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BEHIND THE TRANSPARENT CURTAIN

the broader context of the pandemic

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C O N T E N T S

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BEHIND THE TRANSPARENT CURTAIN

THE BROADER CONTEXT OF THE PANDEMIC

DR. PETR SIMEON GAJDOS

Dr. Gajdoš and I met as fellow therapists and we became friends. I reached out to him after I noticed his interesting posts and poems about the current situation on Facebook. We have written two articles together. This one outlines the connections between the coronavirus pandemic and air pollution and reflects on political and social problems associated with the pandemic and other topics. The second article analyses the pandemic from the point of view of a doctor who is in direct contact with coronavirus and patients.

Dr. Petr Simeon Gajdoš is a doctor by profession and works for the emergency medical services of the Pilsen region. More than 10 years ago, he began commuting part time to London, England to work in an intensive care unit. He is also interested in alternative treatment methods like homeopathy and the traditional medicines of native peoples. In his practice he strives to use the best that therapeutic traditions offer, and he has found ways to blend traditional and alternative forms of medicine.

Bc. Petra Arcimovičová

1. PETR, TO BEGIN I'D LIKE TO ASK WHAT YOU THINK OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.

First of all, I have to say that it has touched me - like you - very personally. Not only as a doctor, but as a human. It is clear that we are seeing a number of phenomena here that are not purely medical issues. The changes that have occurred are very global in nature. They affect many areas of our lives. There are economic aspects, too. I can't fly to work in England because the borders are closed. My absence means the hospital is short on staff, and I'm short on part of my income. I'm also thinking about socially disadvantaged and poorer groups of people who may face dire situations once the risk of infection passes and the economic consequences of the pandemic come to the fore.

2. AS A DOCTOR YOU ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH PATIENTS. YOU WEAR A SPECIAL SHIELD AND A SUIT WHEN YOU WORK. PEOPLE ARE WEARING PROTECTIVE FACE MASKS. WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOU COMMENT ON THIS ISSUE USING BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE. CAN YOU TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT THAT?

People who have come into direct contact with coronavirus can be classified into two groups. The first group consists of infected people. The second group consists of people who are not sick but are in immediate contact with the virus.

The first group can be further divided into sub-groups. It's important to understand that infection is one thing and developing an illness from an infection is another thing. These two categories are sometimes mixed up by the media. The first sub-group includes people who have tested positive for coronavirus but may not manifest any symptoms. The second sub-group includes people who have developed some symptoms after becoming infected. And the last sub-group includes people who have developed very severe respiratory problems and need oxygenation. Mechanical ventilation support in hospital is then required. That affects only a small percentage of people, thankfully.

In the second group we have health care workers, pharmacists, ambulance drivers, laboratory staff and people who care directly for patients or people infected by coronavirus. They are in indirect but very close, almost intimate, contact with coronavirus and have to protect themselves very well.

Of course, it isn't exactly comfortable to move in all this protective gear. Many people outside of the health care profession find wearing a protective mask over their mouth quite bothersome and they feel like they are suffocating. When you wear a suit, you are covered

from head to foot and have protective eyewear and a shield over your face. You feel quite awkward dressed like that, kind of like the Michelin man performing a ballet.

But it's not just about suits and face masks. The separations and divisions imposed on our living space occur on several other levels, too, through the protective measures that we are all subjected to now: transparent shields at cash registers in stores, transparent masks on respirators and protective face shields for emergency medical staff, as well as invisible transparent curtains - the closed borders - a modern-day reminder of the Iron Curtain.

It's as if everything was divided by a transparent curtain into the space in here and the space out there. I can imagine that one day we'll tell our children fairy tales about it. "Once upon a time, beyond nine mountain ranges and nine transparent curtains, there was an isolated kingdom. (The fields turned yellow with rapeseed and people ate donuts.)"

There are also natural curtains. The sky is a transparent barrier between life here on Earth and the universe. The area beyond the transparent ozone layer is a world of dangerous galactic and solar radiation. We live in a narrow band on the Earth, in a layer, in a bubble of air that we call, in aggregate, the atmosphere.

But now clouds of droplets carrying the virus are spreading through the atmosphere. The media are disseminating clouds of pandemic information into the ether. In this regard the media doesn't spare us the details and sometimes the news is unduly dramatic. Information about the pandemic is often misleading, just like opinions about possible solutions. Our steps, I mean on a societal level too, feel like we're groping through fog.

3. WE ARE SEPARATED FROM EACH OTHER BY THE PROTECTIVE LAYERS OF FACE MASKS, GLASS AND SHIELDS. THERE IS A LOT OF INFORMATION AND IT'S HARD TO NAVIGATE THROUGH IT, AS IF THE INFORMATION DELIVERED MURKINESS INSTEAD OF CLARITY. YOU HAVE ALSO COMPARED CORONAVIRUS TO A CLOUD OF DROPLETS. HOW DO YOU NAVIGATE THE CLOUD OF INFORMATION YOURSELF?

When I'm driving in foggy weather, I turn on my fog lights and slow down. After the restrictions were imposed, the slowdown came of its own accord; now we just need to turn our lights on.

The comparison to a cloud or fog symbolically brings to light many phenomena we see in

in society. Disorientation is a natural consequence of ambiguity. In this type of situation, it's natural that people are fearful about the future. There are so many influencing factors at play. Predictions can be made only with an uncertain degree of probability.

In my view it's no longer face masks and respirators that are in short supply. They were scarce commodities at the beginning of the pandemic. Now what I'm missing is high quality, verifiable information. I mean primarily from the government and authorities. The politicians' confusing declarations are not making citizens' lives any easier. I sense an absence of well prepared information from the state, available on official websites. It would certainly make it easier to navigate the situation.

4. WHICH OTHER TOPICS ARE HANGING IN THE AIR?

I think gradated, or layered, borders have emerged. It starts at our mouths with the face masks and continues, through home isolation, to our front doors. State and air borders are closed. We are imprisoned in transparent national bubbles, behind a transparent curtain, inside a balloon that nobody can get out of.

It's interesting to remember what was going on before. We lived in a global society. We could travel wherever we wanted to. Now we find ourselves in the complete opposite situation. We can barely set foot beyond our own front doors or into our own courtyards.

While we're on the subject of borders, before the pandemic we witnessed endless debates about the redistribution of refugees from the Middle East and before that from Africa. There was a parallel issue on the border between the USA and Mexico. Great Britain chose a different path, finished the Brexit process and left the European Union. In Hong Kong people protested against the government and called for independence from China. The issue of borders and separation was in the air even before the outbreak. It's just that now, in relation to the pandemic, society is processing the issue in a different way. I see it as the movement of a pendulum. It's still the same pendulum swinging back and forth, but now we see it moving to the other side.

There is no talk of the migration crisis anymore. It is as if each country has developed its own unique approach to dealing with the pandemic. There is no unified approach among countries. I wonder about the point of having strict mask regulations in one country, where they have to be worn even in the forest, when the country on the other side of the border

has different rules? Many people are saying that no one is centrally managing the situation in Europe. But maybe we just can't see it. Maybe there is central management and it's just that no one talks about it.

5. YOU VIEW THE PANDEMIC IN A COMPREHENSIVE WAY, TOUCHING ON ISSUES THAT GO BEYOND HEALTH CARE. PLEASE SHARE YOUR PERSPECTIVE.

I view the pandemic, the coronavirus infection, as a subset of a larger phenomenon. It is the sum of all of the changes that prompted the spreading of the virus and the coronavirus panic. I call it global impact. What I mean is that we're encountering a far broader phenomenon that affects a whole spectrum of areas and fields of human life. That includes our living space and the environment, of course. Ever since the pandemic broke out, I have not viewed it as an isolated event and have spoken of the combined issues of medical, ecological and socio-cultural-political phenomena. The power interests of various special interest groups can be included as well. There is discussion of mandatory, universal vaccination. Suspicious business deals and purchase of medical materials that are lacking. Restriction of the living space of small business owners and entrepreneurs, suffocating them. There are a lot of issues.

6. WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PANDEMIC AND ECOLOGY, IN YOUR OPINION?

The Spanish flu pandemic is often mentioned in relation to the coronavirus. The impact of the Spanish flu during World War I was similar to the current global impact of the coronavirus. I have studied the patterns of past epidemics. I looked for conditions that enabled these epidemics to spread on a global scale. The work of the French philosopher Michel Foucault has been a major influence on my thinking. I found certain connections that show that air pollution plays a large role. I noticed the link between the Spanish flu and the use of warfare gases, mainly chlorine, during WWI. As if air pollution was also a historical condition for this fatal viral respiratory infection and the pandemic pattern as a whole.

I pondered what had poisoned the air now. Aside from continuous industrial emissions, ground, sea and air freight stemming from human activity and the burning of fossil fuels, there are also natural sources of pollution. Volcanoes ⁽¹⁾ can spew an unbelievable amount of combustible gasses and throw them high into the atmosphere. Last year the huge wildfires in Australia and fires in Siberia impacted the atmosphere significantly.

Fires occur naturally but the extent of these fires was undoubtedly supported by the consequences of human activity. By draining water from the landscape, disrupting natural river corridors and planting monoculture crops like rapeseed on large fields, we eliminate the landscape's natural moisture content. We have dried out the earth almost to kindling. Rapeseed oil for fuel is labelled an organic component, but it is a far cry from organic products. Rapeseed taxes the landscape ecosystem, effectively raping it. In other parts of the world, other monoculture crops are planted with similar consequences. The agricultural system of our Euro-American culture is dependent on subsidies. In the case of rapeseed, the plant has a shallow root system that creates a crust on the soil surface. This crust prevents the soil from naturally irrigating itself and retaining rainwater. As a component of fuel for internal combustion engines it pollutes the air just as much as fossil fuels do. We breathe in its fumes and many people are allergic to it.

Global warming definitely contributed to the fires. As the forests burned, I watched NASA's images that depict huge clouds of smoke, containing tons of flue gases, spreading through the atmosphere practically around the whole world.

First we have clouds of smoke or warfare gases and then a pandemic-size cloud of viruses. With the Spanish flu I call it Pandora's box of WWI, where **chlorine** played a role. The modern-day Pandora's box is disruption of the **ozone** ecosystem and industrial emissions combined with forest fires resulting from global climatic changes.

Some patients, fortunately only a small percentage, develop a severe respiratory illness, known as SARS-COV19, from the coronavirus infection. It reminds me of the Amazon rainforest. When the Brazilian president Bolsonaro took office, massive deforestation began. It was intriguing to watch how Amazon tribes as well as the whole world protested. I was impressed that maybe for the first time, Amazon tribes joined forces to fight the insensitive destruction of the rainforest and to protect their environment.

The Amazon rainforests are called the lungs of the Earth. Although that is not technically correct because the largest source of oxygen is actually marine plankton and algae, rainforests do play an important role in regulating the atmospheric ecosystem. The plant biomass retains carbon, which is the precise opposite of forest fires, where carbon and greenhouse gases are quickly released into the atmosphere. The Amazon rainforests are important for life on Earth on a global scale because of their ability to regulate air humidity,

temperature and vapour flows. Imagine the Amazon rainforest as one big tree that serves as a planetary air conditioner.

I found pertinent links between pandemics and ozone hole dynamics. If the ozone ecosystem is not functioning optimally, wind flows cannot push hot air to the equator and keep the magnetic poles of the Earth cool. Imagine that the Earth's 'head' is at the North Pole and that it's hot (a few degrees hotter, but that's enough). You can think better when your head is cool, right? When it's hot, glaciers melt and there are consequences such as dilution of and changes to sea currents and other disruptions of the marine ecosystem.

Of course, I am not talking about simple, direct linear links between ozone holes, the quality of the ozone layer, air pollution near the Earth's surface and the spreading of pandemic viruses. On the contrary, it's actually quite, almost loftily, incomprehensible. It is a system of very complex relationships and links that we haven't yet grasped entirely. It is a chaotic (mathematic model) and a difficult to predict system.

7. DID YOU FIND ANY OTHER CONNECTIONS TO ECOLOGY?

There are definitely more ecological issues at hand. For example, people began taking an interest in plastics only after islands of plastics washed up from the sea onto their favourite beaches. Or when scientists discovered that the fish we eat contain minute particles of plastic.

I think that everyone heard the Swedish student Greta Thunberg's loud and emotionally charged speeches about the environment. Personally, I interpret her message as an appeal: Hey, we're devastating our own home - the planet, our own living space. Do we really believe we can survive this destruction? It's no longer just about nature and protection of nature, but about us, humanity and our lives!

8. SO DO YOU SEE A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND THE PANDEMIC?

It's not such a revolutionary idea, in fact. Doctors have conducted studies in China and Italy that have found that people recovered better from the virus in places where industrial production, transportation and emissions decreased due to the pandemic. I am from Ústí nad Labem, where we often saw inversion weather patterns alongside intensive industry. Many children in the region suffered from respiratory illnesses. During periods of increased

smog or when health safety emission levels were exceeded, there were school or flu 'holidays'. What we're experiencing right now during the coronavirus pandemic on a massive scale was a common reality for inhabitants of northern Bohemia and the Ostrava region back then.

9. AFTER A WHILE THE QUARANTINE WILL END, FACTORIES WILL BEGIN PRODUCING AGAIN, PEOPLE WILL GO BACK TO WORK, TRANSPORTATION WILL RESUME AT FULL CAPACITY AND WE MAY WANT TO FORGET ALL OF THIS...AND IF THERE ARE THESE LINKS THAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, HOW CAN WE INFLUENCE THEM?

You must have more information than me! I think no one has a crystal ball and we don't know how things will evolve from here and when the quarantine will end. The question really is, what do we, humanity, want for ourselves on a societal and global level, and how? Do we want to keep using up our living space? There is still so much we don't know about all of the links between life on Earth and all of the connections in the ecosystem.

Maybe we should think about how we want to treat nature, our living space. The same way we did before? Will we want to continually increase the risk of pandemics through atmospheric pollution? Do we really want to choke on our own emissions or their consequences, like respiratory illnesses? I think nature will always survive somehow, but we humans may not.

10. YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HOMEOPATHY. DO YOU BELIEVE IT CAN PLAY A ROLE DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Globally, homeopaths are trying to help treat people during the pandemic. I have published several articles on this issue in professional homeopathy circles along with several case studies detailing how homeopathy has clearly helped. I've just been invited to speak about my hypotheses and observations as a keynote speaker at an international online homeopathy conference. I'm compiling a presentation about successfully treated cases.

The body of cases includes covid-positive patients as well as untested respiratory infection patients. Another group consists of clients suffering from problems caused mainly by psychological stress. These include various types of fear, anxiety, panic attacks and claustrophobia linked to the restriction of movement and home isolation or loathing of masks.

Another group includes clients who have experienced excessive fear brought on by media news. Homeopathic treatment helped each of them deal with the given situation and considerably alleviated respiratory problems. I consider homeopathy an important treatment mode and I am glad that I have been able to provide this type of support to people alongside my official work in emergency medical services.

11. IN WHAT OTHER WAYS HAS HOMEOPATHY HELPED PEOPLE DURING THE PANDEMIC?

We are confronted by changes and have to get used to them, even though we don't want to. Personal freedom and privacy are restricted. I think that in the future more and more people will need homeopathic support. As an example I can cite a client who suffered a mild case of covid-19. She became psychologically ill, however, from the government news feed on her mobile phone and an epidemic appeal from her mobile operator. Quite logically, she felt that Big Brother was watching her. She intentionally called it the Eye of Sauron, like in the Hobbit movie based on J.R.R. Tolkien's work. I think that we may see an increasing number of politically- and power-motivated Eyes of Sauron. Some people respond very negatively to apps that monitor the movement of people infected with coronavirus. It reminds them of how Jews had to wear yellow stars during World War II.

12. YOUR POEM CAPTURED MY ATTENTION. WHAT DOES IT EXPRESS?

I think that I was able to capture the spirit of the times in this poem. It portrays the current pandemic and its symptoms. It is a tribute to the people who are suffering and the people who are caring for them. But that is merely the poem's apparent meaning.

I was inspired by images and metaphors from my homeopathy patients. The poem has many layers and reflects other global phenomena as well. The first verse is about the Eye of Sauron. Readers can choose the level at which they read the poem, and what level they uncover in it. Some people may find that only part of the poem resonates with them, other people will not be touched at all and for others it may be a source of hope.

I used several metaphors in the poem that are linked to air, breathing and our transparent protective layer of ozone. The poem is not just about ecological relationships, though. Atmosphere denotes more than just the package of air around the Earth in which we can breathe. Atmosphere denotes more than just the package of air around the Earth in which we can breathe.

We also use the word atmosphere in terms of feeling, when we want to describe the general mood of a place, space or meeting, to characterize its atmosphere.

On a symbolic level, the poem is about the soul and how we experience things internally, the yearning for the soul and mind to be free. About the yearning to breathe, move and travel freely. I leave it up to readers to reveal other meanings that the poem conceals.

13. DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NEXT?

I am putting together a website that will be about the concept of "global impact". It's a very broad topic and we will see how I manage to grasp it. There will be a section on homeopathy. The site is www.global-impact.world and will be launched soon.

14. DO YOU HAVE ANY MESSAGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO COMMUNICATE TO READERS?

I can perhaps respond to that best by sharing the final lines of my poem, if you don't mind. It is about the freedom to inhale freely in a safe and connected life. That is what I heard from almost every single homeopathy client. Clients suffering from respiratory illnesses who wanted to be healthy again wished for it. And the same words were used by clients suffering above all from anti-epidemic restrictions or gripped by anxiety and fear. I wish, for all of us, that freedom reigned here and that we could inhale freely - in all of the possible and experienced meanings that the phrase holds.

Thank you for the interview.

Bc. Petra Arcimovičová

**I'M THE FREEDOM-FIGHTER,
THE POET, WHO LIGHTENS UP ALL,
WHO HONOURS THE MEMORY OF THOSE
WHO DIED FOR YOU, SACRED WORLD FREEDOM!
THE FREEDOM TO BREATHE IN FREELY
IN PROTECTED BUT INTERCONNECTED LIVES.**

| Dr. Petr Simeon Gajdos |

LINKS:**(1) KORONAVIRUAWAKENING VOLCANIC REGION IN ICELAND 'COULD CAUSE DISRUPTION FOR CENTURIES'**

Kate Ravillious Fri 10 Apr 2020 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/10/awakening-volcanic-region-reykjanes-peninsula-iceland-disruption-centuries>

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FAITH NO MORE JUST A MAN WITH LYRICS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxPLjzKlsmk>

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ENVIRONMENT 19 December 2019 By Adam Vaughan

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2227968-ozone-hole-recovery-will-probably-be-delayed-by-banned-gas-from-china/#ixzz6lugytiLR>

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By Andrej Flis Global weather 16 March 2020

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THE PANDEMIC - AIRBORNE PARTICLES MAY BE ASSISTING THE SPREAD OF SARS-COV-2 CAN ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION BE CONSIDERED A CO-FACTOR IN EXTREMELY HIGH LEVEL OF SARS-COV-2 LETHALITY IN NORTHERN ITALY?

| Science and technology | The Economist [26 MARCH 2020]

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CAN ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION BE CONSIDERED A CO-FACTOR IN EXTREMELY HIGH LEVEL OF SARS-COV-2 LETHALITY IN NORTHERN ITALY?

4 April 2020 Edoardo Conticinia

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https://www.globalresearch.ca/open-letter-professor-sucharit-bhakdi-german-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel/5708004?fbclid=IwAR3LvSlz63QDYhYJlrm13DM18_ioSUtCrYqMtw33bsk5-RcMe3UnR-MAqYk

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