

If The Virus Could Talk

If the virus could talk: It might say to those who follow the philosophy “Live free or die”: “No problem. Fine with us. We love that kind of silly thinking. Here is one of ours: “Live Free...And Die!” Like?”

If the virus could talk: it might say to those who resent ‘The Government’, ‘The Authorities’, or anyone telling them what to do (even if it’s for their own good): It might say: “Go ahead...Make our days. Ignore precautions. Don’t protect yourselves: Never miss church. Go have your Spring Break. Hey: Enjoy your Mardi Gras...We love that. We need partners to help us do our thing. The more you are together...The happier we will be. You will help us sicken or kill your grandparents; make or kill your parents, your brothers and sisters, your teachers, friends, and others.”

If the virus could talk: It might say: “The more you ignore precautions, the better for us. You will help us sicken or kill our enemies...”Who are your enemies” you ask? We’ll tell you: “They are those courageous doctors, nurses, helpers, and others risking their lives to save yours...They are our enemies. They are the ones that’s slowing us down and killing us off. We don’t like that...No sirree...not one bit. People in general are not our enemies. You are our partners. When we sicken, kill you, bring disorder to your world, wreck your economy, and bring you great hardships and distress...We are not being mean and wicked. No hard feelings there: That’s how we are. We are just “endeavoring to persevere in “our” ways of being” ...as your Spinoza said some centuries ago.”

If the virus could talk: It might say: “We don’t make the timeline...You all do...Oops : Shouldn’t have said that! We are your passengers when you chauffeur us around on ships, planes, and other fast moving things. It suits us when you persist in thinking and behaving foolishly. We beg you: “Keep doing that”. We applaud the “We’ll wait and see approach”: While you are waiting, we are multiplying. If it’s part of your culture to think and behave that way...Great: That way of thinking and behaving is very, very important for our survival...and your demise (We will continue to survive in our usual habitats). So: Thank You. Don’t change.

If the virus could talk: It might say: Don’t learn anything from your racial history. Ignore the structural propositional heuristic, theoretical approach of scientists. Spread their words and ideas--But don’t learn anything from the writings of novelists or story tellers giving us glimpses about ourselves and our human relationships. Study and celebrate philosophers. But don’t learn anything from their unusual and visionary ways of thinking about things: Like Bernard Lonergan S.J. offering an insight he called “Transcendental Precept”: Be attentive. Be intelligent. Be reasonable. Be Responsible: And this one pertaining to social order: ‘Take care of yourself and contribute to the wellbeing of others.’ Then there is Alfred Korzybski with his general semantics suggestion that we work at developing a consciousness of abstracting and “Be aware that “Things are not what we imagine, say, think, believe, and say they are.”” Don’t change your old, familiar, and usual ways of thinking about things and goings on. Be absolutely conservative. We implore you. Don’t change. When you carry us around to shop, meet others, etc., “without taking great care”: That’s good for us: Maximum exposure....Good for us. Minimum exposure....Good for you...Not good for us.” Oops! There we go again: It does not suit us virus to help humans get smarter.”

Milton Dawes