

## Breaking the stranglehold of Christmas

“Christmas is the world’s greatest annual environmental disaster.” That’s quite a statement, and I’d love to see someone disprove it. But how can anyone disprove it when the facts speak for themselves?

But when it comes to the damage Christmas does to the environment facts don’t seem to matter much at all, so how about an emotional appeal instead, as expressed in the following anonymous Christmas poem, entitled:

### What a sticky web they spin

It seems there is nothing finer  
Than buying Christmas junk from China  
To say that aloud in public, though  
Has you pegged as “a miserable whiner”

Because -  
“Christmas is for kids,” people say  
But that’s hardly a strong card to play  
When Christmas is wrecking the planet  
That our kids will inherit one day

Such cognitive dissonance is awful  
But thought of as perfectly lawful  
Because Christmas “boosts the economy”  
And other such short sighted waffle

“But it’s all in the spirit of giving”  
Which buries our worrying misgiving  
That Christmas is actually a con job  
By people who make it their living

They know how to spin a tall tale  
On a massively deceptive scale  
To convince us that stuff creates happiness  
Through sale after endless sale

“But think of the love and kindness”  
That surely excuses our blindness  
To the waste, expense and pollution  
That we ignore because we’re spineless

But -  
Can it really all be our fault  
When we're under such siege and assault  
By devilishly clever market men  
Who sprinkle the season with salt -

To make self indulgence taste great  
And tempt us to do things we hate  
Like follow the crowd and pile up debt  
And make a mess of our mental state

Oh, it's a sticky web they spin  
To snag profits they can easily win  
In a world that's bent on self and pleasure  
And little thought for the trouble we're in

So our planet's in for the fight of its life  
As Christmas wreaks havoc like a jagged knife  
But who can break its stranglehold  
So there's still real hope of an afterlife -

Beyond the ruin we are leaving behind  
For our kids to sort out if they have a mind  
To even bother trying another way  
If Christmas is still the annual grind

But what if they decide to seriously dump it  
Instead of having to like and lump it  
And it dawns on them to their great relief  
That for all the reasons given to pump it -

Christmas is merely a one day wonder  
And a monumental environmental blunder  
So they save their cash and save the planet  
And ignore the peer pressure we've all been under

And be free at last to take a rest  
And do as humans what does us best  
Which is be God's children and let him decide  
What truly makes us humans blest -

Which he started for us in Jesus' birth  
To show us all what our lives are worth

As we come to see God's greatest wish  
Is to live forever with us on this precious Earth

And what if Christmas taught that instead  
Of unwanted gifts and the annual dread  
Of littering our planet with unrecyclable rubbish  
That spells a dark future for our kids ahead

Unless -  
They see in the life of Jesus  
The power he was given to free us  
From the stickiest webs we're trapped in  
Including - dare we say it - Christmas