The Impact of COVID-19 on Human Society From the Perspective of Philosophy

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The COVID-19 and the epidemic situation have had a huge impact on all fields of society which has caused social crisis of different degrees. The essay makes philosophical reflection on the relationship between human and the nature, the society as well as the world during the epidemic period in order to provide new methods and concepts for understanding and coping with these crises.

Keywords: impact, COVID-19, human society, philosophy

Introduction

The epidemic situation has caused social crisis of different degrees. Philosophers are left in the occurrence of this event and the turning point of history. They should also reflect on their own responsibilities and the significance of philosophy itself. On the one hand, philosophy must directly face and intervene in complex real life and social events; on the other hand, in the face of the COVID-19 and other global social and natural crises that have never appeared before, philosophy should also open its vision in the holistic way while making use of traditional ideological resources in order to provide new methods and concepts for understanding and coping with these crises.

Philosophy should learn from science, but at the same time, science should also learn from philosophy, taking into account the broader social and ethical implications of diseases. Scientists can talk about viruses, while philosophers can discuss the value of the life world and the overall context. The COVID-19 and the way to deal with it are a very complex phenomenon. The epidemic situation is not only a scientific, medical, or economic and sociological problem, but the invasion of the virus has also changed the way of our life in the world.

The problem here is that the biological diseases invade the human life world. Therefore, it is necessary to make philosophical reflection on the crisis caused by the COVID-19 and the epidemic situation during the epidemic period.

Reflection on the Relationship Between Human and the Nature

The earth is a home of life and an ecological home. In this big home, every life has its own right to survive. In this ecosystem, each life has its own irreplaceable role. Virus can also be understood as a kind of “life”. As for the significance of its existence, no one can know. This is the law of nature. When human beings fight against viruses, except smallpox, almost all of them are defeated miserably. It can be said that human beings have never “conquered” other viruses except smallpox.
This massive epidemic may be related to the destruction of the natural environment, so we should reflect on the relationship between man and the nature. Human beings and the nature share the same earth so we should have moral responsibility and obligation to protect the natural environment and cherish wild animals and plants. However, for the sake of rapid economic growth and self greed, human beings constantly destroy the ecological balance of nature. The nature is a resource pool for human beings to continuously develop and utilize, an inanimate object that can be dressed and carved at will. Human beings should use their wisdom and ability to protect everything in nature and live in harmony with nature. This is the moral requirement of nature, the principle requirement of environmental justice, and the responsibility and obligation of human beings. In fact, human beings come from nature, and human beings are also a part of nature. In the face of nature, any nation, ethnic group and race should respect and love nature. When human beings ask for materials and resources from nature, they should respect nature and obey the environmental justice law of nature and society. It is an embodiment of human wisdom.

Don’t underestimate the “revenge” of nature. It’s not just the outbreak of epidemics, floods, earthquakes, and volcanoes, because the roar of nature never stops. Therefore, through this epidemic, human beings should think more about how to live in harmony with nature. From a philosophical point of view, such an epidemic is definitely not the last one. If we do not respect the objective laws of nature and give our subjective initiative into full play, there will be a war between human beings and viruses, and it is likely to fight again and again.

Reflection on the Relationship Between Human and the Society

There are conflicts between human and the society, but they should be shared harmoniously. The response to the epidemic requires cooperation between human and the society, not only the joint life of people, but also the sharing of common experience.

Virus is cunning and changeable, and can spread rapidly. However, the emergency response of scientists and pathologists seems to be always slow, which leads to people’s suspicion of science in some countries and regions. In fact, in the face of several major plagues in the history of the world, professional medical knowledge is often helpless. A large area of epidemic pathogens is related to the overall ecological and natural environment changes, which requires a wider coverage, covering many dimensions of the discipline to deal with. Besides natural science, it also needs the participation of humanities and social sciences to form a grand and comprehensive life science and life politics.

The carriers of the COVID-19 can be asymptomatic infection, or appear symptoms after a period of virus incubation period, often confused with the symptoms of other respiratory diseases, and its toxicity can also mutate to adapt to the external living environment. This uncertainty of the virus leads to people’s fear and anxiety everywhere during the serious epidemic situation, which spreads rapidly. If the psychological expectations and basic demands can be responded and satisfied, the panic psychology of social ideology will disappear, and the domino transformation from natural disaster to social psychological epidemic will not appear.

At the same time, the epidemic has exposed vulnerable and vulnerable people to dangerous environment, which tells us that the social system that cares for the elderly needs to be fundamentally changed. Although the virus is blind and does not know who is infected, it is certain that some disadvantaged groups are affected by high proportion and there are a large number of serious cases and deaths. The middle class can be better isolated because of their separate living environment. The virus has exposed the deep class structure in the
society. From this point of view, the COVID-19 calls for a universal ethical response, such as providing comfortable housing, clean air, pure drinking water, safe transportation system, etc.

**Reflection on the Relationship Between Human and the World**

The earth, like Noah’s ark, is a gift to us. In the eyes of the COVID-19, there is no boundary between national boundaries and cultural identities. Viruses break through the boundaries between species, races, and countries, so that everyone is equal in the face of disasters and plagues that threaten the safety of human health. In the face of a pandemic, we need international and multidisciplinary forces to meet the challenges on behalf of all mankind. Disease has historically been used as a form of war. Therefore, we need to develop an international convention, so that all human society can agree to work together to eliminate the virus. Human beings live on this planet, co-exist and share the same destiny. The global common body should be regarded as the community of all human health. No matter what contradiction we have, there is only one earth. We must live together in order to survive, prosper, and develop.

At the same time, the measures such as isolation, closure, and keeping social distance during the epidemic period have changed people’s feelings and experiences of time and space. One of the fundamental tendencies of human survival in the world is to be with others and have contact, and then shorten the distance and get rid of strangeness. Isolation is the opposite trend. Being together and intimacy that we usually get used to are precious in this state of absence. But from another point of view, the pace of modern life that we get used to is slowed down, the mobility is reduced, and the living space is reduced, which force us to adapt to the condensed space-time and its corresponding lifestyle, and pay attention to the things that are ignored at ordinary times. The Internet can let us “know the world without going out of the house”. Through social media, we can keep social activities related to others in virtual space. Only after experiencing this kind of special space-time experience can we understand that the normal concept of space-time is not taken for granted. Some physical distances can be overcome by virtual means, while others related to space and materialized on-the-spot experience cannot be completely replaced.

**Conclusion**

As a global public health event, the epidemic has had a huge impact in all fields of society, which will certainly become a node in dividing the world history since World War II. This crisis allows us to examine the social and natural environment in which we live in a new and unfamiliar perspective. May human beings wake up again from the new epidemic situation, maintain the awe of all life in the world and the red city of science, and let the seeds of great love blossom out the flowers of harmony and common prosperity.

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