



Corona from Crown

SAAHAS RAMAUL

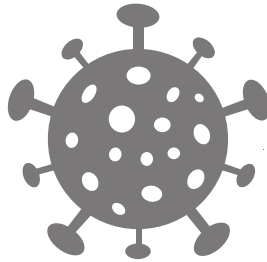
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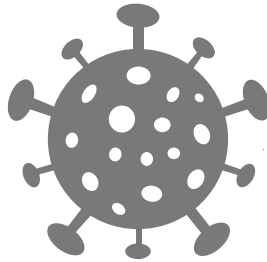
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The Start

The most ludicrously anecdotal theories about the virus (official name Covid-19, previously known as “2019 Novel Coronavirus”) spreading from one host body to the other; coronaviruses are found in bats, a bat apparently died, and a snake took that bat as a repast served on the platter for him and ate the bat, some Keralite students went to China for their studies because in India eating snakes is not popular, they eventually ate that snake as a delicacy and then got infected by coronavirus, when the Chinese government declared that there is this new kind of virus which is extremely deadly, the students came back to India, whilst carrying the virus into their bodies and further the virus proliferated everywhere in India. Howsoever, the virus spread, and it has not been a joke ever since.

Honorable President of The United States of America, Donald Trump has perpetuated dozens of conspiracy

theories, well, because he has got a whole lot of them in his pocket, starting from Obamagate to the genuineness of the birth certificate of the former President of the United States of America, Barack Obama. But, the most incongruously outlandish theory has been about the origin of the virus, according to Mister President, the virus has “escaped” from the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China. He has set intelligence operatives of America to invest the matter as much to the core of it. Mister President adds, “They talk about a certain kind of bat, but that bat wasn’t in that area if you can believe this. That bat wasn’t sold at that wet zone. That bat is 40 miles away.” If it were to be the case, I fail to understand to, “Why would China let the virus affect China?”

Let us look at some non-fabricated facts, China’s service production has contracted, stock market is crashing, immovable asset investment crashed by 24.5%, down from 5.4% growth, retail sales were smashed by 20.5%, Gross Domestic Product contracted by 13% in between the tenure of January to February.

Now talking about the spread of the virus, and as the book actually talks about, “Factors responsible for the distribution of Viruses and Coronavirus”, we will start with some of the most common viruses and later we will talk about the Virus of the 21st Century. Many viruses are capable of spreading from one host body to the other by various means. They demonstrate different transmission patterns in different humans along with the ability to cause damage to the host body according, to the immunity system of the particular individual. I have further emphasized on various environmental factors like climate, humidity, temperature, airflow, the transmission pattern, world economy, etc. It’s not just about the climate or the air flow that causes the transmission of the diseases but lack of clean hygienic water,

lack of proper drainage system, dirty public lavatories, destitute living conditions, and unprocessed food, these all are known causes for the spread of virus-related diarrheal diseases. These factors are one of the utmost causes of deaths in India.

According to 2017 figures, over two lakh children below the age of five die, because of either of the two diseases i.e. pneumonia or diarrhea. In a country like India with the population reaching at mammoth levels, with uneven distribution of the population, the diseases create more of a tumultuous situation. Several places like in some corners of Mumbai in India, a lot of diseases spread due to people living in slums and using common public lavatories. This accounts to unclean, damp atmosphere which eventually leads to providing a conducive atmosphere for the viruses to breed.

What is a Virus?

Humans are finding ways and are pretty successful when it comes to dealing with natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions as there are certain forecasting techniques which come in play, but natural disasters like viruses are so unknown and have a recrudescence phase that makes it arduous for scientists to comprehend the nature of the outbreak.

The simplest viruses contain R.N.A or D.N.A structure to encode four proteins and the most complex can encode up to 100–200 proteins. The study of viruses has proven to be influential to construe the model systems for the study of basic aspects of biology. Viruses can infect all kinds of life forms from animals and plants to microorganisms, including bacteria and archaea. Viruses play a major role in the evolution of the ecosystem by horizontal gene transfer which means that the gene transfer between unicellular and/or multicellular organisms moves horizontally in the ladder

unlike the other method which is the vertical transmission of the genes. The vertical transmission of genes is in the case of animals and mammals through sexual reproduction. Which means that the transmission of D.N.A is from the parents to the offspring. Horizontal gene transfer increases genetic diversity for multicellular and unicellular organisms. Viruses still remain the largest natural reservoir of unexplored genetic diversity on the planet earth.

The transmission of the viruses depends upon the disease-bearing which are known as vectors. For example, in plants the viruses travel from plants to plants by insects which jade their appetite on plant sap, in humans they travel with the aid of blood sucking insects. The moment the virus enters a human body it frisks for cells to make it as its hosts, the variety of host cells that the virus can infect is known as host range.

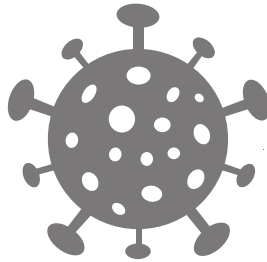
There is no cure for viruses but vaccination can prevent the spreading of the former. Several viruses like Rabies virus may take days, weeks, months or even years to show its first symptoms into the host body. This period of the virus in which it is dormant is known as the incubation period and before entering a cell these viruses are known as virions. During the viron phase they are almost one-hundredth of the size of bacterium, they further consist of following characteristics:

- A genetic material-based structure,
- A protein shell, which protects its genetic material.

The main characteristic which makes a virus vulnerable to the human body is, not having a ribosome of its own. That axiomatically makes it dependent on its host, this further expedites them to be the only microorganisms that cannot reproduce without a host cell. A metaphor which may be used for viruses is, “parasite”. When a virus comes in contact with its host cell, it injects its genetic material

(R.N.A or D.N.A), into the host. The host cell further gets infected and relinquishes its functions to the virus.

The fact still remains that, viruses cannot be found in fossils making them untraceable. According to my theory, viruses are as old as humans, just like humans were single-celled organisms and then we became multicellular complex organisms over a course of 600 million years, viruses also must have been living during that time somewhere in the atmosphere. This filters a tenacious question in the minds of we humans to, “what can we do to save mankind?”. There are over 200 viruses known to infect humans, and the first ever to be discovered was back in 1901, which is known as yellow fever virus. Scientists say that four new species are being discovered every day. Now this discovery depends on a lot of factors, like temperature and the incubation period of the virus. The patterns of virus thriving into the host body follows a simple process (not as simple as I write), of reproducing offspring and at the hilt those offspring commandeering over new host cells. Viruses spread from person to person by various means like sexual contact, mother to child during pregnancy, touch, insects carrying them from one person to the other, saliva, cough, blood. Some species like corona can stick onto an object for some time, that period is the active phase of the virus, if so a person touches that object (the object is known as fomite) that virus may travel all the way from hands to the respiratory tract, or may come in contact with the person’s eyes. But, somehow not all viruses are deadly or harmful, there are some friendly viruses as well, they are not dangerous or infectious to the body. Nevertheless, after perusing the former, the reader must be obstreperously contumacious on believing the latter. Just like friendly bacteria protect us against other dangerous bacteria and help us in the digestion process, these viruses also fight against other lethal viruses.



Why Africa and Asia?

If we look at the history of viruses, and the nature of the places from where they have been emerging as a deadly disaster, I may say that Africa and Asia have been the homes of these viruses. I can garner the example of Covid-19 in China, Ebola in Africa, 2.11 million people in India suffering from AIDS, Marburg Virus in certain countries of Africa like Uganda, Japanese encephalitis virus in South-East Asia, Lassa fever virus in Africa and the list goes on, these viruses have been declared as the most deadliest viruses of the 21st century.

Overpopulation is the utmost point which comes into the threshold, as Asia comprises 30% of the world's land with 60% of the world's population in it and further amounting to almost 4.4 billion people. The population growth is exponential in the 21st century era. This leads to people having less or negligible hand over resources, making an unstable demand to supply curve. Further the matters are worsened

more in developing countries of Asia and Africa as compared to any other continent, because developing countries have factories which ignore the emission of air, water and land pollutants. So now that the population is tightly jammed and packed, the animals like bats, snakes and other rodents which carry a number of viruses in themselves have no other choice rather than getting in contact with the human population in cities and towns.

In both the continents, a large amount of the common middle-class masses depends on farming, and farming is not a cherry-picking job, due to the less developed technology in the agrarian sector, it makes farmers to come more and more in contact with animals like pigs and pigs do carry viruses and bacteria like *Yersinia* which causes Yersiniosis. That causes an outbreak. People living in villages have no idea about how are they falling ill, they try to treat their illness by using traditional methods. In India, till date people use voodoo to treat chickenpox and measles. Then there is bushmeat hunting, and illegal trafficking of animals in the African continent. I was shocked when a friend of mine went to Africa for a vacation, he happened to see crocodile skin wallets, shoes and belts sold at dirt cheap price in some of the remote villages of Africa. People in rural areas make animals skin shields (an integral part of African culture) and other equipment for their daily hunt. These animals are skinned and treated in dirty, humid, low oxygen chambers. It is literally unbearable to stand in those chambers for more than five minutes. In China, people use body parts of some endangered and rare animals to treat erectile dysfunction, low testosterone, epilepsy and arthritis nonetheless, no scientific claim supports these medicines.

Animals have better immunity levels as compared to humans because they have evolved in thousands of years,

and of course, they live in wild so they are already exposed to thousands of pathogens, their immunity levels also come with their genes from their parent animals. We humans frequently wash our hands, take bath, eat clean healthy and cooked food, that keeps pathogens away from our surrounding at all times. But if we look at a dog, for that matter, he doesn't take baths, eats rotten food available on the streets or frisks dustbins, even if there are viruses in the bins, the immunity levels of the street dogs are already high and they continue to develop. My father always used to tell me, "People living in villages have better immunity than all of us, because we rely on medicines and chemicals, and people in villages work in farms, get their hands soiled and rely on nature."

So, the kludge to all the problems is afforestation and less human contact with the animals, the second solution is a constant monitor over some special areas of the world. Sanitation and hygiene play a major role in the upkeep of humans. In certain parts of Asia, still there are countries where people do not have toilets, so they go out in public, attracting lots of bacteria and viruses, or even if they do have toilets, they are public toilets with poor water supply, causing more problems.

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