

**Pandemic: An Occasion to Learn Lessons f Exultant Eternal Life**

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**Abstract**

Life is the result of ultimate struggle persistently faced by every human being for its survival. Each and every encounter in our life has enhanced the quality of survival of being. It has strengthened the consciousness of the mortal people who have always learned lessons of survival through their tussle with their challenges. Pandemic erupted as a result of heavy changes in the cycle of nature or due to the devilish demeanor of human being has always opened our eyes to the bitter reality of our approach to life. Excess in everything always causes for the pangs to both physic and psyche of every living species on the earth. Comparatively, the share of animals in the downfall of life on earth is quite meager. It is the egocentric and utterly self-centered who has always paved for the each and every epidemic which equally harm the life of poor innocents in life. The present chapter unveils the pros and cons of the human demeanor resulting into total devastation of life on the beautiful earth.

**Key Words:** Life, Literature, Pandemic, Survival, gluttony

*“When sorrows come, they come not  
single spies,*

*But in battalions” (Hamlet 268)*

Life is a canvas where diverse colours of delight and distress tussle with each other. Adversities of all type always occur as a result of changes in the cycle of nature or in alterations of the psyche of human nature. Whenever, life has to face misfortunes, they are not alone but in battalions. However, introspection on the part of human being is always required to evaluate the role of man in the mutability of each and every happening in life. Loyalty to the principles of life has constantly been resulted into heavenly bliss in the life of every human being which has been underscored by every man of letters. Hence, Shakespeare opines, “No legacy is so rich as honesty”. (106)

Honesty to our own life must be the fundamental sense of duty of every human being quite irrespective of caste, colour & creed, poverty & opulence, the ruler & the ruled, race & region. It is the sincerity to ourselves which lead us to our own pious creation. However, every one of us is a mansion for the sins entitled pride, covetousness, wrath, envy, gluttony, sloth and lechery that Marlowe has rightly made Faustus aware of it as:

*Thou shall behold the seven deadly  
sins appear to thee in their own proper  
shapes and likeness (228 Dr. Faustus)*

The gluttonous greed of every one of us has made us reckless by all means causing for bitter predicament to each and every breathing species on the earth. Our greed for gold is the fundamental sin on which everyone tries to build his house full

of amenities. Shakespeare unveils the adverse side of it as:

*“There is thy gold, worse poison to men's souls,*

*Doing more murder in this loathsome world,*

*Than these poor compounds that thou mayst not sell.” Shakespeare 363)*

The utmost prominence given to money has scrupulously destroyed the entire moral set up in our life for which human being were distinguished among all other species right from the inception of life. Those who have realized the adverse outcome of it in life has always stood against it as D. H. Lawrence views:

*Kill money, put money out of existence,*

*It is a perverted instinct, a hidden thought*

*Which rots the brain, the blood, the bones, the stones, the soul. (649 Lawrence)*

The human being, being, the intellectual and social leader of all species must lead the whole life to a serene and healthy culmination. However, it is the intellectual leader that is entirely ransacking the gorgeous nature of all its everlasting enriched pearls and paragons which in turn has bestowed us severe surrounding where simple breathing is thoroughly impossible.

The present epidemic is the ultimate result of all such reckless demeanor on the part of all of those who are in the chair of power and working for the few rich people neglecting the masses who are persistently polite in their approach to nature. However, every adversity both natural and manmade arrives with two illustrious sides viz.

constructive and destructive, virtuous and vicious. Hence, it is entirely our turn to look at the adversity positively, learn useful lessons from it and avoid committing the same blunders of the past in the present too which has now proved to be accountable for the entire disgrace and downfall of human being

The present virus has compelled us to positively introspect in all our verdicts which have always caused for our ultimate devastation. It has questioned our conservative & conventional approach to life. It has disclosed our excessive greed for material prosperity tenaciously obtained at the cost of total devastation of harmonious nature. Hence, to be rational and reasonable, cool and controlled, constructive & compassionate in our life is the vital requisite of today. But to remain totally illogical and uncontrolled, reckless and inattentive has become the ultimate fashion of today which has brought severe changes in the day to day life of all of us. The present virus has taught human being to understand its limitations for it has always strived to become the ultimate master of nature. The animals beautifully living in tune with nature have always set an ideal for us that human being has scrupulously overlooked and un-attempted. Nature is always kind to every species on the earth as Wordsworth strongly believes:

*Nature never did betray*

*The heart that loved her*

(Wordsworth & Coleridge 208)

The present predicament has divided human beings into two distinct fragments like the innocent and the shrewd of which the latter is always regarding every

pandemic as a golden opportunity to amass wealth by making injustice to the infinite poor who are striving by all means for their mere survival. Every day of the rich arise with folding their hands for their gold as Volpone says:

*[Rising] Good morning to the day, and nest, my gold*

*Open the shrine that I may see my saint (Volpone, 47)*

Those in power have always taken an advantage of the situation and exclusively plundered the people of their whole relics. These ivory tower people flashed in the Forbes list in the world accelerated their greed to become the only supreme affluent in the whole world at the cost of severe suffering of poor people. Their antagonism blessed by those in power widened the breach between the haves and the have-nots in the whole world. This caused for the increase of inflation in all the fields which suffocated and smothered the deprived and the underprivileged large in number compared to that well-off with all the required amenities. To William Shakespeare accumulation of wealth keeps the hands always empty as:

*“Those that much covet are with gain so fond,*

*For what they have not, that which they possess*

*They scatter and unloose it from their bond,*

*And so, by hoping more, they have but less;*

*Or, gaining more, the profit of excess Is but to surfeit, and such griefs sustain,*

*That they prove bankrupt in this poor-rich gain.” (Shakespeare 158)*

Shakespeare has always appreciated the bright side of every adversity due to which he utters ‘*Sweet are the uses of adversity*’ (49) which ultimately enforce us to see the constructive aspect of every pandemic. Hence, the other side of the coin was equally optimistic and healing. Those always living for the other took it as a constructive opportunity to serve all the poor masses travelling from their work places to their own native places during the lockdown. They made bottles of water and packets of food available for these people walking on the way to their villages. They provided footwear for those walking on the road without required slippers or chappals. At some places, these social workers entirely assisted the poor financially too. These entire simple human being loving life and living for life always prove their constructive efficacy by lightening the burdens of another whose unique role is constructively analyzed by Thomas Carlyle as:

*The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green (Thomas Carlyle 252)*

This process of social service was accelerated to a large extent by the social media. To be specific, the social media has played a very constructive role during the lockdown period. When the private print and digital media was thoroughly indifferent in showing the genuine and convincing picture of the poor & downtrodden wandering here and there for their daily bread and butter, the social media like Facebook, Whatsapp and

Instagram took the lead to bring awareness among the rest to help the jobless and the needy. With their gentle hands, they wiped the tears from the cheeks of the innumerable poor and the destitute. The young children walking barefooted on the hot tar road along with their parents get tired. Their infant eyes spontaneously utter:

*“Your old earth”, they say, “is very dreary;”*

*“Our young feet,” they say, “are very weak!”*

*Few paces have we taken, yet are weary—*

*Our grave - rest is very far to seek*  
(James R. Simmons 431)

The groups on social media generated & congregated such people who crossed their thresholds to serve the utterly needy in the society during lockdown. They took complete care of both the human beings and the poor dumb animals equally which again underscores the compassion for the innocents that G. B. Shaw a noted animal lover and proponent of animal rights and vegan and vegetarian diets explores as: *Animals are my friends and I do not eat my friends* (George Bernard Shaw 153)

The dumb animals always agree with us and only know to adjust with us about whom George Eliot opines: *Animals are such agreeable friends – they ask no questions; they pass no criticisms* (Carmen Joseph Dello Buono 133)

The people sensitive to the need of education for all spontaneously made android mobile sets available to the poor children to facilitate their online learning. The platforms like google meet, zoom, and

webex made available to the schools and colleges for their online teaching, learning and evaluation has been a constructive move of the social caretakers. Organizing online sessions for students and teachers is another feather in the cap of them. The need of optimistic approach to life has been the fundamental aspect for keeping humanity alive in all pandemics

The online sessions of socially awakened doctors available on the social media have equally created health awareness among people. In short, teaching, learning & evaluation was being carried out through online mode. All such videos which are largely available on the YouTube today reveal that a good number of people have taken the present pandemic constructively to serve all the downtrodden with compassion and care.

Hence, it is our approach which determines the colour of any adversity. If productive, it leads us to the bright side of life. But if destructive, it changes the heaven into the bitter hell. The present virus has made us aware of our health as well as the health of our kith and kin. It has thoroughly underscored the need of sense & sanitization in our life. While underlying the mortality of life, it has equally laid an emphasis on the moral principles of life on which the whole building of our life is rested. Up to the present moment, the nature has endured the cruelty of human being a lot. Now, it is kicking back to us. So, our unity under the banner of environmentalism to protect all the species on this earth ultimately enhances the quality of human life. So, it is the universal need to follow constructivism like a sinking star. It is because though

apparently life seems to be happy, the reality is quite different as Amitav Ghosh explores:

*“Already know by instinct, we are not comfortably at home in our translated world”* (John C. Hawley 142)

Hence, ‘Live and Let Live’ must be the only formula on the strength of which happiness of life will become eternal. All the thinkers,

philosophers, social reformers have always hold the mirror in front of those who are least cared for the bliss on the faces of other. Leo Tolstoy is quite right when he uphold the doctrine of righteousness in living as:

*My piece of bread only belongs to me when I know that everyone else has a share, and that no one starves while I eat.* (Susan L. Rattiner 56)

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