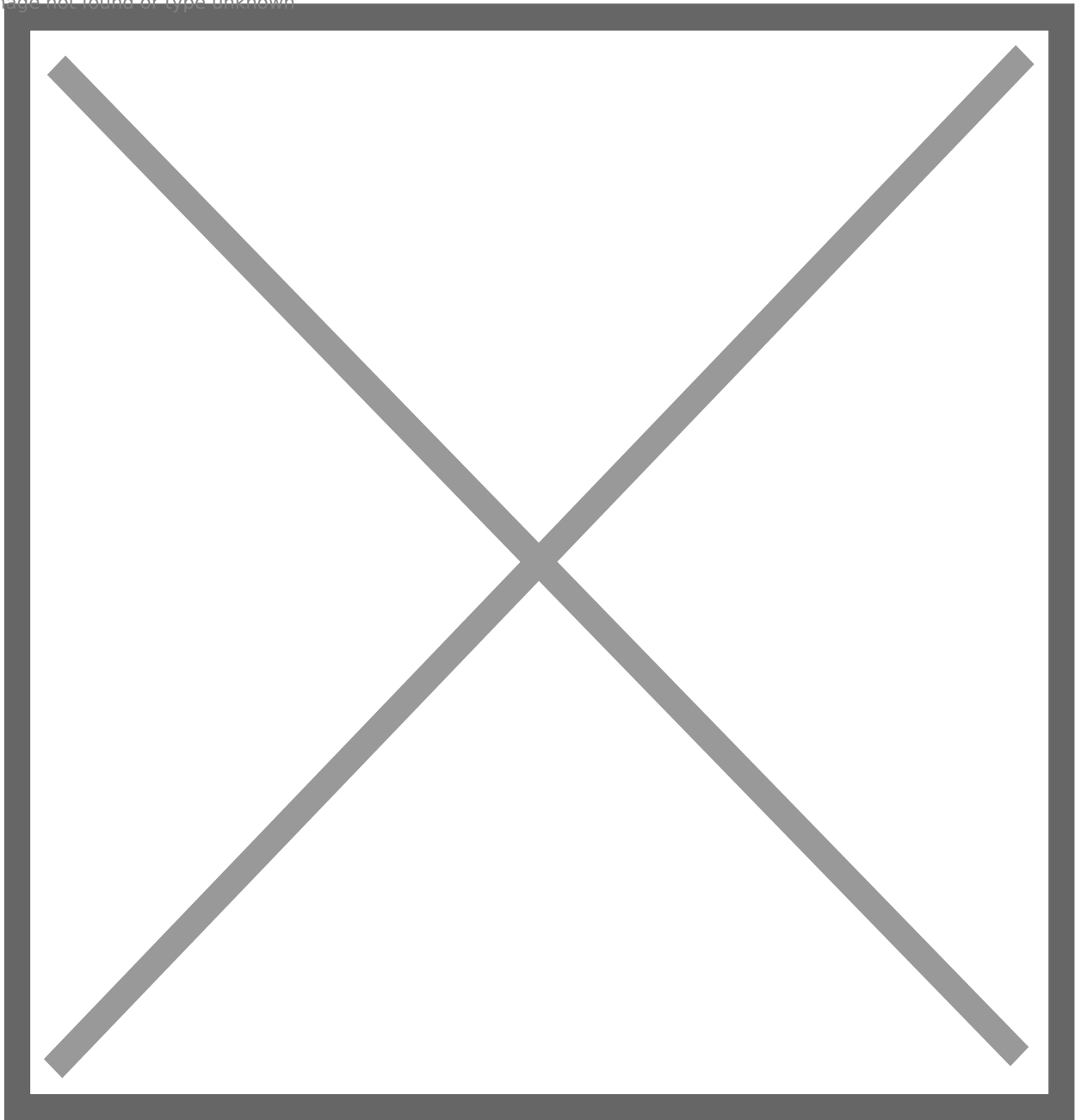
There are benefits to AI in the sense of analyzing medical data, for example:

[How Artificial Intelligence Is Shaping Medical Imaging Technology: A Survey of Innovations and Applications - PMC](#)

AI might also help with other problems for which time constraints preclude humans from tackling (we're mortal beings... we can't crunch numbers 24/7 for days at a time).

Granted, this Big Data issue has some dark underbelly, too, but it's being used as a tool; not as an end in itself. People are using AI to generate music, prose, artwork, as ends in themselves, many times as short cuts to \$\$\$\$. The AI slop that has infected Amazon is staggering:

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### [Scammy AI-Generated Book Rewrites Are Flooding Amazon](#)

Authors keep finding what appear to be AI-generated imitations and summaries of their books on Amazon. There's little they can do to rein in the rip-offs.

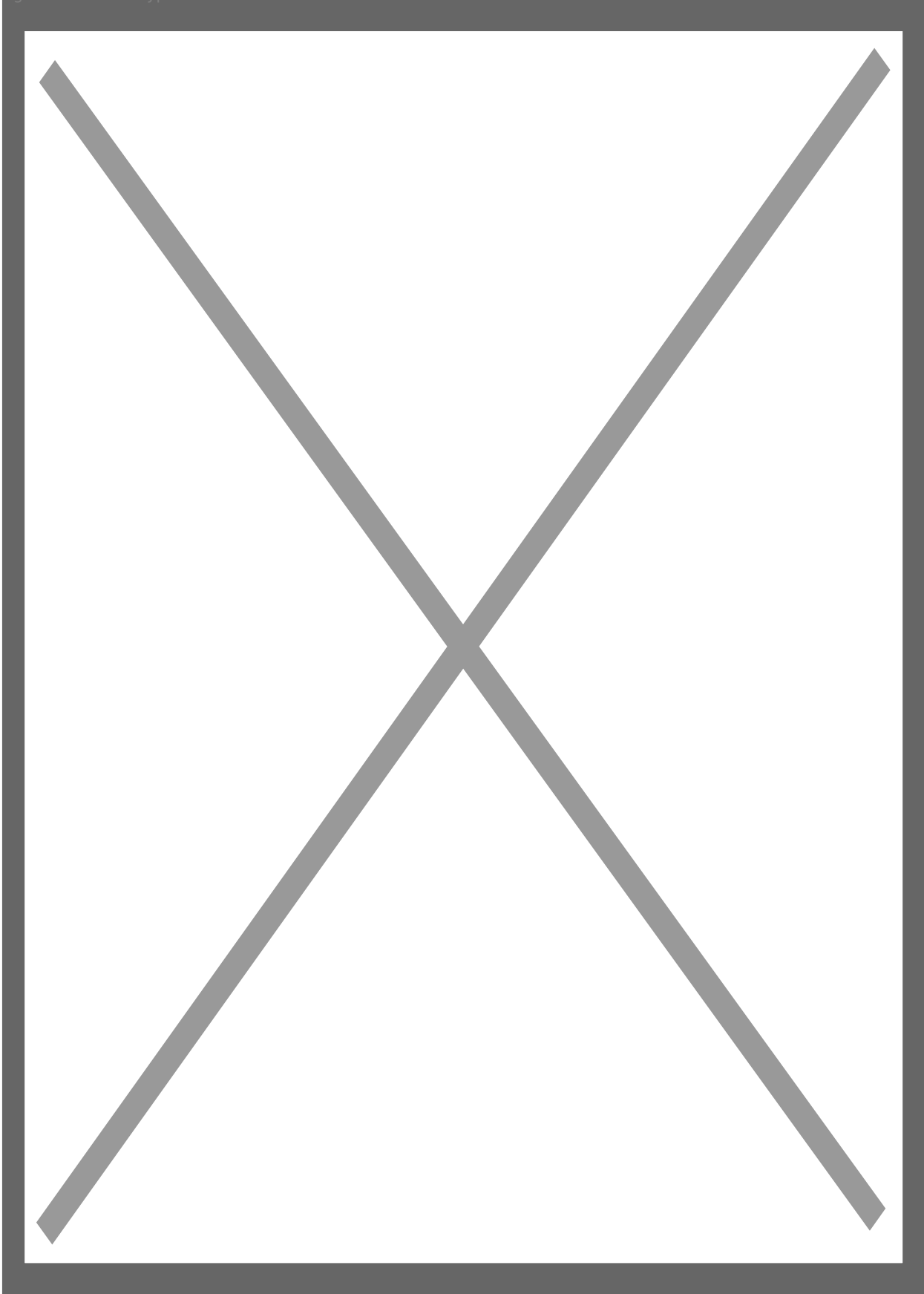
[www.wired.com](http://www.wired.com)

So, my answer to your "Don't we have to be certain that \*all\* AI generated pleasure is going to harm us more than help us in order to reach that conclusion?" would be that we have to be wary of AI's different aspects and usages and how it is being used to assess the harm/help.

2. "taking the world by storm." - One of the reasons that AI is "taking the world by storm" is due to hype, overselling, overpromising, underperforming, and "lather, rinse, repeat." AI companies

- and AI executives - are precarious in many ways and appear, to what I've read, to engage in obfuscation and misdirection to appear smarter than they are. If you really listen to what some of these AI "geniuses" are saying... they're not saying anything. It's all buzzwords and empty rhetoric. And people don't want to say "the emperor has no clothes" so they nod their heads and the ruse goes on.

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### [Why 75% Of Businesses Aren't Seeing ROI From AI Yet](#)

Also in the Forbes CIO newsletter: DeepSeek throws a grenade into the AI space, AI looms large in Microsoft And Meta earnings, AI moves Doomsday Clock closer...

[www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com)

And the Better Offline podcast gives an unfiltered no-holds-barred look at what's going on in the tech sector: <https://www.youtube.com/@BetterOfflinePod>

So, in conclusion, I'm mostly okay with using AI as a tool to do what humans find impossible or highly onerous to do (e.g., crunching massive data). As for art, I want my art to be created by feeling, mortal humans with real emotions and real skills and real creativity.