

This whither is withering!

Or is it: This weather is withering?

Whither shall I go with these interminable homophones?

Friends, One and All -

I have had some interesting responses to my choice of words for the APEE 2012 Call-for-Papers. So I am writing this short one-page document to explain. Above all, please recognize that I do have a sense of humor and I am married to Christy "Logophile" Hobbs.

Here is my response to the concerns and also a couple of other nice emails I have had the joy to receive as the author of the suspect Call-for-Papers. *(Odd numbers are questioning my sanity while even numbers applaud my foray into wordsmithing. Names have been expunged to protect both the innocent and the guilty.)*

(1)

"Is the title "Wither Leviathan?" tongue-in-cheek because of our hope that it will wither or did you mean to write "Whither Leviathan?""

(2)

"Dear Sirs,

I love the sense of humor in your choice of title--great stroke of genius. At first I thought it was a mistake and then immediately got the point..."

(3)

"I believe it should be "Whither.""

(4)

"Wonderful title! I believe most APEE members would like to wither leviathan, whither so ever we find it. The trick is finding out *how* to wither it. Perhaps some of the papers presented will help.

"Wither Leviathan?" Yes! please!"

(5)

"I think it whould [sic¹] be Whither NOT Wither!"

And my final response is also my first response to email (1).

"It looks like you win The [Homophone](#) Award!

Whither - "to what end" has been answered by most APEE acolytes.

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/whither>

Wither fits quite well, so I thought, and it does indeed invoke a play on words!

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/wither>

Is the state "withering"? Losing its lifeblood as we all proclaimed - from the wall falling right up until the "crisis"? Or, has the financial collapse breathed new life into Keynesian economics and state-planning?

Cheers!

Brad

¹ The whither-wither virus is, apparently, contagious.