

Yulin Chen

My Pandemic: What I've Learned So Far

With the emergence of COVID-19, some people were overly frightened, some were overly calm, and few were able to face the epidemic properly. Like some of my friends, they were calm, without a hint of panic. They laughed and drank wine, thinking that alcohol would fight the virus. But they don't wear masks, they don't like the hassle of wearing them. This confused me a lot. Until now, they still do not panic. As if they are invulnerable to all viruses. But more people panicked so much that they forwarded articles and information related to the epidemic to the group chat as soon as they saw it. Although the intention is good and it is useful to read more information. But the fact that they were able to dump a few links late at night made me feel a little too panicked.

I think the epidemic is a big social lesson; a different kind of exam; and a silent statement about how powerful the United States is today, but also about all the ways to learn from the epidemic and all the events it has caused about how to behave in the world.

First, don't spread rumors, don't believe rumors, and have a dialectical spirit that doesn't blindly trust the opinions of others. Rumors seem to have no cost, yet they can cause social panic and have secondary consequences because they actually exploit people's fear of disaster and thirst for information. I remember the massive opposition to vaccination against the new crown last year, believing that the virus was nothing more than an epidemic. Of course the downfall of these people who listened to the rumors without masks was infection with COVID-19. This epidemic has taught me that the Internet is not a place outside the law, and that one should be careful with the power of communication in one's hands, be responsible for one's own words, and adhere to the moral and legal bottom line.

Second, when I was still in the US in January 2020, my friend in Wuhan messaged me asking if I was coming back to China for the summer. I just told him to be safe, and if I can return to China I will definitely come back to China to drink with you. And since then I have often seen videos of him playing guitar at home and cats falling asleep in his arms, only to receive a message shortly after that that he passed away due to COVID-19. Many people are afraid of death because they feel pain at the thought of losing all the good things that life can give them. For my friend, instead of being full of regrets, it is better to live in the present, and instead of worrying about losing, it is better to cherish what you have.

It also makes me wonder that the hero is who does not want to be a hero. Li Yuanliang, a Chinese doctor, is the first doctor to warn people to focus on the new virus. He used his sacrifice to make more doctors aware of this new virus. Later I realized that there are never heroes in this world, but more ordinary people who stand up for themselves. Just like many people, while admiring the lives of others, they are consuming themselves too much and are completely unaware of what they really look like. But after this incident, when life is truly at stake, only then do we truly understand the meaning of life and teach us to cherish it.

A grain of dust on the history, falling on the head of an individual, is a unbeatable mountain. And so, a fresh and uncounted life is ultimately just a number to be counted. This epidemic has taught us now to appreciate all things more in the present moment. Because we have learned the hard way that we don't know which comes first, tomorrow or the accident. As well as developing a critical awareness and refusing to spread rumors.