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The very ambiguity and uncertainty about the post-Covid19 times owes to several grey areas including its indiscriminate spread as a pandemic along with the absence of any formidable and self-assuring treatment. From the varying estimates of large-scale deaths across the continents, climates and demographics to abnormalities in life-styles, collective losses across the politico-economic landscapes, one is solely left to the discretion of soothsayers or crystal ball gazers.

The economic downturn is going to be the sharpest fall-out with varying estimates of a billion people being pushed below the poverty line while educational institutions, especially in the West, may suffer serious shortfalls adding constraints on research pursuits and more dependence on zero-contracts for academes.

Socially, we may feel more responsible and reflective towards fellow beings and the climate, yet isolationist practices, especially a pervasive element of forsakenness for the elderly amidst the larger number of deaths of the underprivileged clusters only hint towards a grave socio-economic stratification engendering a new wave of discontent in the 'South'. Populist politics, more like hyped-up globalization, may decline considerably though xenophobia may also usher myopia towards 'new' rivals on the world's geo-political map.

There have been suggestions for a more cohesive and comprehensive approach to world's most serious and indiscriminate crisis, yet national policies in almost every country only witness an exclusive introversion. Some persuasive pieces in magazines and liberal papers like The New Yorker and The Guardian are already hinting towards the decline of Neo-liberalism and the end of a narrowly defined post-9/11 obsessive preoccupation with security, the systemic guidelines for some more equitable world order are still missing from serious analysis.

However, a couple of lessons are quite worth noticing all across the world and especially in the North Atlantic regions: greater pre-eminence of science over faith during these adverse times; failure of world's militarily and economically

powerful nations to provide universal health care to match the rising number of cases; the consumerist sense of security calibrated at the expense of nature's prerogatives proves illusionary; and a single-factor kowtowing to hitherto unassailable idea of progress lies in tatters. Greater trust in science does not mean prevalence of scientific thinking as a universal creed. Conversely, people may latch on to even more fatalist precepts and practices as happened in cases like the Krakatoa eruption of 1883 in Indonesia and more recent disasters such as the earthquakes, floods, famines and tsunami.

Of course, a new tomorrow is still in the works, undefined, uncertain and invisible in yonder horizons; but it is going to deliver a totally different world that we have been used to so far. Greater demand for a more inclusive and globalist approach to human catastrophes, less dependence on military-based unilateralism and redundancy of quarantined borders to ward off otherwise maligned human transgressors may still become the harbingers of this new world order, anchored on multilateralism and a shared sense of interdependence owing to our ongoing surreal predicament.



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"The impact and lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic are all but impossible to gauge at this point. As we learned with previous shocks including the 9/11 attacks and the global financial crisis, these events play out in unexpected ways for years and even decades after they occur. What is clear is that the world as a whole was unprepared for this kind of challenge, and that the traditional lens through which we view security and economic risks is in grave need of an update. A pandemic is definitionally a threat that impacts all of us, and one that demands a coordinated response. It thus represents an opportunity – should we choose to take it – to save lives through near-term cross-border coordination while laying the groundwork for longer-term, productive engagement.