

Dear Coronavirus,

I'm not even sure if I should address you as 'Dear'. As I write this, I'm pretty sure you must be claiming the lives of a lot more people. It was not enough for you that you have claimed the lives of many across the world. It didn't matter to you that the countries you travelled to were unwilling hosts; it even reached the point that they all decided to stay at home to avoid greeting you. The tears of many families and friends over the loss of their loved ones weren't enough to melt your heart and leave.

You came as an invisible guest. We weren't aware of the seriousness of your arrival. We thought you would stay in Wuhan for a while and leave, so our responses weren't as critical as they should have been. In the UK especially, we weren't aware of the danger that you brought; we crossed the road blindfolded. When you came, we thought we will let you stay, and we will carry on better with herd immunity. We didn't close our borders and we weren't aware of the possible dangers that you could bring to our community, so when the border force checked your visa and passport, they didn't seem to go through the items you brought in and decided not to confiscate anything you had to offer.

You had other plans. You made quantum jumps. You increased your presence exponentially. You decided to extend your visit; you left the duration of your visit on your visa card as 'Indefinite, leave to remain'.

Quickly, we began to understand you better. You are a tiny, microscopic virus with a fancy name, you jump from one to another when they do simple things as sneeze or cough, you even thrive on surfaces for hours and race, color, gender, age, countries, borders – nothing matters to you. We had to change ourselves quickly. So we closed our borders, we locked ourselves in our houses, we spray cleaned surfaces, we washed our hands like there is no tomorrow, we sneezed and coughed into tissues, we ran out of hand sanitizers, we raided shops for toilet paper, we used face masks, we stayed distant socially, we stopped visiting shops and parks and pubs and cinema – we prioritized your departure more than anything else.

We are used to finding silver lining even in the darkest of clouds. With your arrival, our air is cleaner since the amount of CO₂ has reduced by 40% because there are less cars travelling on the road. Your arrival has caused rivers, previously infused with chemicals, and the ocean's unclean aspects to clear. As a result, they are now thriving with fish and other aquatic species. The sound of rainfall is now wonderful, and animals have found their lost freedom again.

We now prioritize important work over the others. We have started new hobbies and have acquired new skills. We have turned over new leaves. We are grateful for our NHS staff, our doctors and care workers who worked immensely hard. You inflicted disease and death on us, and we fought back valiantly -now you must bow to our human spirit in reverence and leave in shame.

If that was not enough, let me give you a final trauma. We now have expedited our efforts to create a killer vaccine that will rip you into pieces. Your time is ticking. Pack your bags and off you go! And remember, never come back again!

With hate,

A furious member of our community