

AN ETHICO-EPISTEMIC PERSPECTIVE ON COVID-19

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Abstract

The chequered history of humanity is reckoned with diseases and has recorded outbreaks of dangerous and contagious diseases often referred to as plagues otherwise pandemics. These disease outbreaks ravage humanity interfering greatly in the course of history and at times, signaling the end of an entire civilization in order to reintroduce a complete new world order. At the dawn of *Anno Domini* 2020, amidst great expectations of pomp and pageantries of a promising new year, we woke up to the confusing news of COVID-19, the brouhaha of the novel Coronavirus disease. Like a joke amidst inherent confusion on its nature, structure and curative status, COVID-19 started spreading geometrically and like a wild fire with corresponding death tolls. This paper tries to critically view and review the whole episode surrounding COVID-19 Pandemic while at the same time appreciates the role of philosophy in the proper and effective handling of COVID-19 that has come to stay like other pestilences of the past.

Keywords: Philosophy, Ethics, Epistemic, COVID-19, Epidemic, Pandemic

Introduction

Humanity has over the time experienced deadly and brutal outbreak of virulent diseases. They were simply vicious and vile killers in human history. Epidemics, endemics, plagues and pandemics are all part and parcel of human existence that has to do with ill state or poor health of man. Most often, what may be regarded as worrisome as epidemic turns out to be mere sickness in other parts of the world like the dreaded Malaria and scary typhoid fever. To this end, one can say that diseases and outbreak of sickness are regional. What may be an epidemics or pandemic in one region may not be so in other regions. Of course, nature has a way of regenerating itself. The Africans, for example, what they see as common and normal sickness may not be for the Europeans. Nature like I have said has a way of taking care of itself. History of deadly outbreaks of contagious and deadly diseases is very interesting. Cholera, bubonic plague, influenza, smallpox, HIV and Ebola are some of the most atrocious destroyers and death-traps in human history. However, the outbreaks of these diseases across international borders are properly defined as pandemic. A good knowledge of these deadly diseases is very *ad rem* for our continuous existence as healthy human beings. This is the *raison d'être* of Philosophy and COVID-19.

Philosophy, that is, *philosophia*, as love of wisdom, is a critical appreciation of one's worldview that helps one in articulating it. In line with this trend, Maritain (2005, 72) maintains that Philosophy is the highest of human sciences, that is, of

the sciences which knows things by the natural light of reason. As a human enterprise, neither discipline nor culture, neither science nor arts and every form of development, humanities and society is devoid of philosophical influence and critical attention. Therefore, every aspect of human engagement and interaction become the *repertoire* and great source of philosophical inquiry. That is to say, every form of critical appreciation and noteworthy investigation relate to the well being of man. Hence, Philosophy starts with the reality of one's proper understanding of his immediate environment, then, unto and beyond as it continues to influence human kind as *homo interlocutor*. Accordingly Ezeani (2015, 5ff) sees philosophy as *Iquism*. For him, *Iquism* is from intelligent questioning and it is all about philosophy. *Iquism therefore is a philosophical theory which explains philosophy as basically intelligent questioning activity*. *Iquism* is the essence of philosophy. In this study, it will help us in the critical review of the significant effects of the dangerous disease outbreaks especially with regard to COVID-19 as it concerns the cause as well as the consequences on humanity and the entire world. As a practical discipline, philosophy is *cognitio rerum per altissimas causas, solar rationis*, that is, science that studies all things in their ultimate and universal principles. Therefore with the instrument of philosophy as a human enterprise, one is ably equipped to have a holistic look at COVID-19 pandemic especially with regard to what is *not said in the said*.

The Sacredness of Human Life

History, however, as a reflective record of past events helps us in articulating factually the contemporary occurrences. COVID-19 pandemic may not be the last in the list of occasional outbreaks as it is not the first of such killer outbreak especially in our world that is not only globally porous but right now scientifically vulnerable and open. Science and technological advancement as hyper-technologies abet the chances of many outbreaks of deadly diseases. The famous industrial revolution of 1850-1900 gave boost to porous nature of the world. It's open to any invention and interference amidst gradual loss of human worth and protection. This takes us back to the eternal words of Mahatma Ghandi of the seven deadly sins. One of them is *science without humanity*. St. Pope John Paul 11 (1995), in his encyclical entitled *Evangelium Vitae*, meaning *The Gospel of Life*, written to reiterate the view of the Roman Catholic Church on the value of life and to warn against violating the sanctity of life. This came as a result of many scientifico-technological institutions peddling with human life through *In-Vitro* Fertilization, Embryo Transfer and other forms and practices of hyper-technologies. The Pope refers to such inhuman atrocious institutions geared towards human life as cultures of death. The recent pilling of weapon of mass destruction and testing of nuclear weapon are offshoots of scientific exigencies with consideration of the negative aspects of it on humanity. St. Pope JP, (1995, No.3) laments of "extraordinary increase and gravity of threats to the life of individuals and peoples, especially where life is weak and defenceless. In addition to the ancient scourges of poverty, hunger, endemic diseases, violence and war, new threats are emerging on an alarmingly vast scale."

Iroegbu,(1994, 63) too emphasized this fact thus, “technologization of the earth has abysmally rendered the human person less human, more elemental and most atomistic...The entire world is now a mega-machine: a totally organized and homogenized social system in which society as such functions like a machine and men like its path”. The consequential effect of these hyper-technologies of our contemporary scientific engagement is trans-valuation of values as a response to the reigning existentialism of the 19th Century. Nietzsche was very premier in articulating it. The philosophical movement of the 19th century *Existentialism* is a form of philosophy that rose to prominence during the cultural period in the 1940s and 1950s in Europe. The main idea behind this movement or theory is that *to be* as an existing human being means to be free in contrast to determinism orchestrated by *laws of nature*. Existentialism focuses on choice and freedom as such all for the welfare of man. Man however, must be responsible for the choice and freedom in question. The malevolence of existentialism comes to light as man tries to become the measure of all things. This 21st century false identity of man has been the foundation of the ongoing conspiracy on COVID-19.

Human being has a unique freedom to determine his or her own behaviour irrespective of the consequences of absolute freedom if it ever exists. The contemporary philosophical movement of existentialism exercised an enormous influence with its emphasis on subjective experience and intense emotionality in dealing with the crisis, confusion and anguish of the modern man (exemplified in the terrible experiences of WWI). There was deadly blast and blood-soaked mayhem of in Beirut Lebanon yesterday 04/08/2020 when 2,750 metric tons of the explosives ammonium nitrates stored at a warehouse exploded. Lives were lost. However, many of the followers of this movement embedded more in expressionism tried to experiment with every possible alternative lifestyles. This was complimented by contemporary scientific prowess and pleasures of novel discoveries, as human acts, *actus humanus*, that are without any respect and regard for the value of human life must be handled with great caution because life, human life of course, is of primary value. However Pope JP II 1995 EV, No. 2 writes on the *incomparable worth of human person* thus:

Man is called to a fullness of life which far exceeds the dimensions of his earthly existence, because it consists in sharing the very life of God. The loftiness of this supernatural vocation reveals the greatness and the inestimable value of human life even in its temporal phase. Life in time, in fact, is the fundamental condition, the initial stage and an integral part of the entire unified process of human existence. It is a process which, unexpectedly and undeservedly, is enlightened by the promise and renewed by the gift of divine life, which will reach its full realization in eternity (cf. 1 Jn 3:1-2). At the

same time, it is precisely this supernatural calling which highlights the relative character of each individual's earthly life. After all, life on earth is not an "ultimate" but a "penultimate" reality; even so, it remains a sacred reality entrusted to us, to be preserved with a sense of responsibility and brought to perfection in love and in the gift of ourselves to God and to our brothers and sisters.

Deadly Outbreak of Diseases in History

COVID-19 is a novel deadly disease already shaping our generation. As 21st century's malady, its effects so far will be far reaching in line with what has resulted in the past few months. In the face of what is shaping out to be one of the most dangerous health events of this age, one need to go back into history for more info on deadly diseases' outbreaks. The Sacred Scripture recorded many plagues and deadly outbreak of natural disaster by God on human race starting with losing of Paradise on earth as a result man's disobedience via Adam and Eve (cf. Gen. 3ff). What of the destruction of the first world order with heavy rain that led to the building of the Noah's Ark (cf. Gen. 6-9) and the outbreak of deadly fire that engulfed the second world order of Sodom and Gomorrah (cf. Gen. 18:20, 19:24ff). The 10 plagues against the Egyptians in favour of Israelites thus: Water to Blood: Ex. 7:14–24; Frogs: Ex. 7:25–8:15; Lice or gnats: Ex. 8:16–19; Wild animals or flies: Ex. 8:20–32; Pestilence of livestock: Ex. 9:1–7; Boils: Ex. 9:8–12; Thunderstorm of hail and fire: Ex. 9:13–35; Locusts: Ex. 10:1–20 and Death of firstborn of the Egyptians: Ex. 11:1–12:36. What of the plague of fiery venomous serpent circa 550BCE that killed many Israelites in the desert as a result their disobedience to God (cf. Num. 21ff) and other untold plagues of ravaging wars recorded in the Bible? Plagues as epidemics or pandemics have been part of human living and exigencies. However, there is point of notice that in every one of these plagues God provided an answer or the cure. COVID-19 may not be an exemption if one tries to sound logically scriptural.

A summary of the online sources has it that shows series of pandemic in human history. Antonine Plague (165 AD cir. 5million deaths), the Black Death (1346-1353 cir. 75-200million deaths): an epidemic that took out 30 to 60 percent of Europe's population in the mid-1300s—but its far more evil twin, pneumonic plague. In contrast to the bubonic plague, which spreads via flea-carrying rodents, the pneumonic plague infects the lungs and can spread from person to person through saliva droplets. It is the deadliest form of the plague; Plague of Justinian (541-542 cir. 25million deaths), Third Cholera Pandemic (1852–1860 with cir. 1million deaths), Flu Pandemic (1889-1890 with 1 million deaths), Sixth Cholera Pandemic (1910-1911 cir. 800,00+ deaths), Flu Pandemic (1918 with about 20-50million deaths), Asian Flu (1956-1958 with about 2million deaths) , Flu Pandemic (Influenza 1968 with I million death), HIV/AIDS Pandemic (at its peak,

2005-2012 with about 36million deaths). Humanity has seen it all even with coronaviruses' infection.

In 2003, the Chinese population was infected with a virus causing Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Guangdong province. The virus was confirmed as a member of the Beta-coronavirus subgroup and was named SARS-CoV 6, 7. The infected patients exhibited pneumonia symptoms with a diffused alveolar injury which lead to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

December 2019 woke the world *up* to another outbreak, *in this contemporary time*, amidst all the progress in public health and much lauded advancement in human science and global interconnectivity. The deadly killer disease started in the region of Wuhan, China. In a very far away China, a newly *novel* Coronavirus disease began appearing in human beings. It was short-named COVID-19, an abridged form of *Coronavirus disease of 2019*. Recently, by the end of 2019, World Health Organization (WHO) was informed by the Chinese government about several cases of pneumonia with unfamiliar etiology. The novel virus spreads incredibly quickly between people. Being a new virus there was no immunity or any known cure, due to its newness. As an epidemic in China, the virus spread worldwide within months. WHO declared Covid-19 a pandemic in March, 2020. As at the time of this write up in August 2020, the online latest information on the *geographical distribution* of COVID-19 cases globally, updated daily Since 31 December 2019 and exactly as of August 02, 2020, a total number of 17, 841, 669 cases of COVID-19 (in accordance with the applied case definitions and testing strategies in the affected countries) have been reported, including 685, 281 deaths. The infection rate in the temperate regions like US were pandemic than in tropical areas of Africa and likes are very low, the statistical figures show.

At the onset of COVID-19 people died more of the fear and were left to die of the scare of contacting it more than the actual diseases infection. Patients were left without proper healthcare attention. This is why part of the best curative solutions were not to contact the disease at all hence the so called quarantine of suspected infected candidates alongside social distancing, regular washing of hands or sanitizing of hands and wearing of face-nose masks and face shields were principally suggested. Many acronyms were introduced as Avoid touching **M.E.N.** to stop the spread of COVID-19 meaning: **M**outh, **E**yes, **N**ose and follow **W.O.M.E.N.** meaning: **W**ash your hand, **O**bserve social distancing, **M**ove away from crowed places, **E**xercise regularly, **N**o hand shaking. So the maxim is *follow WOMEN and avoid touching MEN to stay safe.*

Particulars and Conspiracies of COVID-19

From 2020 onward, the world is likely not to be the same again with regard to the *misinfo*, that is the confusion and crisis COVID-19 has dragged the world into. This is 9 months now and yet the pandemic is still very much around. So, it has come to stay. Without sounding sarcastically pessimistic, decades to come must feel the effects of COVID-19. The disease may go but what of the long lasting

socio-political *cum* economic aftermath effects. This is a great fact that must be appreciated through positive attitudes and reactions.

There are other grave facts that have to do with the status of COVID-19. COVID-19 is an epidemic as well as a pandemic. As an epidemic, online source defines it “as an outbreak of a disease that affects many individuals at once and spreads rapidly”. Moreover, an outbreak is defined as a sudden, often unexpected escalation in the number of instances of a disease. An outbreak can occur in a particular community, geographical location, or across a multitude of countries. But as a Pandemic, it is a form of epidemic. On the other hand, a pandemic is a type of epidemic. However, when speaking in terms of a pandemic versus epidemic, the former term is used to describe a disease that affects an entire nation or even the world at large. Therefore, the difference between pandemic and epidemic is that while an epidemic may affect just one or a few areas, a pandemic affects the entire world. Pandemic affects the whole humanity. COVID-19 in this sense is a pandemic that is ravaging the whole continent. However, its origin and nature remains a mystery to be resolved.

At the dawn of this pandemic the American president Donald Trump refers to it as *Chinese virus*. It sounded ridiculous but since it started in Wuhan, China it’s likely a Chinese virus by implication. Online Wikipedia confirms that “China's first confirmed Covid-19 case traced back to November 17”, in the year 2019. Besides sentiments, Researches have tried to show that COVID-19 is not a living organism, therefore not a natural organic occurrence but a creation from an inorganic substance thereby a by-product of a lab. However, U.S. intelligence officials have concluded that the virus, which causes Covid-19, was “not manmade or genetically modified.” But they concurred that they are still investigating if the Coronavirus pandemic was sparked by an accident at a lab in China or by contact with animals. Nevertheless,

The coronavirus is actually a family of illnesses such as the common cold, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), and others. COVID-19 is the latest version of this class of illnesses and is said to have originated in China. The virus itself is known as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which ultimately causes the disease known as coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Cooperating in this prime and significant research on COVID-19, Muhammad Adnan, Shereen, Suliman Khan–Abeer Kazm, Nadia Bashir, Rabeea Siddique (2020) explains further thus:

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a highly transmittable and pathogenic viral

infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which emerged in Wuhan, China and spread around the world. Genomic analysis revealed that SARS-CoV-2 is phylogenetically related to severe acute respiratory syndrome-like (SARS-like)

In our study herein, there are already many conspiracy theories about COVID-19. Conspiracy as they say is often a socio-political ideology. Wikipedia has it that “conspiracy theory is an explanation for an event or situation that invokes a conspiracy by sinister and powerful groups, often political in motivation, when other explanations are more probable”. Hence, it is a conviction with certainty that there is an underground or hidden agenda by an influential organization ever responsible for an unexplained occurrence. Conspiracy theories, however, flourish and thrives more in gullible areas and moments of crisis and confusion, especially in our contemporary society, where people must blame significant events as being part of some kind of conspirators' plot. COVID-19 has engineered a lot of facts and falsehood in the last 9months with regard to its origin, nature and *modus operandi*. WHO was accused of late info unto misinformation as she continues to combat vagaries of fierce rumours and furious falsehood about COVID-19. Amidst these conspiracies, Giulia Carbonaro (2020) in his online paper titled *Should I worry about COVID-19 theories?* Explains thus:

The COVID-19 pandemic has sparked a lot of conspiracy theories about the origins of the virus, from the one claiming it escaped from a lab in Wuhan, to Bill Gates having orchestrated the outbreak as part of an obscure plan to control the world, to exposure to 5G cell phone technology causing the infection.

He reiterates that such claims as above are part of the conspiracies “that refuse to be put to rest despite being repeatedly denied by fact checkers, experts, and scientists”. He boldly asserts that, “the World Health Organization has been combating rumours and falsehoods around the coronavirus since the beginning of the crisis, declaring in February that they were not only fighting the pandemic, but also an *infodemic*.” However, it is worrisome when some of the doubts about COVID-19 were raised by presidential figure like President Trump and more doubts cast on WHO as part of the conspiracy. Giulia, C (2020) quoted Daniel Jolley, a lecturer in psychology and researcher in conspiracy theories at Northumbria University in Newcastle, UK as saying that “there are also some personality quirks that make you more susceptible to believe in conspiracies”.

At the White House Press Briefing on Thursday March 4, 2020, *id est*, on 03/04/2020), Mr Trump was asked by a reporter: "Have you seen anything at this

point that gives you a high degree of confidence that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was the origin of this virus?" "Yes, I have. Yes, I have," said the president, without specifying. "And I think the World Health Organization [WHO] should be ashamed of themselves because they're like the public relations agency for China." He even refers to COVID-19 as Chinese virus. President Trump, however, as the virus was sporadically spreading in US addressed the nation from the Oval Office on March 11, 2020 to announce the suspension of travel "from Europe" as a way to protect Americans from the "foreign virus." There is a kind of politics of naming by some political analysts. So there was the politics of the "Chinese virus". Designating the virus "foreign" was not a mere rhetorical flourish. Accordingly the president used the expression "Chinese virus" more than 20times between March 16 and March 30. Online sources made it clear that "the deliberateness of the wording was made clear when a photographer captured the script of his speech wherein Trump had crossed out the word "Corona" and replaced it with "Chinese."

However, the president of US has similarly criticized WHO and withdrawn US funding for the global body. Many analysts however accept that certainly there is much to criticize in China's handling of the initial stages of the Covid-19 outbreak alongside WHO's initial concern and responsibility coupled with mis-info along the line. President Trump's offensive against China is largely about domestic politics and his re-election campaign but it threatens to accentuate a fear of developing Cold War. China's rise and expected rise in their GDP has fuelled these controversies and conspiracies. As an analyst Jonathan Marcus reassures that:

Certainly there is much to criticise in China's handling of the initial stages of the Covid-19 outbreak and it has shamelessly sought to make political capital from the crisis. Even Mr Trump's Democratic opponent - Joe Biden - is doubling down on Beijing. But many analysts ask if this is the right moment to have this fight.

However, Jonathan Marcus observes that:

China's rise has not gone as many in the West hoped. In its own region it is a military superpower - a match for the mighty United States. Its technological capabilities in strategic areas like 5G and artificial intelligence are impressive. And its wider influence - fostered through a

single-minded effort to develop trade ties; financial relationships and so on - means that China is a force to be reckoned with, increasingly able to influence the international rules of the game. Countering Beijing's rising role will be the next US president's central foreign policy challenge, while also trying to find ways to work with China on issues like climate change.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which oversees US spy agencies, an online source in the prevailing circumstances of conspiracies and facts with regard to the sources and nature of COVID-19, credits that the "wide scientific consensus" regarding Covid-19's natural origins. It was the first clear response from American intelligence debunking conspiracy theories - both from the US and China - that the virus is a bio-weapon. It is therefore factual until otherwise proved against all odds, and determined by US office that: Covid-19 "was not manmade or genetically modified". Nevertheless, through online sources, it was submitted that the International Court may be involved as such though, "the [intelligence community] will continue to rigorously examine emerging information and intelligence to determine whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan."

Sustainable Status and Curative Nature of COVID-19

Can COVID-19 be sustained and if so, for how long? are the most pertinent questions to humanity now. According to WHO at the time of this write-up, "to date, there are no specific vaccines or medicines for COVID-19. Treatments are under investigation, and will be tested through clinical trials." Equally, according to WHO's online report, "there is no specific treatment for disease caused by a novel coronavirus. However, many of the symptoms can be treated and therefore treatment ought to be based on the patient's clinical condition". WHO has spoken! But it's not final as a result of the ravaging conspiracies whether it is *not a true "pandemic," but what many now in the alternative media are calling a "plandemic."* This stand that there is *no known cure* is against all known vocal dissensions and applied cure from the globe as well as the much sounded trumpet of victory from Africa and beyond that COVID-19 is curable with herbs and known dosage prescriptions of some curative drugs. But WHO seems to have spoken. Unlike Rome, it is not *Roma locuta, causa finita est*. WHO is not Rome. The game behind the politics of sustainable curative measures started ravaging and is on. President Trump of America was known to have voiced out that a particular drug like HydroxyChloroquine is a positive responsive medication. He was attacked based on many reasons and later waved out as politics of COVID-19. Dr. Stella Immanuel (Gwandiku-Ambe) a bold medical professional from Africa that studied in Nigeria working in Houston Texas, who was actively involved in

handling many COVID-19 patients, thundered alongside other medical professionals, in front of the Supreme Court in Washington DC:

I refuse to be chained by fake science. I have successfully treated over 250 COVID patients with *Hydroxy Chloroquine (HCQ) combined with Zinc and Zitromax*. No deaths. All these double blinded studies sponsored by big Pharma are fake science.

The speech was golden and consoling. It was in line with nature trying to regenerate itself. It fits into the known fact that there is always a way-out in every known predicament. Dr. Stella Immanuel, a Cameroonian, who studied general medicine in University of Calabar, Nigeria, is an Emergency Medicine Specialist in Katy, Texas. She graduated with honors in 1990. Having more than 30 years of diverse experiences, especially in Emergency Medicine, Dr. Stella Immanuel affiliates with many hospitals including Sabine Medical Center, Jackson Parish Hospital, cooperates with many other doctors and specialists in many medical groups including Concord Medical Group Plc, Hodges Emergency Group LLC. She was attacked verbally and nicknamed Trump's favourite COVID-19 Doctor. Many cajoled her that it was mere politics. To worsen it all, Facebook and other social media deleted what they termed the 'harmful' video of Dr. Stella Immanuel claiming hydroxy is a coronavirus 'cure'. Indeed the game was on. Why deleting her Video? Why deleting her Speech that can be verified and action taking otherwise if they were false and misleading? Why not sue her if she is misinforming humanity? Thank God of us had already saved the video as President Trump twitted it to more 84million followers. Dr Stella Challenged the CNN experts on COVID19 for this long deception on the curative of COVID-19.

Having spoken in a conference rally in front of the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday 27/07/2020 and the video was later deleted by Facebook and other related social media, She spoke to Joel Eisenbaum in an interview on Thursday 30/07/2020 which was published online @KPRC 2. Here's what she was asked and her insistent response:

Joel: They think you're dangerous?

Dr Stella's Answer: *Of course they think I'm dangerous because I'm speaking the truth. I said it many times. Number one: Ask Dr. Anthony Fauci, when was the last time he saw a patient?*

When is the last time he put a stethoscope on a patient's [inaudible] and I'm willing to ask him that. Number two: I'm still waiting for him to come and give me a pee sample to find out if whether he's on hydroxychloroquine to treat himself. The studies that we did on hydroxychloroquine were done without Anthony Fauci

Joel: *You're an old hat at this already. I mean you had such an impassioned, on Monday that was pretty incredible how impassioned you were. Did you practice that speech?*

Dr Stella's Answer: *No I'm upset. I'm upset. This is not, I'm not acting up, I'm not putting this up, people are dying. Do you understand? People are dying. Like we just had news that Herman Cain died. He didn't have to die. People saying he should've worn a mask. Yes, he should have if he did haven't hydroxychloroquine. But she should've worn a mask.*

Joel: *You're saying Herman Cain died, he just died. He didn't need to.*

Dr Stella's Answer: *If someone would've given him hydroxychloroquine it's most likely he wouldn't have died. Just like every other people, just like every other person that has died from coronavirus did not have to die.*

Joel: *But, you understand the world health organization, the FDA they don't agree with you?*

Dr Stella's Answer: *Of course they don't agree with me.*

Joel: *They think you're dangerous?*

Dr Stella's Answer: *Of course they think I'm dangerous because I'm speaking the truth. I said it many times. Number one: Ask Dr. Anthony Fauci, when was the last time he saw a patient?*

When is the last time he put a stethoscope on a patient's [inaudible] and I'm willing to ask him that. Number two: I'm still waiting for him to come and give me a pee sample to find out if whether he's on hydroxychloroquine to treat himself. The studies that we did on hydroxychloroquine were done without Anthony Fauci.

This is craziness, I have treated right now, over 400 patients. This is Houston. My patients are going to speak up. You're going to talk to them. You can, you can interview. Put something on the news and call and tell people that have been treated to call. We've treated diabetic patients, we've treated pregnant women, we've treated old people, 87 years old.

This is craziness. I don't know what they are doing and somebody needs to tell me FDA, Anthony Fauci, WHO — why are you... why do you want people to die?

Joel: *They think it has side effects. The efficacy there was that thing in the New England Journal of Medicine that came out today, that says it didn't work.*

Dr Stella's Answer: *Okay.*

Joel: *Yet another study says this doesn't work.*

Dr Stella's Answer: *There are many studies that say it works. There are many studies that say it works. People, I just had something on Facebook, that somebody, 'Dr. Stella, we badly want to see your data.' I say, 'no you don't. You don't want to see my data.'*

Dr. Stella speech and interview woke the whole world up from deep slumber of fear and conspicuous silence of *in-authenticity*. Mention must be made of the fact that most diseases have been found to be regional and as a fact retains regional cure as such. Malaria is a case in question. As Africans, Nigeria to be precise, we are victims and victors of Malaria sickness or pandemic. Malaria may be a pandemic in US and Europe but a common disease in Africa and the *commonest friendly* ailment in Nigeria. Funny enough, Mosquitoes like our blood and we are used to it. The point is COVID-19 and with its symptoms likely that of Malaria and the tropical nature of Africa, the world and WHO would have given a little attention and damn thought to what Africans were saying with regard to its curative response in Africa. Africans were not crying wolf. It was only Africans' voice. What of the Europeans like France shouts and that of US Dr Stella's loud *lacrima*?

Harvey A. Risch, a professor of epidemiology at Yale School of Public Health, was aware of the thousands of patients with COVID-19 dying unnecessarily when fortunately, the situation can be reversed easily and quickly remedied with oral medication of inexpensive hydroxychloroquine if given very early in the course of illness and on May 27, 2020 he published an article in the online American Journal of Epidemiology (AJE) entitled, "Early Outpatient Treatment of Symptomatic, High-Risk COVID-19 Patients that Should be Ramped-Up Immediately as Key to the Pandemic Crisis." And he writes thus,

Physicians who have been using these medications in the face of widespread scepticism have been truly heroic. They have done what the science shows is best for their patients, often at great personal risk. I myself know of two doctors who have saved the lives of hundreds of patients with these medications, but are now fighting state medical boards to save their licenses and reputations. The cases against them are completely without scientific merit.

Unfortunately the medication has become highly politicized on many political platforms and political spheres. Studies by Yale Professor and even Swiss and Brazil Governments on Epidemiology have shown that the combination of Hydroxychloroquine significantly has shown major success when used early in high-risk people for early treatment in the outpatient setting. Confirming this oral medication, Harvey writes:

When this inexpensive oral medication is given very early in the course of illness, before the virus has had time to multiply beyond control, it has shown to be highly effective, especially

when given in combination with the antibiotics azithromycin or doxycycline and the nutritional supplement zinc.

Summarily, Harvey A. Risch, MD, PhD, is professor of epidemiology at Yale School of Public Health vindicated Dr. Stella Immanuel with his publication of 12 Research Studies in Brazil, Switzerland, France, America & Britain on over 320,000 people across the continent. However, the greatest conspiracy of COVID-19 is that it is not curable and many doubt if it is actually preventable. But the fact is now clear: the outcome of the Covid-19 pandemic is no more impossible to predict. At the time of this writing, many doctors and health workers have questioned the pandemic nature of COVID-19 with all the known and common symptoms and curative responses from across the globe. The Symptoms of COVID-19 infected patients are symptoms many of us in Africa, Nigeria, have been accustomed with, like the Malaria-Typhoid symptoms. But we can learn from pandemics in history to determine our best courses. These are our teachers – the Spanish flu, the AIDS pandemic, and more. Prevention is better than cure. Nobody is against it. It remains the best cure to all human ailments, even spiritual and other wise. As already reiterated above, it is a fact that most dreaded diseases that have been termed deadly outbreaks and branded pandemics are actually regional diseases like in the case of Malaria and Typhoid disease of Africa Continent and Pandemic of US and European extracts. In Nigeria for example, the hypes about COVID-19 were something else. People doubt if there was COVID-19 with shocking facts. And if there was, many believe that we are used to the symptoms. Equally some went out to show that it was curable against all odds like malaria and other dread diseases of the Western countries which are home ailments in Nigeria. In Nigeria Punch Newspaper of May 28, 2020 it was reported by the experts on the Presidential Tasks Force on COVID-19, 2020 as saying that “three of numerous claims of COVID-19 herbal cure validated”. Equally, Jim Meehan writing on why *Healthy People Should Not Wear Face Masks* reiterates that:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, public health experts began telling us to follow a number of supports in the scientific literature. Community wearing of masks was one of the more disease mitigation strategies that sounded reasonably scientific, but actually had little or no dangerous recommendations from our confused public health experts.

At last, they, however refers to covid-19 as the pandemic of bad science and public health Misinformation on Community because they were confused and contradictory as such on wearing of masks, social distancing and quarantine and so on. They later accepted that to quarantine a healthy person is a failed experiment as well as the community wearing of masks which remains a bad recommendation

leading to suffocations and *deoxygenization*. As they said, “face masks decrease oxygen, increase carbon dioxide, and alter breathing in ways that increase susceptibility and severity of CoVID-19”. Hence, he made allusion to the fact that:

As medical masks lower oxygen and raise carbon dioxide in the blood, the brain senses the changes and the risk they pose to the maintenance of normal physiology. Thus, the brain goes to work to bring things back in order. To obtain more oxygen and remove more carbon dioxide, the brain tells the lungs to increase the rate (frequency) and depth of breaths. Unfortunately, struggle as they may, your brain and lungs can not fully compensate for the negative effects of the mask. Some may even suffer the **symptoms of carbon dioxide toxicity**.

Furthermore, Jim Meehan (2020) writing on the internet on why *Healthy People Should Not Wear Face Masks* opines thus that since the first days of the pandemic, Fauci, Birx, the CDC, and the WHO have been confusing the public as they flipped, flopped, and contradicted each other on the community wearing of medical masks. We should expect more than confusing, contradictory, un-evidenced advice from our public health experts.

A renowned double Professor of Biochemistry and Toxicology, Emeka Ezeonu in the midst of these dissenting voices and brouhaha, after given lengthy scholarly attention on COVID-19, with particular reference to Dr. Stella Immanuel’s comment on the hidden and much possible cure, reassures us in his pronounced take on the whole thing thus:

I believe there is sufficient empirical data to show that hydroxychloroquin is relevant for either protection or treatment of COVID-19 at the early stage of infection as it inhibits the cytokine storm but once that stage is overcome its use becomes unreliable. I believe that there are some powerful Pharma companies that are fighting the use of Chloroquine because it impedes their business interest. Chloroquine was a wonder drug discovered during the Second World War and was a frontline drug for malaria for almost six decades until Artemisinin was discovered. The WHO quickly put away a very cheap and affordable chloroquine for a far more costly Artemisinin

based drugs. Till today there people who never recover from boost of malaria except they take chloroquine. Sure chloroquine is toxic and most drugs are anyway, but weighed on a scale of balance its benefits are far higher. For me the simple solution is to let chloroquine be provided, it is contraindicated for susceptible clinical cases and age groups.

Ethico-Epistemic Implications of COVID-19

COVID-19 has ethical relevance and epistemological repercussions solely because its effects border on human values and human life is in general. Iroegbu, P. (1994, 130), in his enwisdomization theory refers to this ethico-epistemic implications as the epistemologization of technology and ethicization of technology. In line with Iroegbu's idea, one cannot but talk of enwisdomization of scientific medication. These facts make one to give COVID-19 the needed attention. It is clear now that there is Babel of voices with regard to COVID-19. These dissident voices are part of the conspiracies that kept the world in darkness of error and in confusion and crisis. According to Francis Bacon, knowledge is power. This knowledge, of course, has universal application. The world must be open to such significant relevance in matters like pandemic. Nature has a way of dealing with its kind. *Nkụ dī na mba na-eghere mba nri*. African herbs like *dogoyaro* cures malaria. What of the *Ajụ Mbaise concoction*? And as well, what of the *akwụkwọ abụna akwụkwọ* potion? We have *quinine* trees in our all-year green vegetation. Africans had, in the past months, in various degrees offered solution to the COVID-19 issue but none seems to be interested. WHO never cared to lent their ear probably because it's from African and not from Bill & Melina Gates Foundation. Adebayo Folorunsho-Francis reported online thus:

Pharmacists under the aegis of Hospital & Community Pharmacies have expressed support for coronavirus cure offered by a professor of pharmacognosy at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The former chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission, Prof. Maurice Iwu, (President of Bio-Resources of Nigeria,) announced to the nation that he and his team had been working on a cure for the virus since 2015. Speaking with *PUNCH HealthWise* in two separate interviews; the pharmacists urged the authorities and the Nigerian public to give the findings a chance.

Was he giving any chance? Why? Ekonde, Daniel (2020), writes about the silence on the African effort in dealing with COVID-19 thus:

With over 46,000 confirmed infections for the coronavirus and 1,800 deaths, according to the WHO, African countries are the least hit in the global pandemic so far relative to a 1.2 billion population...The highest profile example so far has been Madagascar with its herbal tonic *COVID-Organics*, which is being championed strongly by island state's president Andry Rajoelina. The remedy, which contains the *Artemisia annua* (Sweet wormwood) plant often used to treat malaria is being ordered by Tanzania, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Congo-Brazzaville. But WHO's Africa region has been cautious on promoting its use even while maintaining it "supports scientifically-proven traditional medicine." "Medicinal plants such as *Artemisia annua* are being considered as possible treatments for Covid-19 and should be tested for efficacy and adverse side effects," it said in a statement.

In Cameroon, a Catholic Church archbishop says he has discovered a remedy for the virus based on his 30 years of research into herbal medicine. Archbishop Samuel Kleda claims have attracted plenty of attention in the central African country as he's been offering the "Essential Oils" remedy for free. It has prompted Cameroon's government to dispatch a team to study the treatment. But while the Cameroon government has affirmed its interest in traditional medicine, the country has ordered chloroquine, already commonly used locally as an anti-malaria drug, and azithromycin (an anti-biotic) to treat coronavirus infections.

This leads us to the other side of politics of COVID-19. Ignorance they said is a disease and vampire but knowledge is power. Epistemologically, the status, nomenclature, source and *modus operandum* and *modus vivendum* of COVID-19 is with us. An Igbo adage says *akpọọ ọya afa ọnaaa! That once you are able to name a sickness, it goes*. The question of possibility, depth and limitations of what one knows penetrates into scientific and technological as well as contemporary confusion with regard to human existence and interaction. Life as we know is larger than logic. We are often at the mercy of science than the natural endowment

and what nature freely offers us. Every problem contains the seed of its solution an adage offers. No one expects the WHO to give assent to some already curative measures they embedded in social distancing and *almighty vaccine*. But we must give credence to peoples experience and practice like that of Dr. Stella Immanuel and other traditional herbalists of African States.

Morally, COVID-19 has to be approached from the perspective that it has do with life which is a primary value. The primacy of life means that life's value is more important than any other value. Without life no other thing is feasible and possible. It is life first. It transcends all other moral principles and also implies that all human life is equal and of equal value. Hence, the culture of life is the most enduring of all cultures. Culture of life is against any culture of death inherent in our society today. Human life therefore is the source of every fundamental human rights. This ardent belief in the primacy of life has been ingrained in our culture for centuries. Primacy of Life is not just a religious belief but rather a principle based on ethico- moral value that has guided the human society and helped in shaping our environment over the centuries past.

The issue of the value of human life in our contemporary society amidst the obscure idea of *posthuman* era leaves every well meaning individual worried on the fate of human beings. There are hordes of evidences arising from man's inhumanity to mankind that the worth of human life has been radically neglected, reduced, ignored, or replaced by other non-human values. This is mere confusion and near crisis of humanity. However, no matter how contemporary scientifico-technological and many cultures of death like deadly pestilences challenge the traditional values of life, the ancient view on the primacy of life is insurmountable. In this regard, therefore, however, in handling cases of COVID-19 amidst fears of it and pains and hopelessness of the suffering patients, attention must be drawn towards true and proper care, genuine human interaction and basic human hygiene. COVID-19 places such values before us again.

Consequences, Perspectives and Conclusions on COVID-19

With the outbreak of covid-19 pandemic the world cannot be the same as A result of its consequence. COVID-19 made people all over the world to become more aware of the best traditional hygiene practises during pandemic from careful hand-washing to social distancing. Researches were possible as the pandemic was the primary concern of humanity. Many Nations across the world declared mandatory stay-at-home measures, closing schools, businesses, places of religious worship and public places.

COVID-19 has come but the effects will remain with us. It has changed the world. The grandeur of complexity of COVID-19 outbreak and the conspiracy it generated is unimaginable. It is better described as conspiracy of lies. It includes a sheer wickedness, a show of man's inhumanity to mankind. We must therefore affirm that freedom to proper life and healthy living is very essential to the nature

of man as a rational being created in the image and likeness of God, (cf. Gen.1:26ff). Healthcare as a form of medication is one of the fundamental options of life. By and large, healthcare delivery and welfare facilities become the fundamental duty of the Government to her citizens. Free and or bargained medicare via proper healthcare programs are basic necessities.

However, the whole conspicuous silence and tacit withholding of information on the truth of the curative medication and the possible preventive drugs of COVID-19 was misleading. It was a disingenuous act amidst the hype of *no cure yet* because there is neither vaccine nor drug for cure, thereby leaving the entire humanity at the mercy of mere death. The ambiguous and deceptive withholding of info on the possible curative drugs by WHO and other experts in medicine is cruelly vicious and odiously pernicious when they know in actual fact there was a known simple possible remedy. This is beyond mere conspiracy. This is conspiracy and wickedness as well as devilish. Whatever may be the reason for which this crime against humanity was hatched, orchestrated and displayed amidst tolls of death of human beings cannot be rationalized. This form of conspiracy that neglects the primacy of human life is a display of animality superseding our humanity and rationality. This form of diehard conspiracy in this 21st century questions internally and greatly the place and role of conscience, place of reason and the natural and informed desire for religious acts in man. It equally doubts the much lauded MDGs and SDGs, WHO and idea of one world order and globalism. The experience of COVID-19 has dragged the contemporary and 21st Century humanity back into the oblivion of the theory: state of nature. The state of nature is a situation without order or any form of rule, that is, a system of government. It was employed to describe humanity's purported natural condition before civil organisation and thereby justify political authority. It was based more on the social contract theories of Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), and then expanded by John Locke (1632-1704) and Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778). In such horrific state of nature, with war of all against all life is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short" (*Leviathan*, chap. 13). Man, therefore, becomes wolf unto man. That is, man is to wolf, *homo homini lupus*. Today many critical questions have been raised on the many proposals of the EU and some organisations like Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Ford Foundation, etcetera with regard to one world order and ID2020 as well as the world population projection and hype madness.

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