

This Pandemic Is Not A War

Made open source media by Aberrance Sämerictüs & Eric Daniel Zúñiga

This pandemic is not a war. It may feel like, look like, seem like one, it is not. Pure and simple, it is the forces of nature, more unknown than known. There are a multitude of natural factors brought about by deeds of every living creature, especially us - humans. A war is when humans threaten humans with force for causes of securing and defending an embraced ideology via weaponized human interventions. In our modern times, the use of weapons are known as peacemakers that rarely have an endpoint to warfare except for ending individual human life, either an enemy or a casualty. Beyond that, peacemakers are not designed to stop warring, they are for maintenance. All active wars are endless wars.

We, humans in many ways, have bestowed ourselves with the view we are superior to all other species, riding the top of the life chain, dominating and subjugating it. This privileged order has exceptions, particularly in our ability to consciously sustain a continuity of life beyond our own personal interests. Bringing immediate comforts to ourselves, mostly at great costs to others and the environment. In a sense, we are in an ongoing war of maintaining comfort and attachment to our lifestyle of habits, conventions and convictions, while building resistance to investment in global change, no matter how frequently we raise the banner of its promise.

Change, by definition is an unforeseen territory, usually accompanied by discomforts and vast undefined factors to mitigate. Humans want to face change with security. A commitment to change requires openness to incomprehensible risk factors and insecurities in every turn, while pursuing innovative solutions, such as during a world pandemic. The unknown has never been a welcomed human interest. The banner of change, social or personal, is often a lopsided disguise for self interests. Humans want comfort. Fulfillment of personal prosperity, immediately. Throwing change aside for habitual living, even when it carelessly tramples over many living creatures towards their extinction is common place. Humans may be born equal, they do not treat each other equal or the environment, ever.

Equality is a concept, a selling point for competitive gain and for others, heartfelt and lifelong mission of dedication. A virus does not create inequality, it has not protested, it has not declared war. Being in a warzone is where real weapons are discharged deliberately while innocent lives are fractured, without any protection other than to disperse or sequester in homes, sheltering in place

amongst the flurry of combat and hazardous destruction abound. It is a living traumatic nightmare unshared by many who are fortunate to live without its experience. War is on the fray of human awareness while many intellects are at work, along with trillions of dollars backing it up with stock piles of all sorts of fortifications to assure it is maintained to defend the rise of competing ideologies. This is war. Strategic, deliberate, defending sovereign laced beliefs with humans actively formulating a thin line of purposeful violence. A virus does not participate in this kind of manifestation.

A virus has one objective, to live. It does so via acquiring a place in its host. The virus is not in combat. It is virtually unseen or heard. A viral pandemic is a natural sequence of a planetary moment. The environment we humans augment and form for our progress, gives rise to the current climate and many more factors, mostly hidden in the unknown. A virus is only an act of war when a human personally makes it war via an instrument of weaponized biology. To call an innocent virus an enemy just for exhibiting its natural propensities as a life form, is sheer denial of our own human imprint upon the planet that brought it about. The actual systemic causes that humans contribute to these kinds of micro life on Earth, enlists our intuition, reflection and investigation. Are we or aren't we a species living off the host we call Earth and its nature?

So, this is not a war against a virus, it is a war, if any, that humans perpetuate via resistance to admit our own faults against our host - Father Earth and Mother Nature. The continuity of our species footprint expresses itself in a multitude of ways, possibly until it depletes its host or the species is deleted by extinction, literal or figurative in value. What this pandemic has factually done for the majority of us worldwide, is to put aside differences. War doesn't work that way. To extend our reach to address the immediate needs of the vulnerable. This is not a war. It is a pandemic. A destabilization of our human ways of living by an intrusive virus. It brings natural loss of human life that is difficult to face. The impact of grief it causes does recede, knowing our first responders and medical practitioners are doing everything possible to care for us all. This is our response to the pandemic. Where the goodwill of the strong can care for the lives of the weak. Our personal response is in our willingness to shelter in place and protect one another by physically distancing ourselves while in social settings. Distributing foods and handmade protective gear, were governing and public leadership enact laws and guidance to provide us a decent path through the outbreak by re-structuring the very framework of our lives.

A pandemic is real, it is as real as war. When the question was asked why we have pandemics, why is there war and suffering, the answer was simply put, "Necessity happens, everything else does

not." We are not in control of everything and possibly far less than we are determined to believe. We may not appreciate everything that happens in life, be repulsed by our brothers and sisters or ourselves, and the most we can do about it in either case is activate our humanity, courageously. It is essential. Nature is essential. The trees in the forest and all the life that surrounds us, from the macro to the micro. Indeed, this is not a war. It is a wake-up call that our way of life may have been unsustainable at the point it was intercepted by this virus. We are unable to go back, it is the past, we must go forward in this uncharted field. Unless of course, we are attached to the past so much that we can't let it go. Are we really that habitually inclined? Is that the modus-operandi of our species? We have augmented the course of our planet by our deeds even as Mother Nature Herself and Father Earth & Sky formidably give us a shout out, over and over again. For our Mother & Father, for ourselves, we must reflect on our human path and recalibrate where we wish to go next on our earthly journey, for generations to come.

Consider what this pandemic has truly done, it has brought our families and communities around the globe together to face our humanness more than its effects of death and unrest. It has given us unabridged pause to reflect about life and what matters most in life, it has honed our abilities to care for the most vulnerable. It has brought transparency to the fact that no one agrees with much, how to care for each other or care for Mother Nature. That we outwardly judge and punish - dividing ourselves even more, marking some with inferiority as we claim superiority. Are some of us truly superior while others are not? Where is the evidence of our superiority - in war's destructive power? To kill another life, partially or fully? How satisfying is it, is it really a sensible honor. Are we truly okay with our human carelessness towards ourselves, Mother Nature and Father Earth. With all our human diversity, we stammer and falter. That's being human, we must know this by now. In our humanness, we are prone argue and blame each other for doing too much or too little or quick to point out wrongs and hold grudges, and we are prone to forgive as well. We can fault each other or work together. Everyone is needed for wisdom to surface. Wisdom is arrived from all sides of this modern human world. Everyone, inclusively makes wisdom possible. The more we connect, the merrier we'll be on this planet.

Disagreements happen, there isn't anything wrong about it. Meanwhile, during this pandemic, human wars have temporarily ceased in places were negotiations were nowhere in sight. Disparity of African Americans, Latin Americans, Indigenous and many people around our globe distressing with systemic impoverishment, or imprisonment have been spot-lit as a deficit that needs caring attention. The ozone layer is finally getting a break from carbon emissions, children and teens

getting to know their parents as real people. Is it impossible to view these as silver linings? Is the suffering unbearable above all our strength as a species, our true nature and spirit of life.

Who really decides what this pandemic is or is not. Like everything else, it is what it is. In our world, tree huggers are amply threatened while firestorms that ravage rainforests thousands of years old are met with collective disruption to our spirit. When will humans pause and feel devastated about those who horde access to all human luxury and those who perpetuate poverty. Those granted civil and legal immunity while there are those prevented from it. It's the devastating terrain of the human condition.

We are in definite pause mode now because we must do so to survive this pandemic. When this is over, it will recede to a historical resting plot and new events will ebb and flow over it. So, is this pandemic evil? Is it really responsible for the surges of human to human contagion of pride, greed, lust, wrath, gluttony, envy and sloth. Can we deny our virtues of faith, hope, charity, justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude? When this pandemic subsides, do we re-fill ourselves to the brim with every and all possible forms of blinding comfort? Will it be forgotten how we came together as a nation and international convoy with determination to protect our fellow brothers and sisters, holistically. When the pause mode of this pandemic is lifted, what will be placed at the center of our life? Will the ongoing needs of our communities go unmet, abdicated, delegated? Will we forget the graces of others?

This is our moment. To sustain life with all our energy, blood and sweat for humanity's sake. Humanity is likely to be called upon again and again. This is not a war against a virus - the origin of its tension is within ourselves. The virus doesn't even know its name.

Made open source by Aberrance Sämerictüs & Eric Daniel Zúñiga for A Happy Easter

