

NOVATE
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FURROW

The

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To the
children of
the future

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You do not know
You can never imagine
You will never realise
What a pandemic means to the human heart...
What Covid 19 can do to the human soul....
What cocooning can do to human freedom....
In silence, but with speed, it shattered all our normalities,
Bringing destruction and death in its path,
Tearing at our quiet places of prayer and goodness,
It burst into our spaces of happiness and peace,
With destruction,
devastation and tears.

Across the decades and centuries to come
It will be whispered about.
Stories told from one generation to another,
How catastrophic the attack, that reduced us to fear.
How endless the lines of the sick and the grieving...
How frequent the lists of the lost and the dead,
With thousands walking in the gravitas of sorrow.

The broken hearts of children, of parents and of grandparents,
With distances widening between them.
Nights when we could not sleep,
And lost our hearts whole sense of the beloved.
Days when we could not see,
Could not hear,
Could not find
The beloved.

But with these weeks and months of horror
Came the amazing singing of the sweetest morning chorus...
Came an openness to the humanity of others...

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Came a deeper understanding of the beauty in Nature...
Came a gentle desire to make old and new contacts with family
and friends,
Came the hope to live differently and care for the earth,
Came the urge to de clutter, keeping what is worth keeping,
Came a longing to slow down, reflect and love gently.
Came a new appreciation of gratitude, and of what we have.

So, Pandemic, what was your purpose here ?
Why did you come among us ?
To teach us something?
Go now and never return ...
I think we may have learnt that something....

Pleonexia – A Virtue? The most generalised pathology of contemporary civilisation is what the Greeks called ‘pleonexia’. Pleonexia is excessive and insatiable greed, vaulting ambition and envy combined with extreme social inequality and disruptive unfairness of money, power, esteem and of all divisible social goods. But neoliberalism makes a virtue of pleonexia – ‘greed is good’! Pleonexia is always latent, as it is anchored in human appetites and desires, but it becomes a manifest problem only under particular conditions. Ordinarily managed and mediated within the collective morality, pleonexia becomes a problem at times of historical, social and political change and transformation. People tend to become extravagantly envious of others when the normal constraints and limits that govern individual appetites and desires are loosened and become uncertain.

– KIERAN KEOHANE, *Modern Culture and Well-Being*, ed. Catherine Conlon (Dublin: Veritas) p. 185.