Keep troubles out of the door

Best practices bear fruit after a long period of time, you might not even see an immediate advantage. However, if you don't follow them, you will be certainly swept away, without even knowing the reason. You will have forgotten about your past choices long ago, and you will only see the bad side effects of it.

Bad practices and anti-patterns might often seem the right choice. After all, rules are done to be broken and there are always exceptions, aren't there? There is always a valid reason why a best practice cannot be followed. Do that repeatedly, and your project will become the hell. Not something you will easily connect to your bad choices anymore... you will be unable to change the situation and you will be left alone, groping in the darkness. It will relentlessly become your sad reality.

Bad practices are like smoking. Nothing wrong with the pleasure of a sigarette, right? Then another, and another... Until you get all the bad effects from that, but it's too late.

You might think it's easier to store both "city" and "state" in the same field into the database, without normalizing the table. The feed has been provided in that way and it makes sense to you. Until a new requirement ask you to group your results by "state". And you are in a lot of trouble!

Multiply this for hundreds of bad choices done daily and you understand how it can be very hard to work with bad code.

When you find you cannot get anywhere, and your code is completely unmaintainable, don't think this is the "reality" or

that's how things are supposed to be. Look back for bad choices and you will find many.

And always remember, good practices will keep troubles out of the door.