

The Plague by Albert Camus Plague Epidemic and Corona Pandemic: A Study

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Abstract

On 31 December, 2019 China's Wuhan district recorded the first novel Corona virus disease (COVID-19) case. Its origin was from a wet market though it has been held by the scientific communities in many countries that it evolved at and leaked out of the research laboratory of The Wuhan Institute of Virology. Zoonotic diseases have ever been increasing in numbers due to indiscriminate use of animals for food. But so far no evidence has been established that Corona virus as it has affected the humans has any direct link with any animal. It created havoc throughout the world killing millions and devastating the social life, economy, relationship among humans and countries. Its effect has been unprecedented in human history.

The Plague by Albert Camus on the other hand is a novel based on the occurrence of plague in the French Port town Oran at the Algiers coast in 1940. The infection originated in rat which died first with blood in its mouth. The narrative in this story is an inner story; interaction among the patients and their family members with their healers, mainly Dr. Bernard Rieux. It's a story of selfless services by a doctor for his patients. With a very sympathetic heart and self-negating sacrifice for the cause of suffering humanity, the doctor or the protagonist of the story remained an ever pessimist.

Though there are huge differences between the old plague disease and new corona or covid-19 like the plague created epidemic locally and covid-19 created pandemic worldwide, plague originated in animal but covid seems independent, both created pestilence, sorrow and suffering; though humans are ever adventurous and proceed through all hazards in life winning many victories while the plague comes back from time to time and there is no guarantee that Corona would not revive though its virulence has been subdued to a good extent by the preventive vaccines and medicines.

In spite of many anomalies a comparison between the fictional story with the recent pandemic has been made as both have many common features and it remains a fact that variants of covid-19 are raising their heads from time to time. It has not gone altogether. In spite of many anomalies the threat of the coming back of Coronavirus is always an alert as it is about plague. Here at last the story is relevant in the field of covid-19. One cannot dismiss the warning of Dr. Rieux: "Plague bacillus never dies or disappears for good; that it can be dormant for years and years in furniture and linen-chests; that it hides its time in bedrooms, cellars, trunks and bookshelves; and that perhaps the day would come when, for the bane and enlightening of men, it roused up its rats again and sent them forth to die in a happy city." (The Plague by Albert Camus. 1968. 251-252)

Keywords: Bacillus, virus, plague, pestilence, Covid-19, epidemic, pandemic

The occurrences of Corona or Covid19 cases have been reduced throughout the world but its variants, viruses somewhat different, have risen up and are attacking the humans. Somewhere Covid19 are showing up in bigger ways somewhere gradually going down out of record. Many countries have achieved full or near full success in vaccinating their citizens. India too has vaccinated 111 crore people so far.

In Britain in spite of its rising up it is not given a panic reception. Even school students are dauntlessly attending to their classes. Man is after all indomitable in the face of

all wars, terrors and calamities. But some on earth are too cautious. In spite of their huge improvement and reporting no new cases trepidation seems to haunt Singapore who have prohibited going out by any of its citizens very strictly till they are over sure of zero cases reported in their country. A superstitious strictness!

Conclusion

Whatever way corona has entered the earth-life, it seems to have reserved its seat among innumerable other agents of diseases. With the growing complexities in human life newer diseases are ever increasing due to the hazardous, complex life style and human actions causing the deterioration of Nature and Environment. The last observation by the protagonist of the novel, *The Plague*, seems to be a reminder to the humanity about the existence of the notorious Corona virus or Covid-19 too.

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We are products of Nature but by our actions we distort the Nature and recreate the environment around us. Everything depends on man, on his behaves with Nature.

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