

COVID HUMANITY

By Peter H. Wolf

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As this pandemic progresses I become from time-to-time depressed -- not in the slightest because of any personal travail or inconvenience. I get depressed about my fellow human beings. Not everyone, of course. But it is enough people that mortified gloom and sadness can grip me. Sadly, some of these people have great power over the lives of others.

That portion of our number seems beholden to one or more of several beliefs: that business and commerce are more important than life itself; that science and experience are to be ignored; that people should not be told what to do, even if it means protecting others; that solidarity with others of their ilk is strength; that faith prevents bad things from happening to good people; that ignoring something so unseen and deferred as a tiny virus will make it disappear; that it is irrelevant that minorities or the elderly suffer more; or that something so inevitable justifies paralysis.

The believers that come to mind are Red State governors, some religious leaders, conservative media, Republicans following Trump, Libertarians, some capitalists, protesters, beach goers, enablers of corruption and incompetence, those who cover up mistakes, youth who feel invincible and invulnerable, the greedy, the ignorant, those determinedly ignorant, the unempathetic. Once again, it is not all persons who fit these descriptions, but it is enough of them for gloom and sadness sometimes to grow to an ache in my gut.

I'm saddened, too, by what these people do to my own integrity. I find myself with tinges of gladness when we-told-you-so folks catch, even die, of the virus they led others to disregard. Similar thoughts surge even for their blinded followers. I must correct myself for hints of wishes for infection or death to happen to still more people of the same persuasion because of the gut-check example it would set for the benefit of all of humanity.

Do you sometimes feel depressed? We'll get through it. But these segments of humankind will cause it to take longer for us all to emerge and return to normal. More death is their callous price.

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