christmas letter

Seth Cable

It wasn’t very long ago, honestly, that I could still look my children in the face and tell them, honestly, that neither their mother nor I would ever do anything to hurt them. This was, of course, before the arrival of Poloxypro and the publication of the 549-B. Since then, things have been moving rather quickly, but I think we’d all agree that it’s been on the whole quite positive.

When the first reports of culling began to circulate, the reaction overall wasn’t really shock, but instead closer to surprise. The vast majority of folks were prepared for this to happen – it was laid out in the 549-B after all – but we were perhaps assuming that it would likely be forgotten behind the higher priorities. Culling was long overdue, though, and few in the end were all that desperately opposed to it.

In addition to its physical and spiritual effects, Poloxypro was discovered to have profound metaphysical consequences. Although its use was proscribed for children, most parents found it extremely difficult to deny them some of its pleasures. After all, whatever consequences there were for growing bodies were also certain to be short-lived. Upon the return of their language faculties, children typically reported experiences rather different from those of adults. Long, lumbering figures in the interzones, whereas adults had round, repeating motifs. Some children awoke to a new appreciation for contingency - again, quite a shame, given the external circumstances.

We’ve not yet administered any doses to our own children. I suppose the timing just hasn’t been right. We’re quite loath to violate any protections, especially while the monitors are above our neighborhood. As soon as they migrate, though, it will be hard not to let the kids have at least a little. My wife will probably chew it up for them, and dribble it into their ears while they sleep. We’ve been told its actually best to have it administered just before you enter REM. We’ve not yet tried that on each other, though, probably due to our mutual antipathy.
The 549-B is very clear about the duties of parents, subparents, children, and parachildren. This has been broadly appreciated, especially since clarity on these matters has been very much in demand, particularly since the Sixth Rupture. Some have criticized its strictures on the grounds of being common wisdom. I have to say that I felt that way myself at first. At first. But then upon repeated and deeper rereads - particularly with the assistance of Poloxypyro - the words detangled from themselves and I gained access to their hyperintensions. Now I'm filled with an overwhelming hatred whenever I hear anyone suggest that the "B" in "549-B" stands for "banal".

Although this is now the Seventh Rupture, it is also the Tenth Repetition, and frankly many people are getting very tired of this. The culling is doing some good - and again things on the whole seem to be moving in a positive direction - but beneath our breath, many are doubtful that there will ever be an end to any of it. One of the derivatives of Poloxypyro - which you can easily make in your own engine room - is Orpyxolop. Orpyxolop, of course, quickly metastasizes into 32 tons of antihydrogen. It won't be long until some poor, sad, figure pulls the plug on this whole enterprise.