

## Appleseed Commons

June 8, 2026

Long Now Labs / The Long Now Foundation

Re: 001.2 — Epistemic Cycles — \*How History Repairs Orphaned Knowledge\*

Dear Long Now Labs Team,

Most accounts of epistemic rupture stop at the rupture. The repairs — the protocols communities actually invented to re-anchor trust, from the isnad to the certificate authority — are treated as history rather than as designs that might still run. That is the part we came for, and where we think we add something distinct.

We have both studied these systems and built them. The deep past we study; the recent past we helped build — the authentication and networking standards behind modern trust, work at Sun Labs, Xerox PARC, and Apple, 150-plus patents between us; the present we work within, still building and backing startups at the edge of what's emerging. We know how trust breaks because we were sometimes in the room when it did.

That is also why we brought scholars to the table alongside our technologists and tech futurists — among them an anthropologist who studies how sacred authority survives translation, nationalism, and print: presence under pressure, in the field. Anthropologists know how a commons broke and healed; technologists know how to innovate, design, and rebuild the plumbing; and tech futurists working with the latest startups in Silicon Valley know which way the river is about to bend. We have all three, and they argue with each other.

From that argument we build two things: an atlas of how presence has been severed and restored across history, and interventions ready for the real world — societal, technological, and process-driven changes organizations could actually adopt. We respect history enough to read it closely, and we are restless enough to want to act on it.

That combination — real scholarship and real building experience — is what this work asks for, and what we bring. We will deliver not only research but at least three recommended interventions — real-world directions that may be societal, technological, institutional, economic, or process-based. We would welcome the chance to discuss shape and scope.

With appreciation,

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Futurists, practitioners, and academics connecting technology with the people whose lives it reshapes.