

CHAPTER-19

COVID: GOD'S GREAT BLESSINGS



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INTRODUCTION

Why are people worried and afraid of COVID? Why does the world consider this pandemic as a devastating crisis? Sad to say, the deep surface of its ultimate reality is not clearly seen by the reflective naked eyes by many. They think of COVID as a curse or an evil thing. It is also believed and prophesied by many, who assume to be a visionary, as an apocalyptic phenomenon. But the truth is: COVID is the greatest blessing. It is truly a great manna from heaven God has bestowed upon the entire world in this century. As Proverb 16:4 reminds everyone, “God has made everything for a purpose even the wicked for the days of troubles.” Therefore, much like the way in which He wills this pandemic to happen for His will is no doubt always good. As I am picking up the threads in this quarantine being alone in the other country, I have seen how great God is for He is using COVID as a transformation device in building a better world. He is indeed working in a mysterious way to make a better, if not the best, version of this planet. As far I ponder

deeply over it, the persistence and uninterruptedness of COVID gives God a time to do five significant things: to discover my inner wisdom and skills thoroughly, to deeply restore the balance of mother earth cautiously, to reshape people's personal care and humanitarian relationship unprecedentedly, to make people realize the significance of death essentially, and to strengthen political governance holistically.

First, being alone in the other country taking great distance from family is quite despondent. More especially when everything is shut down instantaneously amid the pandemic, homesickness and rootlessness intensify more in times of COVID. However, as I firmly conform my belief to Aristotelian principle that everything happens for a reason, I unquestionably deem all circumstances as worth learning whether good or bad. I have come to realize that the more distant I am from my family, the more closely we get. This is because I inevitably feel to yearn for and miss them so much from afar and hence it brings me to the bloodline feeling of keeping in touch

with them. Well, thanks to technology; it connects us together virtually. But nevertheless in most cases, I solely make shift in handling everything and dealing with others especially with the place whose cultural norms are different from mine. Thus, being alone in times of COVID makes me unearth my inner pragna and skills thoroughly in adapting and adjusting the place where I am in. Discovering my inner wisdom is harnessed especially when making decisions alone. It makes me decide promptly and punctiliously without the help of others. Consequently, it makes me independent and confident because I weigh and juggle everything in sleight of my hands on account of my own intuition and desires of my heart. Being alone also makes me keep up with the tasks in sundry respects. Doing such thing creates impetus that leads me to discover my own skills and vidya. Such skills I have discovered unprecedentedly are my craft in writing, skill in intrapersonal thinking, propensity in interpersonal skills, and deep sense of self-reflective thinking. I am not a freelance writer nor am I engage

very much in writing whether creative or academic. But the case of being alone propels me to express my ideas and sentiments by myself. And this idea is expressed on a paper--a langue and parole between the paper and me. Thus, I have started to write poetic cadence and even social media inspiring quotes. Unexpectedly, one of the face book viewers complimented me for posting inspiring maxim. She thanked me for such nuggets of wisdom because she was moved up and strengthened intrinsically by the subliminal message my words conveyed. This is one great spark I have realized that my words have power and all I need to do is to develop them artistically and use them meaningfully. Another skill I have developed further is my intrapersonal ability. This is distinct to everyone because such skill creates a clear picture in the mind of every individual to imagine and envisage great new ideas. There were times that in my room, I was reflexively directed to the act of meditating and creating some different and innovative ideas in teaching, book writing and future planning. These

somehow happened in heuristic mode but I have used these grown and built up ideas in some aspects especially to my profession. My interpersonal skill is also developed. How come it develops? The fact that interpersonal skill has to do something with not being alone but with others. Yes, with my writing diversion, I got the chance to work with other writers. In fact, I co-authored a book. From this, we tended to communicate with one another and were free to share ideas. This is certainly a viaduct that I built to create link with them by sharing my own expertise beneficial to the book we worked on. One last skill is my being a reflective thinker. Being alone under quarantine leads me towards reading a lot of good books: literature, linguistics, theosophy, sciences, bible is a few of those books that captured my attention and spiced up my boredom. Doing so expands my horizon, expounds my schemata, and deepens my cognizance. It gives me much time to pay attention in keeping track of my own self-exploration and self-improvement. Such improvement paves the way for acknowledging my

own strengths and weaknesses. Thus, it gives me much care to live up myself worth and follow the path I designed.

Second, the repercussions brought by the imposition of lockdown gives Mother Earth a twinkling smirk to smile again. The transition gives her time to grin her wide mouth from ear to ear happily and tranquilly. It dramatically heals God's natural creations which appear in rejuvenation mode from human damages. The constant background noise of cars and trucks is abruptly replaced by silence in fine fettle. Besides, the abrupt shrinking of industrial operations--which give off chemical smoke and emission--offers a glimpse of healthier and cleaner air. In fact, a study in India shows that the pollutants CO and NO₂ give considerable decadence that improves the air quality to sixty percent. In addition, water pollution levels have also come down as most industries are shut. According to the UP Pollution Control Board, rivers and seas clearly show a remarkable drop in pollution levels during the lockdown period. Consequently, the

benefits of clean waters influence the daily lives of animals and humans that greatly impact the quality of community life. Animals also enjoy to some degree a utopia of their lives which leads to a loosed-limbed resurgence of wildlife activity and ecological flurry. According to the Laboratory of Biometrics and Evolutionary Biology (LBBE), animals change their habits to venture out of their usual bases: leading them to create wide parameters for prolific reproduction.

Third, God is gratified amid the pandemic because He sees people who care for themselves, their families and the needy. People value their health status which shifts to a healthier status quo: observing proper hygiene; eating right amount of food; and doing regular fitness activities to boost immune system. In fact, Mike Hughes asserts that people maximize their health status to reduce vulnerabilities to illnesses. Apart from it, with sheer love and unity in time of shelter-in-place life, COVID confines families together which provides opportunities for strong relationships. The stigma of broken family relationship has actually restored

because of enough time and wide space for healthy communication (Baker-Tingey, 2020). The humanitarian love and care has been also prevailing as lockdown continues. It truly responds to God's Commandment: "Love your neighbour as you love yourself..." In fact, the Global Humanitarian Response Plan of the UN paves the way for deploying more medical personnel in some countries. In the Philippines, for instance, people like celebrities and middle class are reaching out to affected communities to provide foods and medicines. Others are also creating initiatives and efforts in raising funds to give donations to the less-fortunate ones. Moreover, the government becomes responsive in deploying frontlines such as security officers and medical personnel to respond to such crisis.

Fourth, COVID creates possibilities dramatically in awakening political leaders in being utterly responsive to the needs of the masses. This quality, more often than not, somehow they lack in pre-COVID epoch. In fact, the US President Donald Trump took decisive and

swift actions to ban travels from China. He also made contingency plans in screening airports to help stop unforeseen spread of the virus. In the UK, on the other hand, Mr. Johnson gave off restriction on public gatherings as well as the closure of shops selling non-essential goods. In Germany, the country's health minister considered COVID-19 a low threat. New test kits were provided and available to all health care centres and hospitals equally. And in the Philippines, the government becomes responsive in deploying frontlines such as security officers and medical personnel to respond to such crisis. Such situations done by the government leaders conform to the idea of Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan* which posits the crucial role of government to provide the safety needs of the citizen and promote peace and order . In fact, the governments' active role for sustainability and security does not only take place in their own governed country; it also creates strong link inextricably among other countries across the globe. Accordingly at present, they work towards equitable global access for

partnership in responsive governance to take good care of one country to another. This, to a great extent, spawns a unified voice to create one village to keep everyone in good hands that no one is left behind.

Lastly, suffering from COVID is God's glory. As mentioned in John 11:4: "...the sickness and death is for God's glory..." Why is there glory in death? In spiritual viewpoint, death is not the end of lives but the beginning of the everlasting journey in heaven. As Revelation 14:13 reminds everyone, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on..." Even Jesus Christ as well as the saints suffered and died. Besides, Social Psychology asserts that cognizance about death improves physical health and re-prioritizes goals and values of individuals. James Lindsay affirms that accepting the reality of death leads to a better life because it replaces anxiety and fear with peace and bravery. Death also gives benefits to the alarming overpopulation in the world. In fact, an article shared by Debases on economic discussion proves that overpopulation reduces the rate of capital formation,

unemployment, food scarcity, and poverty which hinder the growth of economic development. Therefore, death is a utilitarian means of addressing the problem on population explosion.

In conclusion, I could assert strongly that COVID is a contemporary manna from heaven used by God as an instrument to create a better version of myself and the world in discovering my inner wisdom and skills thoroughly, restoring the balance of mother earth cautiously, reshaping people's personal care and humanitarian relationship unprecedentedly, strengthening political governance holistically and making everyone realize the happiness behind death essentially. Such five extreme transformations among the environment, humanity and people's awareness on death are important things to build a wonderful world with people of virtues who are brave to face sufferings and death. And this somehow begins from me whose wisdom and skills are nurtured and cultivated. Nonetheless, people may not understand the situation now for they perceive this crisis as something that

deconstructs lives. But if everyone detracts his or her mind and goes deeper to its ultimate truth, God is in COVID for He is in control of everything. He uses this for a lot of purposes that always stand (Proverbs 19:21).

The wonder of COVID does not only create turning points in the world but also in people's lives for the better. Finally, if everyone tries to contemplate now, one can really discern that the present condition makes some changes in daily routine and way of living. Subsequently, such changes greatly affect subliminally to the future plans and life of everybody. At the end, everyone will soon realize that the way of living transformed in the new normal brings about better version of the new world and new life. And this is a sparkling rumination for a better future that every single individual should cultivate the newly transformed world created by God.