

THE TRICKSTER CORONAVIRUS

In China, the doctor who exposed it was arrested ...
And died at last because of his “senseless” declaration!
Where did he find the courage to denounce the powerful Corona
In a resolutely totalitarian country?
Blocked going forward ... going backward ... he should have kept quiet
Shut his indiscreet mouth!
Suddenly those who dared criticize the Nation’s delay
In intervening and shortening the length of this murderous Madness
Only bore witness ... But they were quickly imprisoned,
Tortured ... In reality, the Virus was transmitted by bats

This identified Corona/Madness quickly spread
Like an explosive fire, infecting quarter after quarter
Town after town ... region after region ... country after country ...
Continent after continent ... with no sign of stopping!
It follows its will ... and no one can defeat it!

Then speculation began on the markets
Over what had been eaten, implying that the Chinese devoured ...
Dogs ... cats ... that plane cargos
Of pigs had been sent them ... from Europe ... from America
Then the rumor spread: the *Virus* had been manufactured in laboratories
Privileged sites for all sorts of speculation about benefits and failures
Finally predatory Capitalism and Globalization were denounced
For opening wide doors and frontiers, abolishing all protections!

The World awoke to this devastating tricky *Virus*
Which, instead of giving life, sowed fear and pestilence
Then, they imposed an unnatural “confinement” on humans,
On animals, on plants not always ready to keep

“A social distance,” two meters, between people ...
 At least to wash your hands often ... and no more *bises* or hugs!
 The closing of restaurants, cafés, businesses, meetings,
 Except for food ... take care of yourself ... no hurried errands
 Take every precaution for yourself, for others, day and night

In the wink of an eye, no more food on the grocery shelves ... everything ransacked
 Some people bought enormous quantities of toilet paper ...
 Then hand sanitizer is sold at ten times the price on Amazon
 The stock market crashes, governments declare it's war ...
 And rush to the help of the poor, of businesses, of the unemployed ...
 Speculators dream up new sales pitches
 Online sales grow monstrous ... Amazon hires
 More than 15,000 people ... while small businesses die a slow death
 We no longer celebrate the unknown ... but what is sure and certain ...
 The world before the *Virus-trickster* will never be the same after
 No one can yet calculate the consequences or the effects

Heads of State have declared war on this planetary *Virus-trickster*
 An enemy to be destroyed without hesitation ... but this infection begins to laugh
 Not worth the effort to dig protective trenches
 As during the Second World War ... the *Virus-trickster* appears and disappears ...
 However this murderous Folly blows, respecting no boundaries!
 The tricky *Coronavirus* does as it pleases, upsetting all ...
 Habits ... manners and customs ... the whole world and its ways of life
 And death ... And it seems to trample all the economic terrains
 As well as humans of all nationalities, beliefs/allegiances
 Planetary values are overturned ... Everything is called into question ...
 From the established order to free trade ... To entries and exits
 Of frontiers doubtless soon, and especially, to be reinstated ...
 What could not be accomplished before ... we will now see established!

Confinement allows us to focus on ourselves for protection
 While showing loud and strong our vulnerability ...
 Everyone, great and small ... Old and young ... Rich and poor
 Is launched on the same Ship of Fools ...
 All of us confronting our Humanity!

Vague projects of going to settle the planet Mars ... of cloning
 Humans hoping to live forever ... vain chimera marking
 The limits of human intelligence ... Thus all certainties collapse
 Like a rock pile struck by an earthquake flooding us
 With its destructive light
 Rebuilding Modesty ... humble face and features confronting life

COVID 19, a dated/linguistic contraction of the Coronavirus
Disease identity, was more effective than the unleashing of planetary infections
 Little by little, self-isolation supposed to reinforce family ties ...
 Resurfaces in acts of “violence towards children” and elsewhere
 A little comfort has come to us in Canada ... the daily press conference
 Of our Prime Minister giving us directives suggested by
 Doctors, scientists completely devoted to research and care ...
 The whole country is grateful to them ... and the same for the provincial leaders

While we follow anxiously all this vital confusion
 Flowering almond trees enfold their future fruits in the Mediterranean
 Orange blossoms perfume the atmosphere with luminous joy ... and ...
 Inspire us to rejoice in the changes to come which can perhaps
 Save the planet by producing less pollution ... alleviating ...
 Climate change and other violence inflicted on Nature

*Naturante*¹ which will never excuse our excesses of shameful exploitation
Perhaps we should return to Nature and ask her
Pardon for having abused her? And let us return to her heart
And soul, spirit and energy, and render
All honor to her, long deserved.

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¹ Nicola D'Ambrosio, the Italian translator, notes that this is a reference to the Dutch philosopher Spinoza and to the Arab philosopher Averroès.