

# With enough eyes...

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The "Future we deserve" project will not, and should not, be a comforting read. When it is read it will come under fire. Individuals will look for minor flaws they can use to reject major, difficult truths. Lets get one step ahead. Attack each other as we write, so the end product will have shields, guards and traps waiting for any obvious criticism.

This is not really controversial, yet so often it does not happen. There are many reasons. I want to focus on one: being nice. This is the most human of reasons. Like everybody who creates I have cried myself to sleep as some beautiful piece of work is cut down by valid criticism. I hate to think that I might inflict that on someone else. Yet I also know that it is when I learn fastest. In being nice and seeking compromise we can let in the flaws of everyone involved. We have all seen the result, we say it has been designed by committee.

How do we fight this? Its not hard, there is nothing deep here. As a group we simply decide to stop being nice to each other. By making this explicit we have a justification for our comments, and maybe a little of the sting of criticism is removed. Of course I am not saying we should stop treating each other with respect. There are a vast number of different people involved, with differences of style as well as ability. Respect does not say to be nice. Respect says to read the other work carefully, and not dismiss it if it does not follow the dogma's of your own area. Respect says to take this respect one step further and, having listened and thought, be merciless in your comments on the work. It might be that you have missed the point. This is fantastic, you will learn from the discussion and the author will know how their work can be misinterpreted. That is the worst case. On the other side authors should not dismiss criticism, listen, cry if you cannot help it, then reconsider, discuss and rewrite.

I want us to engage the power of being fractious and grumpy, angry and frustrated. We all are. That is why we want to write this book. Let's begin by turning these feelings on each others work. Focus what we do into more than just an expression of that rage. That is how we will make a true difference.

**“With enough eyes,  
all flaws in a piece of writing  
are shallow.”**

Vinay Gupta

**“Problems worthy of attack,  
prove their worth, by hitting back.”**

Piet Hein