

Posledice

Prazne ulice, ljudje z maskami, zaprte ustanove in vsakodnevne skrb vzbujajoče novice o številu okuženih in umrlih. Prvi meseci tega leta so bili res povsem drugačni od preteklih. Česa takega nismo predvidevali, čeprav so globalne pandemije s številnimi žrtvami tudi predmet znanstvenega raziskovanja prihodnosti, in ne le katastrofična fikcija. V znanstvenem raziskovanju prihodnosti namreč na podlagi predpostavljenih dogodkov razvijajo več možnih scenarijev, tudi ekstremnih in najslabših možnih, na podlagi katerih se je mogoče pripraviti na podobne situacije in zmanjšati njihove posledice. Takšni dogodki, kakršen je izbruh pandemije, se imenujejo neznanke, to so nepredvidljivi dogodki z zelo velikimi posledicami, za katere je le vprašanje, kdaj se bodo pojavili.

V moje okolje je virus prišel v trenutku, ko se je zdelo, da je vse napeto kot elastika prav pred trenutkom, ko popusti in počí. Ko naloge, obveznosti in roki začnejo uhati izpod nadzora, občutek nemoči pa začenja vplivati na dobro počutje in zdravje. Potem pa smo z danes na jutri ostali v osami. Nekaj dni smo se privajali, potem smo spoznali, da bo trajalo malo dlje in bo bolj zahtevno, na koncu pa smo se že navadili in bi nekatere prednosti takega življenja tudi obdržali. V presežku časa, ki je bil kar naenkrat na voljo, smo lahko spet malo zadihali. Odmik od službe, šole, družbenih medijev ter znancev, prijateljev in razširjene družine je prinesel več časa zase in za najbližje. In je bilo prav dobro. Odpočile so se ulice in ceste, parki so zadihali svež zrak, narava se je pomladno prebudila, živali so se vrnile v mesta. V dveh mesecih smo osvojili nove spretnosti in navade, več časa smo preživeli v naravi in odkrivali lepe in mirne kotičke čisto blizu doma. Za marsikoga je bil to čas uvida, kaj je res pomembno v življenju, v družbi in v svetu. Vsi smo nekako upali, da bomo to znali ohraniti tudi po tem. Do naslednjič.

Do takrat ne pozabimo, da imamo samo ta prostor, v katerem živimo. Da moramo biti odgovorni in pošteni do sebe in do vsega, na kar vplivamo. Saj je vse, kar se nam zgodi, posledica naših dejanj. Naše zavedanje tega pa ne sme trajati samo v času raznih kriz, ampak tudi takrat, ko se zdi, da je vse v najlepšem redu.

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Consequences

Empty streets, people wearing masks, closed institutions, and alarming daily news on the number of new infections and deaths. The first few months of 2020 were truly completely out of the ordinary. No one expected something like this to happen, even though global pandemics with many fatalities are not just a catastrophic fiction, but also the subject of futures studies. Based on assumed events, futures studies develop several possible scenarios, including extreme and worst-case ones, which can be used to prepare for similar situations and reduce their impact. Events such as pandemic outbreaks are called wild cards; that is, unpredictable events with devastating consequences that may happen at any time.

The virus entered my world right at a moment when everything seemed as taut as a rope that was at a breaking point: that point when assignments, obligations, and deadlines start getting out of hand and the feeling of helplessness starts affecting your sense of wellbeing and your health. Then suddenly, we ended up in isolation. It took a couple of days to get used to it, and then we realized that everything would last a bit longer and be more challenging than we initially expected. Once we got used to it, we realized we would even prefer to keep certain advantages of this lifestyle. In all the free time we suddenly had available, we were able to catch our breath again. By distancing ourselves from our jobs, schools, social media, acquaintances, friends, and extended families, we had more time for ourselves and our loved ones. And it was great. The streets and roads got a break, the parks breathed in some fresh air, nature woke up in its spring attire, and animals returned to towns. In two months we acquired new skills and habits and spent more time outdoors, exploring pretty, peaceful little nooks close to our homes. To many, this period provided insight into what really matters in life, society, and the world. We all hoped to somehow be able to preserve all of this even after the pandemic was over. Until the next time.

Until then, let us not forget that the only space we have is the one we live in. That we should be responsible and fair to ourselves and to everything in our control. In the end, everything that happens to us is the consequence of our actions. However, we need to be aware of this not only when a crisis hits, but also when everything seems to be just fine.

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