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The Party Animal News

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Pied Piper—the rest of the story

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In the book *“The Ratcatcher’s Child The History of the Pest Control Industry”* by Dr. Robert Snetsinger, there is a discussion of the Pied Piper’s tale. The event that precipitates the tale supposedly happened in 1248. The author discusses two interpretations. The more widely known, Robert Browning’s 1842 version, has a piper appear in Hameln in the 14th century during a plague of rats. For a fee he entices the rats into the Weser River with his music and when he does not get paid he entices the children away into the mountains the same way.

Now, there was no way back then to know bubonic plague was caused by an association of rats, fleas and a bacteria. “The pattern of death suggests that an epidemic of plague struck, leaving only those who were immune to the disease and those who recovered and were then resistant to plaque.” The disease struck a village and some survived, but many years later it struck again and since the children had no immunity they did not survive. Again, there was no way they could have known the relationship between the disease and rats, but somehow they lost their children and their visual observance of rats put the two together and the lore was created.

“The Rat Catcher’s Child” will be hard to find, but if you are interested in reading it I do have some copies if you want to purchase one. I have wondered about humankind’s endurance over the millennia. The book *“Survival of the Sickest”* by Dr. Sharon Moalem might give you some insight on how we have made it this far. It discusses the medieval practice of using leeches and why there was an actual reason it helped some people. (The author’s grandparent actually felt better after giving blood Dr. Moalem became a medical researcher to discover why, as well as to answer other humankind mysteries.)

So, this leads me to the other blood suckers, vampires. In the vampire trilogy by Justin Cronin, the review that piqued me into buying the series described how as time went on everyone had to live with the fact that vampires now ruled the world, so the human population tried to let their children grow up as long as possible without being told the truth about their no win world. I was fascinated about this concept by the author. Let’s let the kids be kids. In too many ways, I think, children are being forced to grow up too fast in our society and I do believe that there will be ramifications in the future.

Cronin’s trilogy, published in 2010, describes a bat virus (unbelievable!) found in a cave and how the government tried to adapt it into humans. Of course, the government can’t contain the situation. Enough said. The first book of the trilogy was made into a mini-series and it was good. I do not think the other book will be made, for obvious reasons. The only thing that is guaranteed is that in hundreds of years some poet, musician or writer will be Monday morning quarterbacking about what happened in real life to us during this pandemic. And future generations will make their own mistakes.

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We will eventually find out the origins of this virus, we will find out how we adapted and we will find out if the children somehow endured. During the bubonic plague it was believed 1/3 to 1/2 of the population died. The bacterial cause of the plague was not discovered until 1894. Another interesting discussion by Dr. Moalem was the connection between sunspots and flu epidemics (pages 130 –131). “There’s a curious correlation between these sunspot peaks and flu epidemics. In the 20th century, six of nine sunspot peaks occurred in tandem with massive flu outbreaks.” Dr. Moalem goes on to discuss how the antigenic shift will result in our bodies not being able to have the antibodies to fight a virus. Unfortunately, this book was written in 1990 so I had to look up the sun spot activity for 2019-2020. There was a low level of sunspot activity, basically leading to more questions than answers about the origins of this past years virus.

I hope everyone works hard to get back to normal. If I see a kid without a mask on in a store or any where, I give them a smile. (Ann will tell you I do not easily give those away.) I am reminded of last year when a two or three year old told her mom that I was the first human she had seen (since the start of the pandemic). Impressive big word for her, and at first it was funny, then sad. It is always nice to recall how excited she was to see me.—David

We will be closed July 2nd, 5th & 6th. We will not be providing service those days so please plan ahead if you need anything. PLEASE Schedule appointments sooner than later!

We VALUE our customers!

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Time for a picnic lunch! =>

A-ALL Will be CLOSED July 2nd, 5th & 6th

Yes, it's time for a little R&R for the employees of A-All Pest Control. We're all getting older. Ann just had a milestone birthday and somehow she thinks that means she gets to holiday more, and how can I tell her 'No'? So, we will be having an extended vacation for the 4th of July holiday.

Enjoy your holiday! Grill out and spend some time with friends and family, read a good book and let me know what you read. We're be rested and ready to take care of all your pest needs when we return.

HAVE A GREAT Summer!!