Real Life Themes and Anxieties in Salt in Wounds

There are two concepts that I’m consistently bringing into (my) mind while I write Salt in Wounds. The first is factory farming. I’m an active carnivore, and while I don’t ultimately see anything morally wrong with eating animals in \*ideal\* circumstances the industrial scale torture to which we subject animals horrifies me (though, at least for now, has not compelled me to stop buying bacon). This is one of the issues our descendants will judge us harshly for I think. As a corollary, the way we practice factory farming (which involves the administration of obscene amounts of antibiotics) is a huge contributing factor in the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria which has the potential to cause untold amounts of human misery. This I contrast with the plagues and pathogens brewing in Salt in Wounds.

The other issue is the historical (and still ongoing) development of the petrochemical industry as a parallel to the revolution around the harvest of the Tarrasque. When not writing Salt in Wounds, I work for one of the largest chemical companies in the world… and it is the endless subdivisions rearrangements of the carbon chains of oil and other ‘fossil fuels’ that has basically made the modern chemical industry (and the endless myriad of plastics and other specialized material) – this I try to extrapolate out into the alchemical renaissance Salt in Wounds is experiencing. We make damn near everything out of plastic, as Salt in Wounds is learning to make almost everything from Tarrasque viscera. More to the point, the first world in large part ‘solved’ the problem of famine via the implementation of gas powered powered farm machinery + transportation infrastructure. The cost –for Salt in Wounds as well as us- is poisoning our water tables\the ocean\the climate. You can see this with everything from fracking, to oil spills to potentially creating a global level threat (which could happen due to any of the nastier outcomes possible for Salt in Wounds).

But those are some of the things I’m thinking about as I write Salt in Wounds as I try to improve my fiction (and its verisimilitude) by darkly mirroring some aspects of our world.