

III.) Welcome To The End Of The Rainbow

COVID-19

We, Caroline and I, had arrived in Los Angeles and nothing was as it should have been. Of course, the virus, everything became questionable now.

"Hello Barbara, nice to see you again. Only the circumstances are not the best."

"No, really not the best circumstances, Peter. We have to decide in which way we want to proceed."

"Well, CBS has given you the responsibility for the show and right from the beginning we're in deep trouble. Let's look forward to a good cooperation, Barbara! Problems bind together, they say - the 26th, will we hold on to this starting date for the show?"

"That's the question. But also, what shall we do now? We could start with the preparations, you could practice in the theater, but of course without an audience. Should we hold on to the 26th, then most probably also without an audience. Would this be okay for you?"

"What I definitively cannot do at the moment is, to perform live. Therefore, it would be better than nothing. Sure, I can make videos, but maybe it would be an interesting start, a reflection on the present circumstances, a reflection on this moment, to start with a live show without an audience?"

"I like this attitude, Peter. Let the show begin, let us reflect our time and this situation with a first special live show without an audience. Your main strength was always, to react spontaneously on suddenly upcoming circumstances."

"Tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow at 2 pm, The Orpheum Theater."

The Orpheum Theater

There are places, every word about would be meaningless, the Orpheum was one of it. Whom you should name, Sally Rand maybe? No talking about the 20s and 30s now, this so golden time, as well as the 40s and 50s, still enough glamour. A downfall, not the Orpheum as such, but the Broadway L.A., the whole downtown in L.A. fall apart. Rock bottom in the 70s, 80s, still in the 90s. Porn movie theaters, well till today porn movies were an important part of Los Angeles, but at this time Los Angeles as such, as well as many other large American cities, experienced a very bad time. Crime rates very high, drugs, prostitution - Downtown L.A. was a rotten place at this time.

A black car froze at the side of the road, a huge sedan, a bad looking man in a black suit jumped out and help a platinum blond bombshell out of the car. I leant at the wall, in my cheap ragged suit, one of his shoes made of calf leather in Italy was more costly than my whole closet, but I enjoyed what the blondie offered me - it was one of this very, very tight and thin dresses she wore. The guy realized what she did and what I saw, he looked at her, then at me, his hand slipped into his jacket - I came loose from the wall and stepped towards him. Of course, I was very cautious about, that he saw my hands all the time - I addressed him.

"Hey, Big Mike. No worry, I'm no gang member. And well, I never will be one of this happy guys even touching such a wonderful woman, but I have to be very grateful for what she bestowed me."

"Stop this chattering! With her I will have I very sever talk later - piss off asshole!"

Two black dressed guys had joined us. Well, King Kong not would touch them.

"My name is not important for you, I'm a private dick."

He smiled pained and shook his head in a compassionate way, then he gave his two buddies a hinted sign.

"No wait, it's really interesting what I have to say. The show in the Orpheum can wait a moment. Do remember Betsy? I don't think so, she was one of your minor sex toys before her, she with the

nice dyed pubic hair."

He turned around and gave his two buddies more than a sign.

"Take this asshole to the desert and kill him, slowly!"

"They will not do it, because your dead!"

Now he spun around very fast, his hand grabbed his gun under his jacket, and he hold it into my face.

"Listen asshole, you're dead! You wanna kill me?"

With these words his knee crashed into my balls and I nearly lost my conscious, but still I heard the very soft, nearly childish voice saying, while lying on the sidewalk, groaning:

"Not he will do it, I. Betsy was my mother, and you're my father. It was fifteen years ago that you raped her. She was too much catholic, an abortion was no option for her. But she was not catholic enough not to commit suicide four years later. The last ten years were very funny for me, from one foster family to the other, from one attentive daddy to the next, but it was a very good school of life for me - goodbye daddy!"

I could not count how many rounds, neither I could raise my head, the full magazine of course - fucking pain! But I could hear the turmoil and heard some fragments of speech like: Fuck, she has killed Big Mike! Well, she had trained a lot on the shooting-range, from this distance Big Mike had no chance - a bulletproof vest? She had trained to fire at the head, she was one hundred percent deadly!

Well, there was a time, the legend of the old Los Angeles, Downtown and Hollywood - hypocritical and phony in every way. The 80s and 90s, a time filled with crime and violence. Porn and drugs and decayed facades, also hypocritical and phony, or much more a reality as the good old time? And today?

Well, walk around at Broadway and have look? See the Old Downtown, the bygone past and the predicted future - a time in abeyance? Yes, much has changed in the last decades, but still the street looked saddening, banal in a way. The Orpheum Theater, and all the others at Broadway, step inside, be impressed about the impressions, and then have a walk a few blocks and look at this sea of tents - Los Angeles, a very deadly city. At least if you tried to see the real city, not the facades, not the old - hypocritical - stories, not the shit for the tourists. But not only today, not only in the 70s and 80s, at every time this was a deadly city. And yet, a very good illustration of the American Dream - inside The Orpheum, the auditorium, or outside, only looking at the beautiful facade.

Today Old Downtown and the Broadway were a place of sadness, jammed between the aseptic Downtown with its boring glass towers and the brutal reality of Skid Row. It was your decision what your way would be. Sit down and enjoy the Angels Flight - a few seconds later everything is over, also a nice metaphor!

I stood on the stage, looked at the impressing auditorium, heard the organ. I was alone on the stage, Caroline and Barbara alone in the auditorium.

"What shall we do? The whole city is more or less dead, does it makes sense to continue?"

"What we could do, and it would be also okay for CBS, is, that we would continue working with a very small team."

"I think it would be no problem for Peter, Barbara. If it were technically possible?"

"It would be. Okay, the quality would be maybe not the best, but I think that would be no problem. The audience would like it and understand it, better as nothing?"

"Then we continue? Caroline? Barbara?"

"I would like it, Barbara?"

"I would like it too, and CBS would give us many opportunities. We would work together with a very small technical team - did you thought that you first TV show will become such a crazy thing, Peter?"

"No, never. So, I will continue with my preparations. When we will start with first recordings?"

"Today is Wednesday. Tomorrow I will put an technical team together - Friday."

"Next week at Thursday would be the first show - will this be enough time?"

"Yes, they are professionals. And as said, it's not intended that everything will be in high definition or so, we have every right to be improvisatory in such a situation."

"Then let us continue! I would say that we should celebrate this, dinner at Gus's, but.....?"

"Let's buy some sandwiches at the 7-Eleven around the corner to our hotel, coffee as well?"

"Good idea, I invite you all!"

"Thanks, Barbara!"

Confusing Times – Shut Down!

"Okay, we have to change everything now - back to Portland, Caroline?"

"Would be the best, in Los Angeles we cannot stay for longer, not in a hotel."

"Yeah, maybe it was a stupid idea to hold on to our plans, performing in the Orpheum."

"Well, it would have been cool in a way, but it's better to react now."

"I will call Barbara."

I had a phone conversation with Barbara who had a conversation with CBS just before. We all agreed in it, that Caroline and I would return to Portland, to our homes. I would produce a video at home, a one and a half hour show at home, I would record it myself, in the way of the videos during the tour. I would send it to CBS, and they would broadcast it - we would not change the date of broadcasting of the first show!

I would wait till the 26th, till around afternoon, then I would record the "show" at one go, no cuts. Thanks to the Internet it would be no problem today, to transfer the video to CBS - well, of course, the American Internet was not the best and fastest, especially at this time, but it would be possible anyway. The show would go on!

"Let's pack up. I think I should give the hotel stuff a good tip?"

"Of course, it's for them much worse than for us. It's fine to live in a country with such fantastic worker rights and such an incredible social security system, led by a president who is on top of everything! You not work, you get no money - at least the Dow Jones recovers somewhat."

We packed, it was no good feeling. Sure, it would be good to be at home, in Portland again. But in a way it felt like you would betray this city, this state. But it made no sense anymore, we had to return to Portland.

Back In Portland!

Back in Portland, back at home. But it was different, everything was different now. I thought about to walk along Colombia River, but would this be adequate? I thought about what had us occupied us the last days and weeks. Sanders versus Biden especially - yes, some cases in Washington, the first death even. But did we really recognized it? The news from China, but China far away. Biden versus Sanders had been the most important news.

But today nobody was longer interested in this news, today there was only the virus. Portland at the border to Washington, but other states were in the focus now - New York and California especially. But Washington had still the second most of infected people, after New York and in front of California - and Oregon between Washington and California appeared nearly as a safe harbor. But could this continue?

The TV was on, of course, the infection rate rose constantly, as well as the number of deaths, as well as the Dow Jones fall. I watched Trevor Noah online, as well as others - I would do the same soon. But what should I do? Spending hope and comfort, was this the time to ask critical questions, or better after the crisis? It was insane for me to see how the president acted, this was no confidently acting leader, this was a man at the edge of his possibilities, a man who could not control his insane narcissism - and this was our leader! It was good to see the way many governors or mayors acted,

otherwise this would be a disaster already.

But still the question, should I ask harsh questions, should I be aggressive? I would have one and a half hour, enough time to honor them who you had to honor today. Enough time to ask the critical questions that had to be asked. Enough time to talk about this ruthless bunch in the White House, this total failure of leading and supporting our nation, about this total incapability of this bigmouth bunch in the White House!

Caroline

"Hi Caroline."

"Hi Peter, thanks for your call."

"Shall we meet later? We could have a walk at the river later?"

"Good idea. I cannot stay the whole day at home. What about your preparations for the show?"

"Good. Tuesday will be the first show."

"I think, I have not to ask about the topics, if there will be "topics"?"

"Not really, more "a topic". But it will be important to see the different layers. Think about the staff in the hospitals, their situation, especially in New York. But also people who work in food markets, or at the fire department. There are so many who bear a lot of burden for all of us at the moment. And then we have a government that simply fails in nearly everything. Only to see the Twitter shit from last night and this morning, this president is an insane jerk, incapable in a devastating and dangerous way."

"Yes, if this all will not end up in a total disaster, than we know whom we have to thank for, and whom we have to blame therefor, that we had all this confusing and senseless and dangerous actions - or better non-actions."

"Our fantastic deal-maker, now we see how good this man is - he had one or two bankruptcies already before? He's only interested in the Dow Jones, the rest is unimportant for him. See the action from McConnell over the weekend, it's a shame!"

"Yeah, Moscow Mitch at it's best - he's such a bootlicker! I think a job at Fox News would be good for him. Let's meet at the confluence?"

"Good idea."

We walked along the river, it was a strange feeling. Always trying not to come too near to others, no spontaneous decision for a coffee and a cake in a café. And yet, we both had not to have the concerns many others had to have. What about my health care - if you had one! Workers who worked on an hourly basis, small shop owners, they all had severe reasons to be concerned. And the signals from our government were not much hopefully for them - money for the big companies no problem, but for the normal worker? It was Monday, a new week began. Last Monday a lot were different to today, Monday next week? Weird Portland, keep the city weird and don't forget the other cities around you, all over the world.

Jack

"Bad situation, Peter. You're back in town, but I cannot get you for a spontaneous show in my theater - stupid situation."

"Yeah, it would even better we would not meet, only such phone calls."

"Yes. You're prepared for the first show - two days?"

"More or less, I will only have not the slightest chance to talk about details. Every day, every hour, news - it's difficult to follow all this. I have to find a structure, a common theme, not too superficial, but not lost in details. It will be also broadcast nationwide, a live show happens in a certain city. I always reflect in my show the city, the state, I'm in. But this time this is different. But New York is not South Dakota, but I can be seen in both states."

"The president is the president in New York as well as in South Dakota?"

"Yes, he has to be the common theme. I will try to reflect different levels of this crisis, always with the question in the background what do the president's actions mean for this level. At the end I should have reached the last level, the president himself, and the question what's the motivation for his actions. I hope I will do this in a good way - Trevor Noah would be my aim."

"I think you should have no problem with this."

"Well, it will be very different show, compared to a show produced in the Orpheum. But it's all I can do at the moment."

"And as you can see in social media, a lot of people are looking forward to your first show. I'm sure it will be a success."

"Thank's Jack. Please, make me a promise."

"Sure."

"Give me an honest feedback after the show."

"Aren't you used to, that I was always honest to you?"

"Yeah, I'm simply insecure about the situation. Everything was planned in a total different way - wouldn't it be the first show, I would feel more secure. "

"Sure, but everybody is in the same situation at the moment. It would be bad if you would have no stage fright in such a situation. But you're good, and you know it. To be spontaneous was always a strength of you, I'm sure that you will manage it! What are your plans for today and tomorrow?"

"Today I will work on the show. Tomorrow I will meet with Caroline, she will be my technician at Thursday. We will talk about some technical aspects and I will discuss the framework of the show with her - will you join us?"

"No unnecessary risk, I will sit at Thursday in front of my TV to watch your show. Caroline and you are a well-attuned pair, I would disturb you both only."

"Then I await your critique after the broadcasting."

"I call you after the show."

"Thanks, Jack."

A Day With Caroline

"How do you feel, Peter?"

"Well, I can handle the situation much better now - tomorrow I will have my first TV show! How about you?"

"Well, I have not so much to do at the moment. It's not really the time to plan shows and tours. I try to do some meaningful things."

"I thought that we begin therewith, to ensure, that the technical aspects will function. I have a file here that has approximately the same size as the show tomorrow will have. I will send it to Barbara, so that we can see how fast it goes, the whole process till broadcasting."

"That's a good idea. Later?"

"I have the framework of the show. I have made some test runs. Later I've planned a test run which we will record. We can go through the recording then, some postmortem would be good."

"Sure, when you've planned the recording tomorrow?"

"Around noon. During the morning I can still see what happened lately, but then we have to begin. This would give us the opportunity for some tries in the morning, and the opportunity to have one or two restarts later, if things went totally wrong."

"I think I stay here tonight?"

"I would appreciate it."

"Then let us begin."

It was a very productive day. We had a nice lunch together, had the feeling that everything was prepared as good as possible under such circumstances. Later we prepared dinner together, we had a nice evening. Outside was a world, at least this evening we tried to ignore this world outside.

My First TV Show!

My first show, in a way it had been very easy - well, by far enough topics! Whereby, I had decided not to sit at a table or so, I was used to walking around with a mic in my hand on the stage. We had moved some furniture, had created a small stage area where I could walk around. Also I had not been interested in, to look always into the camera, also on the stage I looked not always at the audience. We had tried to create a surrounding most near to a stage, in the way of a very small stage, an open mic evening maybe. Caroline had operated the camera, had been very creative in it, had followed me always, had always reacted on my action.

I had followed my framework, had talked about them who kept things running, that we would have to honor them. But also I had talked about this president, his incapability, his lack of interest in the American people, especially the vulnerable and poor, his lies, his unbearable downplaying, his attacks on them who he should thank for their passionate work. About that, that we had two dangerous developments at the moment, the virus and the President of the United States - the second one was more dangerous! The first we would control from a certain point on, the second ran out of control more and more. And his party, the GOP, failed totally therein, to show up this insane man his borders, borders based on morality and decency - a bunch of complaisant puppets!

"Wow! One try, and it's done!"

"You were very concentrated, very good prepared. It was, as you would stand on the stage of the Orpheum, very good!"

"But we should check the recording. Sometimes you have a good feeling, but....."

"We have time, no problem."

We checked the recording - well, not everything was perfect. But I was satisfied, I had tried to imagine that I would be on the stage in the Orpheum. I had organized three spotlights, no light in the room apart from them. We had covered the background, the wall and furniture, with red and black blankets, we had tried to create some stage feeling.

"The "stage" looks better than I had thought. The camera work was very good."

"Thanks, but it's cool how fluid you talked, and this without any feedback of an audience."

"I did what I always do, I enter the stage and then something happens, no real idea what, but something will happen. The only disruptive thing for me was, that I had to look from time to time at the large clock, that we have organized. But apart from that, I'm very satisfied - okay, the sound quality is not very good."

"Well, this is no theater hall, not the best acoustic in your living room."

"Yeah, it would have been cool - The Orpheum Theater in Los Angeles. But I think they have other problems at the moment in Los Angeles, they fear that they are only one or two weeks behind New York."

"Yeah, and here in Oregon we still have not that many infections – well, in our county? But I hope this will last."

"Would be good - I send the file to Barbara."

"What will we do tonight?"

"Hey, this stand-up comedian from Portland has his first show in TV tonight? We have to watch this!"

"Oh, sorry, I've nearly forgotten! Do you have some snacks?"

"Well, not really?"

"We should have some - or? A nice TV evening in intimate togetherness?"

"We have a stay-at-home order?"

"It's not for shopping?"

"You're right! I will buy something in the shop around the corner – but you know, it's not without danger!"

"This is not New York - at least not at the moment. Maybe we should make no fun of it."

Jack's Critique

The show was over, I had switched off the TV.

"Let me call Jack, just right now. I would be interested in his first impressions, just right now - okay?"

"Yes, sure, he was not involved in the making. His feedback would be interesting. But let me listen in on the call."

"Of course."

I called Jack, to get a substantial feedback.

"Hi Jack, Peter."

"Hi Peter, the next big shot in TV entertainment."

"Well, I hope it was not really "entertaining"."

"Depends on. As a redneck I would be very much pissed off now, as a liberal from weird Portland I have to say that I enjoyed the last one and a half hour very much. But I know what you mean. No, no doubt about it, that you meant it very seriously!"

"Some feedback?"

"First, cool setting. It appeared nearly like a stage, created a very good mood. Much better as sitting behind a table in your living room, looking into the cam of your notebook. Was very good that you walked around, that the camera moved, that you acted like on a stage. So it was very easy, to follow your words for one and a half hour long."

"Caroline had the most ideas, she's here and listens us."

"Hi Caroline."

"Hi Jack. Yes, we thought that we should omit this "at-home-feeling" as much as possible."

"This functioned very good."

"The acoustic?"

"Of course, it was not the Orpheum, but we're used to this now."

"What about the structure, that I have given the show. I have not read from a teleprompter or so, but of course I had planned the show much more than my ordinary stage shows."

"Was very good balanced. At the end of the show I had two times the impression, that you looked at a clock and realized that you should move on."

"Very well observed - do you think that I hurried at the end?"

"I had not the impression that you not talked about everything you wished. The arc of suspense was very obvious and very good implemented. From the "ordinary" people, from very positive aspects, to the government and our president and very negative aspects."

"Do you think that I was too harsh at the end?"

"No, at least not for a Portlander. Well, you know, maybe the president will write some tweets about you tonight?"

"I'm not interested in his shit - would be good promotion maybe. I've said to Barbara that she should not call me right after the show, I also will not check social media. This has time till tomorrow. But I'm interested in your opinion, you know me from my first tries on a stage on. Say something positive and say something negative, and then we should meet tomorrow, I would like to talk with you - I mean face to face."

"Sure, in the bar?"

"Fine, exclusively for us three - Caroline would be with me?"

"Sure, of course! Also she I know not only since yesterday."

"Positive, negative?"

"Okay, of course it's my opinion, but I liked it, that you spoke without notes, but as focused as at one of your live shows. You handled the time limit very good, your language was very understandable - it was something else, not like that what you can see on TV normally.

Negative? A totally new viewership will become aware of you now, you're in TV now, now you're

a "real" star, not everybody likes what you're doing. I fear, that you will get much more and more aggressive hostilities now. "

"Well, not here in Portland, and also not in Los Angeles, Seattle, San Diego or San Francisco. But I know what you mean. But it would be cowardly, not calling things as that what they are - tomorrow in the bar?"

"See you both. Bye Caroline, bye Peter."

"Bye Jack."

"Bye Jack."

We still sat together for a longer time and talked a lot. Yes, much would change now after the first TV show, but what a joke was this in such a time! What else should change, while the death toll raised more and more.

The Normal Life

A new week came to it's end, still the situation in Oregon was much more relaxed as in Washington or California, not to talk about New York. Also the developments in some other states looked not good, Louisiana for example. New Orleans, Chicago and other cities, compared thereto the situation in Oregon, in Portland, was relatively relaxed. But also here the number rose, every day, it was far not over. Still under five hundred infected, twelve deaths - well, every day more.

California feared a development like in New York, Washington? Oregon? It was common sense, that also we were very much endangered, also our numbers could start to rise exponentially - a few days ago the first show. In some days the next, the critiques were very positive. Barbara had called me, congratulated me, I had problems therewith to be happy about it, problems to be happy, even more as usually.

I felt the impulse to travel to New York, to go to the venues in those I had performed some months ago, to perform, not because of the president - did he liked it, that the liberal New York was hit the most, then liberal California and liberal Washington? Would he liked it, would be the liberal Oregon be hit more? Honestly? If somebody would tell me, that he was not happy about it, I would not believe this person. He was happy about this, he liked it to see Governor Cuomo every day, running into more and more problems - Mitch or his other bootlickers would get much more support in such a crisis - you not believe me? He had said it on Fox New: You have to be kind to me, then I will help you! And it's no disadvantage, if you're no women.

But the president would not be the reason to perform in New York, the people there would be the reason, the people that I had met while performing in the city. But this was only stupid thinking, the reality was different. The president's approval rates rose - okay, he was a president in war now, like Bush Sen., Bush Jr. and President Barack Obama.

But I had to stay in Portland now, in Oregon, where everything was not so dramatic, at least not now. In a few days the next show, what topics I would have then? Already over a hundred thousand infected, and deaths? In the morning over a thousand five hundred, now, some hours later, over a thousand seven hundred. But it was good, that our president, and smart Kellyanne, and the professionals from Fox, had known right from the beginning, everything is under control, only a few cases, a miracle will happen and the virus will disappear. Yeah, fine to have such a fantastic government, only a hoax from the Democrats to win the election at the end of the year - why the American people still supported this narcissistic inhumane maniac?

Tuesday

It was Tuesday morning, I stood up, looked in the mirror and saw my unkempt face - Thursday would be the next show, time enough to become civilized again. Caroline was at her home since the weekend, maybe it would be better for me, would she be with me the whole time, the whole day,

tomorrow we would prepare the next shows - good for me.

The latest numbers from Oregon, still very good! Monday we had six hundred six cases and sixteen deaths - not "at" Monday, at Monday in total! Why? I had not heard about my theory, but I had the feeling that we benefited a lot from the fast reactions from the governor of Washington, Jay Inslee, and the governor of California, Gavin Newsom. And well, after all, and maybe somewhat hesitant, also the governor of Oregon, Kate Brown, had issued a stay-at-home order.

It was a strange feeling, on one hand there were so many things to talk about, on the other hand I felt empty and had no idea, about what to talk on Thursday. I had no doubts about it, that I would know at Thursday about what I would talk, that I would take a shower tomorrow morning, that I would feel much better then, but today I felt unable thereto, to follow the news, to hear our disgusting president again, to see the numbers rising every hour, in a way I felt secure in my rooms, the world outside in a far distance, encouraged to stay at home.

I stood in the kitchen, in my underwear, some eggs with shrimps, some bread, a tomato, a piece of cucumber - should I go back in bed? I had lain in my bed for many hours, but I felt cozy there, warm and covered up by the blanket, dimmed, eyes closed, weird thoughts and dreams.

A look at the clock, 4 pm, could this be? Where were the hours? Time to go to bed again, no longer hearing about the Dow and the endangered economy, about illness and dead, no more lies, downplaying and veiling anymore. What was the most difficult to bear? The medical staff in the hospitals, all the people who worked there, their efforts, their suffering, their death was even harder to bear as all the other deaths. Teardrops dropped on my plate, would I own a gun, which I not owned, whom would I kill most probably now, me or him? Maybe I should go to bed again.

Wednesday

The long and hot shower was refreshing, the first since some days - hey, I had shaved as well for the first time since days. It was hard, to see how much this staying-at-home made me problems. I was used being outside, liked it to work while having a coffee in a nice café - one of the nice aspects in my business, I needed only a laptop for work, sometimes only a newspaper, a sheet of paper and a pen, sometimes not even this. But now I sat at home, even here in Oregon, even that we had not the strictest stay-at-home rules. But it was not the same, shopping was a burden now, I was always glad to be home again. Always you looked at others, always anxious, to keep enough distance - someone coughed!

Caroline would arrive in an hour, we would prepare everything for the show today, we would talk about the ideas I had so far. We would rearrange the "stage" somewhat, would try to improve the sound somewhat. She would not leave in the evening, that would do me good. Tomorrow show number two - sad thoughts about the wonderful Orpheum in Los Angeles. A kind of homesickness?

Yesterday, coronavirus briefing of the president, they released extreme numbers. I thought the presentation and the answering of some of the questions quite confusing - I would talk about it tomorrow. Also about the ten thousand ventilators in stock - was it nice to see Cuomo begging for them every day? I had more and more the feeling, that apart from "incapable" one word would be enough to describe the president's way to handle the crisis - disgusting! Would other nations accept such a behavior from their political "leader" in such a situation? I had my doubts - okay, some behaved in the same way, Bolsonaro in Brazil for example. But even there the people accepted his behavior less and lesser. Only the Americans accepted it, used to accept regular mass shootings at their schools, what would have to happen, that they would march on the streets?

The doorbell rang, never I was that happy to hear that sound. Caroline had arrived, I looked forward to the work of today, but much more to the cooking together, eating together, being together.

The Second Show

Thursday evening, the file was on its way to Barbara. Caroline and I thought, after a first check, that the today's show was not bad. Nevertheless, I was somewhat unhappy.

"Too many things are happening at the moment, it's difficult to follow all this, it would be cool to have a daily show. I think I should start with a daily video-podcast, the show at Thursday would be then something like a larger, more professional, podcast for TV. What do you think?"

"Sounds interesting. From Friday till Wednesday a video-podcast at the evening, at Thursday the show for TV. As long as this state continues?"

"Sure, thereafter I can have live shows again. But it would give me the chance to reach very fast on actual developments, the show at Thursday could be then also a kind of summary of the last six days - but also reflecting what happened at this day. We could have two parts from now on. At the beginning, what happened the last days. Then, what happened today."

"I think you should inform Barbara about this, but I think she would like it very much."

"My manager speaks?"

"Sure, you have a contract with CBS. But as said, I don't think that this should be a problem, especially not in such a situation."

"I can make this daily podcasts alone, they will be easier to make. But I would have a question."

"Yes?"

"Would you stay? At least for some days? I could do it alone, this podcasts, but maybe it's also fun to do it together?"

"Sure, you feel alone?"

"Yes, very much. You know, I was a single my whole life, but I liked it always to be among people, in a café, a restaurant, at a public place. I miss this very much, to be honest."

"What's for dinner today?"

"I have salad, vegetables, pasta, rice..... - things like this?"

"Wow, then we have a lot to choose from - let's do it!"

Video-Podcasts

It was Sunday, today we would make the first video-podcast, after we had cleared it up with Barbara, and after we had announced it on social media. The response was overwhelming - well, the people had a lot of time at the moment. The idea was, to keep it simpler than the shows for TV. The people would see it not in TV, but on the screens of their PCs or tablets or whatever. Also I could be more flexible with my time, it was obviously not necessary that the podcasts would have all the same length. Of course, we would use the "stage", but the rest would be different to the TV shows. Topics?

Well, topics? Every day, every hour and minute new topics - but more devastating was, that you had those same topics every day. The incapability of our government, the lies, the falsehoods of our president and his bunch, their ignorance towards the scientific needs. It was like a bad movie that found no end, unfortunately you could not leave the theater. Hotel California? Check out and then try to leave.

Also in Oregon the numbers rose now, we left the one thousand cases behind us, were near thirty deaths now. But New York, New Orleans and other cities, our neighbors at the coast, Washington and California? It all would have been better acceptable, not to have to see every evening this president, his Botox son, the vice president..... - what a contrast Dr. Fauci was, could you imagine, that he would lead the Coronavirus Task Force, not this incapable and corrupt folk?

I would talk about this later, I would talk about Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders, I would talk about

that I felt powerless sometimes. But the last days I had been not alone, that helped me a lot - also the daily podcast. I had something to do, someone was near to me. For a moment I thought about the time after this all, but that would have time for the time after.

During the morning we did a few preparations for the podcast, then it was lunchtime. We cooked together, we ate together, we had a rest together. I thought about my start for the podcast, the rest would happen, as always.

In the later afternoon we made the podcast, checked it, to upload the podcast in the evening. Dinner time, again cooking together, eating together, a cozy evening together. Well, the daily - fucking - coronavirus briefing? It could kill the best mood, but at least I had someone to talk with, someone who comforted me and gave me security.

Security, what could give you security in such a situation? Your religious faith? The church? Was it the same? Nah!

You could pray at home, to leave the churches open, even to have church services was reckless and told you a lot about such people. Fighting for unborn life, but the lives of the church-goers were not so important? How more pathetic one could be? But hey, we even had states with no stay-at-home order, and a pathetic president.

It was a good day, no it was no good day - in that sense, was it ever a good day? Every day people died and suffered in this world, the only difference today was, that the dying and suffering was at home now. A hundred thousand deaths? How many died every day because of no food or insufficient food, because of war and persecution? How many suffered every day because of their gender, their belief, their skin color? Hey, such things happened also in our country every day, but this was a fucking virus, this virus not distinguished between skin colors, religious orientations or that you had none, not between gender or rich and poor - the poor, not the virus, our health care system of course! But the point was, that suddenly everybody was threatened, not only a certain group, now suddenly nothing was too much, suddenly trillions were there, the whole world stood still! It would have interested me, on a "normal" day, how many died because of food shortage, war, persecution and such reasons - and now, so much more? Was the suffering in the world now so much more, or was it only more visible for us? Would you have to answer this question, or was it not simply a very trivial question in the end?

Tuesday

The first two video-podcasts were a big success, should I be happy? In a way of course, only the circumstances were not that nice. It was nice that Caroline had decided to stay with me, at least till the end of the crisis. Sometimes we were at my condo, sometimes at hers, so we had not to be all the time at the same place. Okay, for the podcasts we had to be at my home, but the rest we could do just as well at her condo. From time to time we walked along one of the rivers - but you felt more and more uneasy while doing it.

The numbers rose, still Oregon as a state was not that much affected, but Multnomah County was one of the three most effected counties in Oregon. The latest statistics for Oregon listed over one thousand one hundred cases now, twenty-nine deaths. Sure, compared with New York or Louisiana? But also our numbers rose, even if not that fast, the last days under ten percent a day, but they rose.

Later we would make the third video podcast, what was more difficult? The situation as such, the fight between the states and the federal institutions, the behavior of the government, the not scientific parts of the Coronavirus Task Force, the president himself? A real strain was, to watch the coronavirus briefings every day. We had to get rid of this president, but would Joe Biden the person who could be the origin of a real change? I had my doubts about this.

The Next TV Show

Thursday, the third TV show we would record later - it helped me a lot, it stabilized me that Caroline stayed with me. Topics?

Well, in the time of the virus? And then Bernie? But more and more questions rose, about the sequence of events that illustrated the inability of the president, about the guidelines for federal distribution, about Jared Kushner and more - Wisconsin and the insane and misanthropic GOP?

I could not really understand why Bernie stopped his campaign now - yes, three hundred delegates less. But everybody - at least if not an inhumane asshole - saw now, that Bernie was not that wrong about the problematic of work-based health care and more. But I had the feeling that Bernie Sanders was aware, that this would pressure Joe Biden extremelly, Biden would need Sanders, would need the support and the votes of the Sanders' grass roots movement, he would have to draw nearer to the agenda of Bernie Sanders.

The GOP? Wisconsin, what else? Maybe George Clooney? Maybe Robert De Niro? Maybe millions of Americans, marching in the streets in August, September and November? Okay, Joe Biden, another old white men - oh, of course a woman as vice president now, this was a must now! Preferably a black woman - also a must now, or? It's all for the proportion - look at the women who stood aside Bernie Sanders, he not needed the proportion, his movement, his supporters, were the proportion! The GOP? Speechless about this amount of contempt for large groups of our society, very openly showcased!

Since some days we had a steady increase in cases in Oregon now, between four and seven percent, forty-four deaths now. Our county was still the most affected after Washington County and ahead of Marion County. Together with Clackamas County, the number four, we were the hot spot of infections in Oregon, we all were neighbors. But "hot spot" in Oregon compared with New York or New Orleans - oh, African Americans were more affected than Whites?

I had to talk about, why this was such a surprise - wasn't it a very trivial thing? A "thing" about living conditions, about in which way the American Dream treated minorities, especially also the former slaves, in this proud and religious and white nation? It appeared to me, like one would tell me totally surprised, that African Americans would be put in jail disproportionately, would be sentenced disproportionately harsh, that a baby from an African American mother would die disproportionately often, that African Americans as such would have a disproportionately lower life expectancy, that they were disproportionately less educated and less rich, that society treated them disproportionately unfair - gosh, I've never heard about that!

The time had begun to start to think about a cautious reopening of the nation. The time had begun for a harsh and severe investigation of the last weeks, especially about the behavior and actions of the vice president, the president, and his surrounding bunch. But why one should be worried? As long as Joe Biden had nice phone calls with our gracious president nothing could go wrong. Well, maybe again a GOP win in November, but who would care about it - maybe Joe will become the next vice president?

A lot of topics and only ninety minutes, I was happy about to have my daily video-podcast now. Trevor Noah had mentioned me and my podcast - pretty cool! But what was obvious was, that talking would soon no longer be enough. But to be one more celebrity, who would do everything to get airtime, to lead a march for ten minutes till the press had its photos? I had to think about this.

Saturday

An increase of four percentage in cases yesterday, four more deaths - still Oregon stayed relatively safe, even our county. Very fast I had gained a huge viewership, it structured my day, it gave me the possibility to express myself. And I enjoyed the presence of Caroline, I enjoyed the conversations with her, the being together. We tried to switch between her and my condo, to be not all the time at

the same place. We tried to spend some time outside every day, but often I felt this gravity, this lack of motivation, this feeling to get crushed by all the developments, this feeling of helplessness. If this was a book, then I would have the simple possibility to look up, what would happen in November - maybe it would have been calming, but maybe.....

Biden? That not stabilized me, that gave me no security, on the contrary! It created uncertainty, fear, in debates he had severe problems to compete even with Bernie - the man in office would treat him not in such a friendly way, Bernie had done - on the contrary! Four more years would kill me, four more years and.....

Caroline had prepared a light and wonderful lunch, later we would record the podcast. I looked forward to the time thereafter, why watching this asshole's briefings every evening, why not spending an evening with sitcoms and old TV serials, popcorn and lemonade? Maybe we should do this, the briefing I could watch tomorrow online - no necessity was, to see his lies live.

Back To Normal?

Still in Oregon everything seemed to be mostly under control, in the last days not more than six percentages increase per day, on a low level – but really?

Oregon had 4.2 million inhabitants, Los Angeles City 3.99 million. Los Angeles had reached a plateau, even if with stronger variations, the numbers in Oregon still increased constantly. Oregon had a few hundred infected more than Los Angeles the day before today. But maybe these were stupid calculations.

All in all it seemed, as that the West Coast had reached relatively fast and consequent, no real explosion in cases or deaths, but no reason for an all-clear signal and a back to normal. But maybe also this view to it all was somewhat stupid.

The West Coast was economically strong, at least seen over all. And maybe it was also a matter of mentality, not to say about political views, not to say about the relation between religious institutions and the local governments. Not to say, that the West Coast was more open-minded, more willing to accept science and progressive ideas, not so stuck in traditional bonds - and New York?

New York was far away in Portland, Oregon – to be honest! How far away the city was in Wyoming, Nebraska or one of the Dakotas? And yet, would it be too much wished, while all talked about that this would be a war, to act like a nation in war, united? If it really still had needed an illustration of, how divided and sick this nation was, in much more than one way, these days, weeks and months showed it all up. This was by far no nation anymore, this "nation" was not more than a heap of shards, not more anymore. And by far it would be not enough, to have someone else in the White House!

Overlooking the world it became not better, some countries acted in a good way - maybe you could mention New Zealand and Germany, Sweden was interesting in a way. But mostly it was not very encouraging what you saw, not to talk about countries like Hungary, Brazil or Russia, but also the UK showed all the weaknesses of this "exalted" political leaders. And of course China was a special problem!

No one could believe in their numbers and narrations, their constant attempts to suppress the truth - well, a communist system? But was it not interesting, how much different political systems looked alike in such moments? It became obvious, that maybe the political system was not unimportant, but that there were other important factors. Or, put it this way around. The best political system became abrogated with the "wrong" political leader, the "wrong" political office-holders.

We had decided, after the recording of today's video-podcast, to spend the evening at Caroline's home. It was Easter Monday, we would have a little dinner celebration. I was not religious, it was Caroline's idea.

Coalitions

Tomorrow the next TV show, later the next video-podcast. Had I to talk about, to what a farce the briefings had degenerated into? I thought about to ignore this guy more and more, to talk about the real heroes and the real leaders in this crisis.

In the last days under five percent increase in cases in Oregon, a very good sign, only one or two more deaths - Oregon on the save side? Well, an increase was still an increase, but we were happy about our circumspect governors at the West Coast - Gavin Newsom in California, Jay Inslee in Washington and of course Kate Brown here in Oregon. And of course, not to forget all the mayors who acted calmly, but resolute! It was good to see that they worked together, also with other circumspect governors from the East Coast, that they not only tried to fill the federal vacuum, that they filled it perfectly. Of course, it would have been very helpful, essentially helpful, to have a functional federal government that would act, but the fact was, that the federal government suffered from the inability and the unwillingly of our top politicians - should you call figures like the president, the vice president, the majority leader in Senate and others any longer politicians? Wouldn't it be better to call them as what they were - undemocratic, greedy, inhumane, addicted to money and personal benefit, disgraceful and disgusting.....the list could be endless.

It would be important now, to work towards one moment in November. Well, the West Coast and larger parts of the East Coast would be not the problem. Florida, the swing states? No hope that the red states would reflect about all this, but to be honest? It would be not important! It would be all about Florida and some swing states, this was our electoral system. It was all about the motivation of your base and about the independents. Stupid to stuck in Oregon, now and in the next months a tour would be good. Caroline and I had some plans.

"Okay, as soon as possible I fix shows for you. I'm in contact with many venues - now the nationwide tour pays."

"Thursdays in L.A. for the show in the Orpheum, the rest of the time on tour with focus on Florida and some swing states."

"Would be no problem, apart from the many time on airports."

"I like flying, I like the feeling to fly. And it would be not for a very long time. We have to see when it will be possible again, and then till November."

"Yeah, till November."

As Time Goes By

Weekend, still the trend continued, only between two and four percentages increase in infections over the last days, but - on our very low level - the number of deaths rose faster, seventy and more now - but what all happened every day!

What a fucking pathetic and disgusting president we had, the vice president not better, not to talk about many Republicans, especially in Senate. Every day baiting on Fox News, Hannity and Tucker good scholars of Goebbles - why we accepted this in our country?

Every day you could talk for hours about the president's lies, about his unwillingness to take responsibility and leadership - he was used to, taking the easy way, and enough around him, who paved this way with gold for him.

And yet, what happened all in the shade of the crisis, was important. Only to name the continuation of the push back of laws protecting the nature, all the actions while having a health crisis to harm democratic governors, to harm women, to harm minorities. As Wall Street knew - every crisis offered a lot of opportunities! And as history knew - the more ruthless you were, the bigger your profit could be!

The last days I had stabilized somewhat, Caroline helped me a lot, but these days now, these

circumstances, burdened me a lot. I feared, that I was a witness of the decay of a nation, not the birth of a nation, but the dying of a nation, my nation. In some decades, would historians discuss the current developments in a way, as they discussed the developments in Germany in the 20s and 30s? In a first reaction I would say that this is somewhat unfounded, to say it with nice words! But then, there had been these voices, in Germany in the 20s and 30s, voices that had warned, voices which others had laughed at. In a crisis like this you cannot overreact the scientists told you, and that underreaction could cost the lives of millions - as in Germany in the 30s and 40s. So, what to do? A fucking question, or?

My daily video-podcast was done, uploading later. We would have a nice dinner later, a nice time together. Could it be, that this world outside was on its way to downfall? I thought about, I would find a history book from the future in a library - a nice idea for a story, or? - what would I do? Would I open it, would I dare? I simply could sit down, could close my eyes and wait. I would have to wait no longer than November, today in the middle of April, then I would find my answer. Look, Christmas was further away, not to talk about New Year! New Year's Day - would be maybe also a nice idea for a story, New Year's Day in Portland, walking alongside Colombia River, endless woods and sleeping volcanos, the beach and the Endless Ocean nearby. Maybe a day to celebrate, maybe a day to die

Tuesday

The trend was stable now, three percentages of increase in cases over the last four days, one or two deaths - much better as our neighbors at the West Coast. But of course we stayed with the Western States Pact, all actions of reopening the states only as agreed upon all governors. This gave you some security, not living in a state with a ruthless governor, interested only in kissing the ruthless president's ass, not driven by far-right groups or fanatic evangelists. And not to forget the fucking behavior of the man, who called himself president, to stir up turmoil in swing states with democratic governors - it was devastating to have to sit at home, not able to hit the road, able to perform in such states. It was like seeing someone under fire, not able to stand by this person. "Full Metal Jacket" was in my mind - who would be able to eliminate the sniper, our sniper?

It was Tuesday, the day after tomorrow the next TV show number.....I had not idea! Number four, fourteen, forty? All would be possible! The days went by, the weeks - every evening the same shit from the president, and I mean the same shit every day literally! He was the best, he never did anything wrong, enough test kits for everyone, and the vice president was not better. The daily meltdowns and eruptions - especially when asked critically by women - of an overchallenged wannabe president - I had enough of it! No chance till November, and even then nothing was certain. Joe Biden, the nice uncle from Connecticut, was on search for a black female vice president now - oh Joe, even this looked only weak and predictable. Gretchen would be a real surprising and shocking choice!

Yesterday, today, tomorrow - all became a routine, even spending time at Colombia River, even spending time with Caroline. Last year we drove from one city to the next. This year we expected to commute between Portland and Los Angeles, to go on tour again. Canada, Mexico, Europe even - Portland, every day Portland, so much better than New York or New Orleans.

"I'm happy that you're with me, I would not know what I should do, if not."

"Come on, you had the idea to make a daily video-podcast for instance."

"Yes, but it's very strange for me, I miss the audience very much. To be a YouTube star or so would be not my world."

"You miss it, sitting in a café, watching the people around you?"

"Yeah, very much. But it not helps, what would be the alternative, acting irresponsible like Georgia or Texas?"

"No, you only can hope that this behavior will not lead in a disaster."

"We will see."

It's So Shattering

Thursday early evening, the situation in Oregon still under control, we had made the recording of the TV show early today, the file was on its way to Barbara, so much had happened during the last days, especially also yesterday and the day before yesterday. We thought that we would have a long evening for us, some time outside for a walk in the woods, later at Caroline's condo. Sure, the president would delight us later with his daily shit, but this was something you could not turn off at the moment, it was like a plague, you could not simply ignore it. And if, then the result would be an uninhibited spread that would kill millions - history offered you not only one example therefor. We arrived at Carolioine's condo, I switched the TV on, just in time for the president's wonderful insights and messages, we let the TV running in the background, not for long!

"I have understood this wrong now, or Peter?"

"I'm not totally sure, but babbled he something about.....to bring bright light into bodies and injecting disinfectant, Caroline?"

"I fear, yes?"

"Come on, where are the doctors who stop him! Inject disinfectant, drinking disinfectant.....is he talking about ways to commit suicide?"

"Wow, now finally, someone has to stop this! The whole world will laugh about us!"

"That would be not for the first time, but I fear that we will lose now the remaining rest of respect, that we may still have in the world. I have to react!"

"What will you do?"

"A video of course, we can use your webcam. We will send it to Barbara, maybe she can use it, and of course we will post it on social media."

We took a moment of planning, of course I watched the briefing on the Internet again, was cool today! In my youth you had to watch something in TV, you had only this one chance! No media libraries, no YouTube or so, no social media, no possibility to watch a statement again and again. Was cool today!

We made a ten minutes video, I was very distinct in it. It was about responsibility and an unbearable president, but also about political strategy. About "blue" and "red" lives and the worth of life. About the press and it's function, about November, an election at risk. I asked questions about, how much longer we should accept this development, till its bitter end? That I would wish to hear clear statements from people like Joe Biden, hopefully from governors - Cuomo was very clear about Disgusting Mitch earlier today, more would be necessary! More would be necessary to stop this insanity, that would lead unstoppable into a disaster. This was the road fork, the next days and weeks would decide a lot.

We posted the video, we sent it to Barbara. CBS mentioned the video in some news shows, showed even snippets from it. It became very fast the most watched of my videos - but would this be enough? I feared that not.

Sarcasm

Looking at the curves of the newly infected and the deaths, it was difficult to predict the next days

and weeks. In some ways a decline, but especially the last days more a plateau. Always a very small increase, but nevertheless a constant increase. A decline, even a very small decline would be good. Maybe after the weekend, today was Friday.

In a way the situation in Ohio seemed to be stable, not absolutely good, but stable. The whole West Coast seemed to be stable. California had still the largest increase, Washington the smallest, Ohio in between. What seemed not to be stable was the situation in Washington, D.C. - better, in the White House.

From the beginning on the daily briefings were a farce, but what happened at Thursday was unprecedented, not only for this president, as far as I could say it for all presidents, at least for the presidents of the last decades. Not, that he talked shit for first time, apart from the constant lies and downplaying, but at Thursday it all reached a sad climax - it was breathtaking to see this, it was hardly to bear, seemed to be unreal! And today, at Friday? Today everything should be only a little joke, some sarcasm!

Apart from that, that also this would have been the next tasteless climax, even for this president, these were briefings of the Coronavirus Task Force to inform the American people? But nobody believed in this shit - sarcasm, that he had addressed the reporters, he had addressed the two doctors, especially Dr. Birx! Again, how stupid this disgusting idiot thought we were, not able to watch the video on YouTube again and again? He not asked a question, he started to babble, he showed the whole world what an idiot our nation named today: Mr. President!

We waited with today's daily video-podcast till after the briefing. What a briefing! What a fucking coward this president was! Lies, downplaying, not enough balls to answer even one question! This was answer enough, not doubts about, what we had seen the day before! I had seen enough to make my video!

It became a harsh video - proudly he presented his signature, threatened to destroy the U.S. Postal Service, lied and smiled. Okay, this was our president, we had elected him - no words about Russia now, about a stupid and arrogant campaign maybe. But then, today, he not allowed even one question. This was the true face of our president, a bloody coward with faked bone spurs - he was all along an expert of hoax and betray!

It would be interesting to see, what would happen the next days. It was obvious, should he ever allow questions again, then it would become - I wasn't sure! Was the press brave enough to stand up against this fucking behavior? The gauntlet laid on the ground since a longer time now, now it was the time to pick it up! It was like a youth person, a youth person needed borders, this president needed now the borders, that he had not experienced in his youth. The press had a function, I looked forward to the next briefings, not totally relaxed, tensed, but somewhen the time would be, to face this president, in open fight, maybe this was the moment, this was the moment!

Sunday Morning Breakfast

Caroline and I sat together, Sunday morning, we had breakfast.

"What do you think, Caroline?"

"Something has to happen, Peter. It's no longer acceptable to accept this daily insanity."

"Well, yesterday we had no briefing - today? Obviously not, Monday? It will be interesting, in which way this all will develop. You have to hope, that this all will open the eyes of enough independents and will motivate enough Democrats to vote in November, so that this nightmare will end."

"You fear it's still not enough?"

"Well, there was this 2016, this woman who thought that she cannot lose the election.....not again the same mistake."

"I've still my problems with Joe Biden."

"Yeah, this president makes everything wrong and worse, where's Joe Biden's voice, where's Sanders? What else should went wrong, how long they will wait?"

"You know what burdens me?"

"What?"

"We talk about the lives of people, his failure means that people have to die. He has blood stains on his hands, but I think that he had them already before, since a long time. This man is used to it! What he's not used to is, that the public becomes aware of it."

"Yeah, I think credibility should be the main topic of today's video-podcast. It's over, for every responsible person, this president should be no longer acceptable, as well as the vice president and other figures around him. But I fear this thinking is too naive."

"At least it should not help him. Florida and some swing states, it's always the same. A few votes, a few percentages, would be enough and everything would be over, the nightmare would be over."

"Yes, and maybe you should speak it out. If this will be not enough to vote him out in November, what all has to happen yet, that it will be possible?"

"Half a year is an appalling time span, enough time to harm this nation finally, in a way, that later generations will hardly be able to heal the nation again, like the Civil War, the time of slavery or the murdering of them, who lived here long before. I fear, that we have to face very dangerous and devastating months."

"At least from the side of the right you cannot expect any opposition. They are all brought into line, a bunch of yea-sayer, not more anymore."

"Well, today not much will happen, I guess. Let's see what Monday will offer us."

"All the time you thought, this is rock-bottom, this president was easily capable to show you, that he is easily capable to top even the deepest depth of human behavior - I fear Monday!"

The Normality Had Us Again

Monday evening, the Rose Garden. Happy, we had him again! Now I knew that I could make my daily video-podcast in a relaxed way - I had a topic again! Because, let us be honest, what topic I would have instead? That we spent still billions for a fucking wall, while millions had no idea how life should continue? That we saw an attack on the U.S. Postal Service - be honest, for what we needed this communist public enterprise? The constitution? For voting by mail? Now you see, the U.S. Postal Service is stuff of the devil! You wanna talk about immigration, tax cuts for the rich, which companies got the most benefit from the governmental money, about those who got nothing at all? Why, we had to focus on the daily presidential words, the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

"Okay, as we said?"

"Absolutely, Peter. I would ignore this daily nonsense from now on totally. Okay, give it five minutes, do some fact-checking, but concentrate on the things that happen in the background, but will affect us all very severe. Concentrate on the numbers and the development in the states, Washington, the White House is only a covering up machine today. The interesting things happen in the states and behind the scene."

"Yeah, we should stop to talk about the things the president and the vice president are talking, we should start to talk much more about the things about they are not talking."

"Then let's begin."

It became a longer video-podcast, not much talking about the president, even less about his words. Much about the actions of the president, the vice president and the actions of the governmental bunch. I talked about, that the briefings were no longer interesting for me, the first reactions and comments after the uploading were very positive. A key element from now on would be the developments in the states, the effects of the different degrees of opening. Also the battle between the governors and the government.

Oregon - Saturday and Sunday three percentages increase in infections each day, Saturday one more death, but at Sunday four more deaths. Colorado and Nevada had joined the West Coast Pact, a good sign! I hoped that the people at the West Coast and the East Coast would not forget in November that the White House had been a total failure and needed immediately a new resident.

Election Started

Well, today, Wednesday, the election in Oregon started - the primary. Of course by mail, till the nineteenth of May, voting by mail? We all knew the stupid and undemocratic statements of the president, anybody ever thought that this man - and the people surrounding him - would be democrats? A wannabe dictator, he was not interested in, that many could vote, the "right people" had to have the opportunity to vote, the rest was unnecessary!

Since a longer time now, two or three percentages increase in infections, at one day only one percentage, a plateau, no real decline! A few deaths every day, every day deaths - no bad situation, but no situation to be happy. I closed the envelope, I would post the letter later.

No sign that a fast change would come, some states acted very aggressive. Some pointed to Sweden, much more deaths than in the other Scandinavian countries in Sweden - most of them old people in retirement homes, most of them in Stockholm. Sweden, a country with a - even for Europe - very strong social security net, a very good health care system, a young population. And even in this country many of the weakest died, a model? The problem was, that it would need at least a week more, maybe two or three even, till we would see what has happened in those states, that opened up so aggressively now.

And I would record my next TV show tomorrow, as well as my next video-podcast today. But what should I say, the same as last week, the same as yesterday - what else? Sure, the "details" would be different, but the underlying story? The story about the American Dream, its brutal reality, about rich and poor, White against minorities, about religious fanaticism, extreme right-wing fantasies, about the American daily reality?

I feared November, what else should I say? I became scared, seeing the duo Biden/Clinton - not again 2016! Why not Biden/Sanders? Fuck, wake up Biden! Another four years would be the end of our nation, you thoughts were, that this would never happen again, that it would be absolutely impossible, that this could happen again, like dictatorships in Spain, Argentina, Portugal, Haiti or Germany? Hey, this was the USA, a land on a very bad and dangerous way!

I had many viewers, on TV as well as on social media. Newspapers asked for interviews, TV and late night shows as well. It was cool, that they asked, that I had the opportunity to do such things, but whom I could reach with this? CNN, MSNBC, CBS.....The Washington Post, The L.A. Times, The Boston Chronicle.....who would read and hear my words? Those independents, who the Democrats needed this time to win? Those Democrats who had to vote this time? I was not sure about, I had my doubts.

I had my doubts when seeing Biden talking about his deep and long friendship with Hillary - you wanna win, surround yourself with winners, not with losers! Was this so difficult? I feared November, if not under such circumstances, with such a devastating performance of the president and the people surrounding him? As Jared had said: A great success story, only sixty thousand deaths so far! Well, as long as mostly poor people and minorities died, small companies struggled? The White conservative rich people died not - a statistic would be interesting, or? The American Dream, an endless nightmare!

Not the best mood today, sitting at home in weird Portland. An independent West Coast, at least Mitch would have no longer to bail out us blue states, we would be kind to him in rich Kentucky. It was pathetic, four more years would kill me!

A Timeless Time

Monday, I tried to ensure me, really Monday? The days passed by, a video-podcast, maybe a TV show, what was most confusing? The reality in Oregon, we had reached definitively a plateau now, the same in Washington and California. Only that we had only a fraction of the cases as in Washington or California. In all was Oregon one of the less affected states, especially when seen regarding the population. But this meant not, that we would not be affected by the insanity of the administration.

Every day a new "exciter" in the news, every day the same game. Shouldn't we talk more about food companies, about the jobs for minorities and their work conditions? Not only since the crises, but now it became a question of life and deaths literally - but hey, we still talked only about the poor and about minorities, not about the White big studs.

Well, one could say, it will be over with this nightmare in November - yeah, sure! But Joe, new accusations? Also without them, arm in arm with Hillary, he not appeared as the glorious hero that would rescue the nation. But with these accusation, it would become not easier to beat the man in office, the man so "friendly" to women! I saw it as an open race.

And as we lived in Oregon in some ways in a bubble, the rest of the nation developed not very good. The big hot spot New York and New Jersey relaxed somewhat, but other part of the nation acted very stupid, rising numbers were the result. Not long ago we hit the sixty thousand, very soon we would reach the seventy thousand. Too many states with decreasing numbers, some with a plateau like Oregon, but only a few with decreasing numbers, mostly states like Hawaii or Montana. But states like New Mexico, Texas or Georgia or Tennessee showed no good development. And the president, so successful, had no problem with it. Why he should, somebody who did everything, and will do everything, right?

I had my problems with the situation, sure, you could say, hey, see the positive aspects, when every day many died? Well, every day people died, but those, who laid in the refrigerated trailers now, had they necessarily to die? Those who were forced to work in food factories now, had they to become ill, had they to infect others, had those to die? I felt my head aching, it was such a crude story, with such a crude storyteller.

How Much Insanity?

The last days, as always since a longer time now, two or three percentages in increase of new infected persons - but no more deaths the last three days! It was not to expect that this would last, but it was a very good sign, we were on a good way! Also on the East Coast, New York and New Jersey, the situation relaxed, at least somewhat, more and more with every day - everything good? No, on the contrary!

The nationwide numbers started to raise, despite that the hot spots had managed a turnaround. More to say? A president who forced an opening of the country, no matter of the costs - yeah, Latinos and Blacks could risk their lives in food factories while rich White conservatives could look forward to new tax relief? Welcome to the grimace of reality of the American Dream!

Even with a daily video-podcast, even with a new TV show the day after tomorrow, it was difficult to keep track of all the developments - especially, if you tried not to stick with the daily smoke grenades from the president, if you were interested in the "matters" that happened in Washington, in small circles, behind closed doors. In the end, even with a daily "show" it was not possible. I felt powerless in a way!

I had a huge audience now, on TV as well as on social media - even "our" president had mentioned me in one of his nightly tweets, I felt honored! But what was important now, to talk about the

president, about the people around him, about Moscow Mitch, much longer in policy than the president, the person who blocked everything during the era of President Barack Obama, about the alt-right, racism and fascism in the USA, or maybe you should talk about the weakness of Joe Biden?

Everything would be much better bearable, would you know that the next POTUS Joe Biden would be. Not that I thought, that he was the best from the initial group, he was the one who was leftover, it was simple as that! Cuomo still a possibility? Well, what a momentum it would have, would he announce his candidacy - maybe after the crisis, when he could oppose the president better then?

Tomorrow Caroline and I would be guests of Trevor Noah, The Daily Show. I looked forward to talk with him, he had asked if we would be interested in, that we would have a connection already before the recording for the show, to talk somewhat - I was happy about it! Not, that it was not wonderful that Caroline was with me, it would have been horrible for me to be all alone in this situation, but he was a very special person for me.

Caroline and I would have a nice lunch later. Fresh vegetables, salad, fruit, very healthy. A walk at one of the rivers maybe, no more deaths? No, that was not to expect. But if our governor, Kate Brown, would be smart enough to stay cool and stick together with the other West Coast governors, then maybe we would have a real future in Oregon and at the West Coast. Maybe Kate Brown would be a good president?

Trevor Noah

"Hi Caroline and Peter, how you're doing."

"So far so good, Trevor. It's nice to talk with you again. Only the circumstances are not the best."

"Well, as Peter said, Portland is not the worst place to be at the moment. I think at the East Coast, in New York, life is harder at the moment."

"Our numbers are decreasing, but still on a very high level. Oregon makes it better."

"Well, the numbers of new infections seems to be stable. We had two days no new deaths, but now the numbers are rising again. I hope it's only a normal statistical fluctuation, not the beginning of a new increase. But in Oregon we're talking about five deaths as a bad sign, in New York it would be a wonderful message to be double-digit."

"That's true, it's this feeling of insecurity, especially in a time when many are acting in a way that seems to be insane."

"Depends on, on which side you're standing. It pains me to hear the president, to see in which way conservatives are acting, a human life is nothing worth anymore. Of course a Black, Asian or Latino life, Native Americans are the biggest loser again. It breaks my heart to see the medical staff and how they struggle with what they have to see and to experience every day, how much it destroys their emotional life. On the other hand you have ruthless people who are wallow in self-pity while every day thousands are dying! It makes me sick!"

"How do you feel Caroline?"

"Well, we're sitting here in nice Portland and producing nice videos. A whole year we were on tour, we thought that it would become difficult to be the most of our time in Los Angeles and Portland, maybe short tours. But now we have to be in Portland all the time, preferably inside - that's a huge change! The time in the deserts for example, from the East Coast to the West Coast, it's very difficult now."

"I understand, I sit today in a ten million dollar apartment which covers two floors in Manhattan - there was a time, much was different. Sometimes I miss the time on the road. But missing the time on the road is one thing, but what Peter said? I fear that you get involved too much in it. It's dangerous for medical staff, it's dangerous for artist like us."

"Yeah, Colbert and Fallon, even Kimmel is more worth - sorry for that. It sounds envious, sorry."

"It's okay, you've talked about, that it's difficult for you to have also a million dollar contract now. I cannot help you with this, but try to get not too much emotionally involved in all. I mean, hearing this daily nonsense from the president, his acting, the acting of the people around him - it can drive you crazy. But this would mean that they have won."

"Brazil, Terry Gilliam, the end?"

"Yes, I've seen the movie."

"What do you think, Sam Lowry at the end, sitting in the chair - who won? Sam or the dystopian society?"

"Sam went crazy, we should not go crazy, even when the times are crazy."

"But Sam smiles in the end, he's happy. His torturer is unsatisfied - maybe Sam won?"

"And the dystopian society, it not harms the dystopian society that Sam escaped into craziness. So, it seems as that the dystopian society has won - or?"

"Yes, Sam has found his peace, but the dystopian society has won. The worse is, that this is no contradiction."

"Yes, but if you think about, that it would be good, to overcome the dystopian society, than you should not become crazy."

"Unfortunately this is not always that easy, too many dead artists telling you this story."

"And we bewail their deaths - or?"

"Yes, we do."

"Ready for the interview for today's Daily Show, Peter?"

"Yes, absolutely."

"And you, Caroline."

"More than ever, Trevor!"

Weird Portland Above All Things?

Well, now constantly an increase of three percentages in new infections, but after two days without a new death, fifteen new deaths in four days! Oregon, Portland, you performed so good, continue with it, please! Yes, still we had in Oregon low numbers, but that made it not better - but Portland, still weird at least?

Portland, no city had more strip clubs per capita in the USA - and now? Portland, inventor of drive-through strip clubs! Okay, I was no fan of strip clubs, nevertheless I had to smile! But what really a damper was? My last information was, that Portland has cancelled the World Naked Bike Ride this year finally now. Wow, no naked bike ride this year, maybe one with socially distancing?

Well, as long as we could deal with such questions in Portland, maybe there was still some hope, that the future could be good. More and more, with every new conservative governor who ran nuts, I thought that the idea of an independent West Coast would be a cool idea. And the capital of this new country with three states? Portland of course, stick with the weird!

Mixed Messages

Still a slight increase in infections, but also the increase in deaths continued. In Oregon we handled the crisis still much better than most of the other states, but nevertheless, it was a burdensome situation. But how much better it could be, without this destructive actions from the White House and the circle around the president, without the Republicans, especially those in Senate, repellent figures like Moscow Mitch.

A daily video, a podcast or a show, next week the election in Oregon would come to its end. But what a stupid procedure these primaries and caucuses were, maybe I would have preferred it, to give my vote Cory Booker or Elizabeth Warren? Bernie, you can vote for Bernie? Yeah, sure, what

about one voting at one day in all the states at once? But hey, that would sound like real democracy, real democracy in the United States?

Caroline and I had started to become more active. It made no sense anymore, Joe Biden would be the candidate - why he not reached out for a collaboration with Bernie Sanders, why he posed with Hillary, Hillary the loser? He needed the votes from the Sanders' supporters, this year even more than four years ago! But again this stupid exclusion of Sanders, like Hillary! Why I should need him, his ideas, his voters, I will win in any case - yeah, nicely done Hillary! But why Biden did this again? In 2016 it was a disaster for our nation, in 2020 it would be the end of our nation - or was the idea, that this will never happen, that this cannot happen? Well, sometimes when I closed my eyes I saw men marching through the streets in Washington, with torches and swastikas, worshiping their Führer - but of course, you're right Joe, this never ever can happen in our proud United States, without any doubt you will win in November!

Very often I pondered about, what else could you do, to illustrate the incompetence and corruption of this administration? Every briefing, every tweet, every day illustrated it, every action in Senate, the behavior of at least some conservative governors. But obviously that was not enough, the seed of the Tea Party Movement and the daily brain wash from Fox News yielded their results, but really, was it really something new?

"We" grounded a nation on the blood of those who lived here before, slavery, the way "we" treated the Asian workforce, the excesses of the Gold Rush, the Great Depression, the Civil War, the reverberation of all of this? This nation was penetrated by blood and violence, this and greed were the three pillars this nation was build on - why not speaking it out! All driven by white European emigrants, the superiority of the White Race! And yes, not every white European emigrant was a monster, and yes, not all "Indians" were angels, the same with the Asians, and also "slaves" were not simply only victims. But changed this "insight" the story as such, the story of the White colonization of North America (and South America as well)?

This country would need a long and profound process of coming to terms with its past - a pretty naive thought! So, the hope at the end, that at least Joe Biden would win in November? Who would expect from a Centrist like him, even the try on real changes, not to talk about, that real changes would happen during his time in office. The idiot from New York or Hillary? Many had the feeling that this would be like to choose between the devil and the deep blue sea. And in 2020, so much better? So many wasted chances, Democrats, so many wasted chances - this could have dire consequences!

Mixed Signals

A small decline maybe, a trend? Constantly plus two percentages more infections since a longer time now, a few deaths more. Interestingly, in many states the numbers dropped, and therewith also nationwide - so, everything fine? There was something with this two weeks because of the incubation time? So, this decline was the image of two weeks ago, as the nation had been shut down - the numbers in two weeks, three weeks? The nationwide number of deaths was near ninety thousand now, in two weeks without any doubts over a hundred thousand, what a devastating administration we had.

The point was, that it would not have to be, that we had so many deaths, other countries showed how a good crisis handling looked like - Putin, Bolsonaro, Erdoğan, Johnson.....our wonderful president, all this idiotic selfish white old men, totally incapable to manage a crisis.

But maybe this would even be bearable, but the actions from the vice president, Barr, Moscow Mitch, Kushner.....the billions that oozed away, in the pockets of billionaires and bootlickers, while millions suffered. Not to think about Wisconsin or the tax returns, the Supreme Court.

Caroline and I started some activities. Of course the daily videos, but we had time for more. We tried to support various groups, still I had a million dollar contract and CBS paid me!

This was a sick country, a very sick country, haunted by a virus. Nobody knew what the outcome would be, recovery or death, both would be possible, an answer would give you the third of November - crucial months in front of us. Months in which you could not be passive, months in hoping that the Dems would do it better this year, some signs not encouraged you in believing this. And yet, it was your only hope and a good metaphor for the wrongdoing of this nation. Two old men left over, where was this fascinating field of Democrats, again an old white man in the White House - should this be a restart, the restart this nation would need? It was a sad situation! One chance, five months and two weeks, no second chance, then it would be decided, history would have given the answer. I thought about a history book, class of 2050, what would they learn about the time, a generation afore? In half a year we would know it!

After The Rebound?

Monday, for seven days in a row constantly two percent increase in new infections, yesterday under one percent! Well, of course, it was Sunday, but also for three days in a row no new deaths. Would the county be able to stabilize this trends now, after the short rebound before? It would be good, Oregon, a county with - nearly - no muddleheads, with a conservative acting democratic governor, Kate Brown.

The situation nationwide was difficult, many states opened up now, nearly all. At the moment the statistics looked in fact not so bad, but had we all not learned, that the present day's numbers reflected the situation one, or even two, weeks ago? It was not to expect that the development would be the same in one or two weeks, but what development? Ninety thousand deaths now, soon it would be a hundred thousand dead people, it was devastating!

It was devastating that such many Americans were unable or unwilling today, to do even the simplest investigation by their own. USA ninety thousand deaths, Germany eight thousand. USA three hundred and twenty-eight million inhabitants, Germany eighty-three million. Germany was much denser populated than the USA - simple math, or?

Why it was not possible anymore, to reach vast parts of the American population with such simple contexts, and what did this tell you about the health of this nation? Should you hope that it would be enough for November, and then? Then, with Joe in the White House, all those people and their thoughts would disappear? Hardly likely, or?

The win in November was by far not cut and dried. On the contrary, Biden with Hillary and Obama - the enemy of the president together with the most hated woman and the most hated "nigger", what a combination! Yes, the Dems' establishment was happy, but they would vote for the democratic nominee in any case, the right nominee as in 2016 of course! Where was Sanders in this group, his supporters would be vital, like in 2016! Young voters, Latinos, women, independents - you not needed ninety-nine percent in California or New York! A tenth of a percent more than the president would be enough in California, we had our fucking electoral system. But a tenth of a percent in Florida and at least some swing states would be vital - hey Biden, nice messages, nice for nice voters from the Dems, but where were the messages for the young voters, the Latinos, not only your "black friends" counted, the Asian Americans - talking with Andrew Yang?, the progressives - talking with AOC?, the independents, messages for the workers who saw now, how fucking it was to connect health care with jobs - Sanders had criticized this always, you praised it always, messages for the rust belt, messages for farmers in the Great Plains - fuck, it felt like 2016! Yes, read the nice comments on Facebook, but you had to fight, Sanders had predicted it: We would need an inflammatory, a passionate, campaign this time to defeat this president - I could not see it, Joe, I could not see it!

I had long discussions with Caroline, my numbers were fucking better than the president's now, but

I had not to convince convinced democratic voters to vote democratic. The message for the progressive, the young, women, minorities.....was not very strong - Joe will be your only chance, you have to vote for him, everything else would become the end of our society - what a fucking message! And the Republicans? The president had delivered! Tax break after tax break, even in the crisis. The Evangelists cheered, down with abortion, especially in crisis, wonderful Supreme Court now. The racists were happy, the mistreating of the immigrants delighted them, the wall let them cheer, even if not paid by Mexico. Sure, they all would vote with pleasure for him in November.

I had long discussions with Caroline, how you could reach those who were not lost, who still were capable to use their own mind, who had voted for President Barack Obama? Those we would need to win Florida and the necessary number of swing states! This was the litmus test, the big question, the question for that - and this was by far not only my feeling - Joe Biden had no adequate answer to. One was evident, no appearance at The Daily Show or another late-night show, CNN or CBS, an interview for the big newspapers like the L.A. Time, Washington Post or the Boston Globe. We needed other ways.

Like A Roller Coaster

Up and down, almost no new infections, more new infections, no new deaths, again new deaths - I was never attracted by roller coasters. Well, all in all a downtrend again, after the rebound around three weeks ago. In fact, we were slightly below the level before the rebound now. So everything okay? The million dollar question?

In the case of Oregon, yes. It was difficult to say what would happen the next two or three weeks. Now a steady decline finally, or again a painful rebound? In the case of the situation of the nation, no! A maniac in the White House who went with every day more crazy? It was meaningless from now on to comment his actions, there was only one task left, to stop this and hoping, that till then at least so much of our country would remain, that one could restore it. But a passive Joe Biden, confident of victory like Hillary? Democrats in Congress, acting like toothless tigers - how much more insanity you would need, to change into the crisis mode? Only to mention his behavior in relation to Wisconsin, or that his actions at the beginning of the pandemic, as well as now, caused the deaths of ten thousands? How much more you needed, to come to the point, that this man was ill, not only mentally, that he was totally unfit for his job, that he was a national peril? But hey, only a few month till everything would be over, soon the Dems would be in the White House again, majority leaders in both of the houses from the Democrats again, all around the nation new governors from the Dems - and hey, even the Supreme Court would change, Kavanaugh would step back because of remorse, a new lefty would give the Supreme Court the right touch again! Left wing dreams, who was more insane in this farce?

I never had understood, what was so funny about these roller coasters - even as the last man on earth I would not be interested in, to have one. And yet, every ride with a roller coaster would come to an end, even if you had to puke in the meantime. But this roller coaster had no end, at least no natural one, this roller coaster had not even a predestined track. This roller coaster had switches, one could set the course, but who was "one"? In November we all would be "one"? Or would we be the ones, sitting in the roller coaster, without any chance to influence the roller coaster's way? Roller coasters never attracted me.

"Okay, we can make the daily video-podcasts, the weekly shows, we can support various groups, but will this be enough?"

"At the end all our possibilities will be limited."

"But it's frightening, what will be in November? Okay, should Biden win, than you can lean back in that sense and say: This step we have done, now this country has at least a chance for a self-

determined future. But if not? I mean, to be a German in the 30s, first Hitler's election, then the Enabling Act? How many have asked the question: What should we still have done, to prevent this? It would be hard, would you have to ask this question in November."

"And yet, it would have happened then, as it happened in Germany in the 30s. Somebody stands on the bridge to jump, you can talk with him, try to convince this person not to do it, but at the moment this person jumps, it has happened. We can try, but there's no guaranty that your efforts will be successful."

"Some tried to kill Hitler, one in a very early stage. Would have history been the same, would the carpenter have been successful? Well, I don't think so, but only because not only Hitler was there, nearly the whole senior leadership of the Nazis could have been killed at this day, because they were all there. And only if this had been a "curative shock" for the Germans, because antisemitism was very common in Germany at this time, and not only in Germany, only to mention Hitler's native country, Austria. So, could have this eighth of November changed the history of the world, no WWII, no concentration camps? Yes, but maybe this event only would have enhanced the hate for the Jews? You will never get an answer, only the fact, that antisemitism was in many, not to say all, social classes nothing unusual, it was okay, to stir up hatred against the Jews, to use them as scapegoats for everything. If a nation is sick, it's not important who depicts this illness, who's the illustration therefor, you would need a cure for the nation, it's useless to kill the picture, as Magritte so nicely illustrated, a picture is never the reality, never the object as such, it makes no sense to burn the picture."

"And the Germans, did they find a cure?"

"The knowing, to have committed the best organized holocaust in human history – The Holocaust! The knowledge, to have started "The World War" that cost millions their lives and was ground for inconceivable cruelties. The knowledge, that its hardly to believe, that after the war, the others not simply killed them, they even reached out their hands again - it could have been different!"

"Then let us hope, that our nation will find another cure."

Now It's Time To Speak It Out Loud: They Killed The Horses!

All in all a sharp decline in cases, still an up and down from day to day, but all in all a sharp decline. The last days one death a day, one day no death, should we have it under control now? One week or two could maybe give an answer, insecurity!

No insecurity about the status of the nation, Memorial Day, nearly a hundred thousand deaths. No, not in a war that lasted years, in a pandemic during weeks, a few months, avoidable many of these deaths. Because in the end this was no war, it was a health crisis, containable with science and true leadership, with a person with empathy for the suffering of the people, not a ruthless and pathetic liar, horny about money and power.

Sometime we called the current situation a nightmare, but this was a dangerous downplaying. A nightmare, a dream would end, you would wake up, and every dream was over then. You could have a shower, a hot tea, and even the worst nightmare would start to fade away than. I saw a report about the Navajo Nation, when did their nightmare begin, whenever, the nightmare lasted till today - no waking up possible. And even when there would be a change in November or February, this was no dream, all the suffering of the dead was real, and everything would still be real after November or February. None of the dead would resurrect, no suffering would suddenly disappear. It was nice to think, it was nice to hope, that this all would end soon, but time had only one direction - what has happened, would have happened.

Yes, you could hope that some would hold responsible, but again, the damage would not magically disappear, maybe a kind of relief for those who survived, but for those who not? Millions who died

in concentration camps, never they would come back, no amends possible, maybe only deep ashamedness and the cruel insight, to what human beings were capable of. Playing golf and attacking others, slander and lie, why empathy with those who suffer and die?

But still the problem, even when this would end in a foreseeable time, what until then? Simply accepting that it will be so, what doing against it? It was like seeing a row of naked people in the snow, waiting to be the next in line to stand before the pit, waiting to become executed. And you would look at this scenery, knowing, that this would end one day, after some million more of senseless dead people. Would this makes it better, bearable? And what, if it was not set, that all this would end one day? Brazil?

I felt not good, torn between the possibilities, fearful on the coming reality. Caroline was an anchor for me, a drifting vessel on an endless ocean, like an isle all alone for me. I had no good feeling, maybe history would laugh about me, but better as smiling while drowning. Two topics would form the narration of 2020 for our nation, the virus and the election. The virus would be a story of failure, unnecessary suffering and death, a very different story in comparison with other nations. And the other story, would this story has at least a kind of happy ending? In the way: It could have been even worse, look at the history of other nations. What fucking alternatives, outlooks, possibilities.

They killed the horses, and never they would come back. All this beautiful, so vulnerable creatures, never they would come back, killed, dead forever. After a wildfire new life will appear, and all the life, taken away forever? All the suffering while dying, this suffering will be no longer in existence, after the wildfire, when the new life will appear? So, all the suffering in the concentration camps was no longer, because the camps were no longer. And the dead and their suffering of 2020 would be no longer, should we have a new POTUS in 2021? Lost in an insane labyrinth of appalling thoughts.

A wonderful black mustang rears up in front of me, her hooves striking my naked body, I enjoy the pain while dying. Her warm snort is the last I feel and hear. What a wonderful death.

"Every day all this suffering and dying? It would be hard enough, would it be not preventable, but it would be, at least to a certain amount. All this months till a change would be possible, but the fear, that the change will not come? If I could be at least on a stage, would hear the audience, would feel their reaction? Would I be able to have shows in Wisconsin, Texas, Georgia or North Carolina? That would help at least to a certain degree. We would need an outcry now, from the Democrats in Washington, from Joe Biden and his endorsers, from public figures, from the free media, from the American people. But everything appears so fragmented, no concerted action, it looks like scattered soldiers tumbling around lacking any kind of orientation and lead. I fear that this will be not enough for November."

"These weeks and months will be a shame for our nation, whatever the future will yield. But I have no solution, I can offer you only my arms."

*You don't ever have to be stronger than you really are
When you're lying in my arms, baby
(Elizabeth Woolridge Grant; California)*

One Hundred Thousand Plus One

A sharp decrease now, over many days. At the moment it looked very good - in Oregon! A grim "milestone", a hundred thousand, and so many wouldn't have to die, doomed because of a ruthless president without scruples and empathy. More and more states with increasing numbers again, some

very drastically. Washington more or less steady, on a low basis, California still rising. The lucky people of Oregon, a smart governor maybe, it was no good time.

A hundred thousand, how many dead people we would accept, how many of those who died, died because one man enjoyed his vanity? And yet, it was not that much excluded, that he was a man in deep fear, feared about, that he would lose the next election, that he would be held responsible for his crimes, that he would have to pay a price for his crimes.

I would do my best to try, that this day would come. But with social media I could only reach "my" audience. Well, the TV shows, but a tour, all states, especially the red states, the swing states, this would have been something very different. I felt like a knight without his horse, still able to fight, but something elementary was missing, something you were used to, something that had been your life, literally!

A hundred thousand deaths, so many without a name and face. And then a face, a name, a death more, a death that illustrated, that insanity knew even in this crisis no limit. What happened in the mind of a police officer, who knelt for endless minutes onto the neck of a person, while the person begged for breath, begged for his mom, while people around shouted to the officer, that the man got no breath, that he was no danger, a handcuffed person and four police officers? Men with assault weapons and swastikas "demonstrating" for freedom, the freedom in definition of the Nazis? How sick was this country, how sick I was of it!

A country permeated by racism, metastases everywhere, the White part of the country, the White male part of the country was the problem of this country. A White male disease, seeing itself as fighting their last stand, scorched earth was all they could imagine. Not willing to share, not willing to accept non-Whites as equal - I was sick of it!

A crisis that would have had the potential to show, that working together helped everybody. Assumed, we would have had a president that was not only interested in to cause confusion, competition and fight, so that he could proceed with his destructive plans, but we would have had a president who would have worked together with all the governors and mayors, all at one table working together. How many people could still be alive, who are dead now? How much more effective we could reopen our economy now? But hey, that would have meant, to work together with blue governors and mayors, to help them to be successful, to be positive and constructive and not destructive. But to be constructive was difficult, to be destructive was so easy!

This president was a racist, you liked the video? Hey, it's was only a "nigger" more, many of them die at the moment. This president had blood on his hands, from the first day on, children in cages and so much more - but take it, this man has no conscience! He would be the perfect mass murderer in a TV series, he's ancestors were Germans - he would have had a fantastic career in Germany of the 20s and 30s. White men without any scruples, perfect in this time! Children in cages, why not in camps? He would have liked all the pomp, the nice uniforms, to send millions of soldiers in death, to kill without any scruples.

But hey, today it was not such bloody anymore. And yes, still only a symptom and not the illness, but the illness had reached the White House now. This was always the problem of a democracy, what if the enemy of democracy has reached the innermost of democracy - one chance left, November! November, always November. In Germany there was this special day: The ninth of November - the German "Schicksalstag" (fateful day). Maybe also this nation would get its "Schicksalstag" in November soon.

Ambiguous Feelings

The numbers rose again, not dramatically, but distinct. Not that much the deaths, but the cases, but was this the topic of the time? The protests erupted very fast in Portland, and violently. I tried to continue with my videos, but what should I say - I, the White guy! What an astonishing clear analysis from Trevor Noah again, not for the first time he found striking words, understandable

words, a strict analysis to the bottom of the problem. It was the time, that some should keep their mouths shut, at least to some matters, not playing the undefined judge: Do you see this Black looters, do you see this riots, this houses burning, this un-legal behavior! How nice was it, to see a Black man dying under the knee of a white law enforcer, how legal was this? Yes, there will be an investigation - with fucking Barr on top? With a president who - again - tried to pour gasoline into the fire? But they acted legally, 'cause well, they were the White guys. Third-degree murder as charge, a White jury, the sentence? As always, or?

Caroline and I walked through the streets, in the city of a state of emergency, it was like being drugged, like in a hallucinogenic dream, did this really happen, in our city, so proud of, to be weird, to be different? How racist was this city - of course not, or very much? How racist was I, I was not sure about, to be honest. While walking down a not well-lit street, a group of young black men approaches you, what thoughts you would have? The same thoughts, as if a group of young white men would approach you? Be honest!

It was about time, for some, to be silent, a time for others to speak out, a time for some to listen to the outspoken words. To become aware, what daily discrimination in fact meant - it took away your humanity! It told you every day, that you are no part of our society, that you are no complete Americans, that you are too dumb to elect, that you are too dumb for higher education, that you need no money for good and fresh food, that the fast food shit is enough for you, that nobody cared about, that you get ill and die early. And hey, a fit White man would have had no problem, with a knee in his neck for nearly nine minutes. But a sickly and overweight and drugged "nigger" - was this the fault of this law-abiding police officer?

Violence erupted more and more, the whole nation awaited the next night of violence, Saturday afternoon. Words from our "leader", only to stir up his "base". To fuel hate and violence, but he had no problem with a hundred thousand dead Americans, why he should have problems with some dead protestors? I asked myself: Sat he in front of his TV, watching this pictures, watching the video while jerking? I would be not surprised, if.

Violence was no answer, but what doing, if no one was willing to listen to you? Come on, be a kind Uncle Tom - why so many Whites wrote books and made movies about the "bad" life of the "Blacks"? They were no little children, you had not to take them by the hand, let them speak for themselves - why not Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man, for the beginning?

A new night waited, you had not to be a prophet to know, that it would become a very violent night. I only hoped, not the night with the first dead. Caged Heat came me to mind, a boiling point, reached this point, it was not so easy to cool down a thing then again. I walked with Caroline through the streets and had tears in my eyes, it all felt so without any sense. I felt physical pain as well as mental pain, I felt sick, my stomach ached, I had the feeling that my head would burst. Every American has the right to protest peacefully - oh shut up your mouths, you White assholes in TV! As long as they have the right to die peacefully, they have the right to demonstrate violently - let's define their dying as an act of violence, then you can ask for peaceful protests, otherwise it's only this typical hypocritical White chatter, the reason why they lose their temper!

Caroline and I walked through the streets, slowly the sun set, the night came slowly, please no dying in the night, everything else would be secondary, no further dying. Caroline and I walked through the streets, we both had tears in our eyes.

No Change!

Still the number of cases rose, not very dramatically, but it rose again. Only a few deaths more, but it was stressful, this up and down. But why talking about this, the nation had other problems now.

This was not cynically meant, it seemed, as that the next days would generate something, and it seemed, as it would be nothing good.

Protests in Portland, weird Portland, all radicals from outside? In a way Portland was not so much weird, or? In a way, it was a city as many others, the days in contrast to the nights, but this was not my problem. My problem was, that the news always reported about George Floyd's death. Who was this George Floyd? A man, one man, a man died - many men died every day. But it was easy to talk about George Floyd, not to talk about the real issue.

Who was this Ahmaud Marquez Arbery? I've forgotten. There was this Rodney King - or? And this other guys? Stop talking about names and start talking about facts! This was not addressed to the family, or the families, not to the African American community, this was addressed to the news, the newspapers, the politicians! This had nothing to do with a George Floyd, this had to do with an infested nation. Justice for George Floyd, fine idea! But how this should function in an unjust society? A certain police officer was not the problem, even if a bloody racist. A dead black man was not the problem, even if brutally murdered. The problem was, that the White European settlers could not accept others. They had committed a holocaust, as they killed those who lived there already before, because they disturb, new farm land was needed, gold rushes and more. The "Indians" were needless now, because the higher European culture took the continent over now. Later slaves were needed, "worker" from Asia and southern nations. Even in the North, not only in the South, racism was common, anti-Semitism as well - why? It was the European way, now the American way. Colonies - England, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, Germany.....they all had their colonies. They not practiced slavery interestingly, at least not in the way as America, but this was a different situation, in the new continent. You had to get rid of this "Indians" first, then you had to ensure the White primacy, till today this was a struggle! And the fight became continuously harder. Why they had the right to vote now, now you needed gerrymandering and more to ensure the White primacy? You gave them some concessions, and they wanted all, like a gay person that you no longer sent to prison, now they wanted to marry and have children!

A nation at the road fork? It was to hope! What was the alternative? Waiting another eighteen years to say: It's 2038 now, can you remember the riots in 2020? Well, not that much has changed since then, at least nothing substantial. Maybe it was better to clarify once and all, whether this country was able to change substantially or not. This country was no prison, you could leave it! The states could leave the association of states, called the United States of America. Maybe it was better to reshape the country once for all. The East Coast and the West Coast would have no problem therewith! Maybe it was the time, to find a solution for the unwilling White racists, considering themselves as superior, let them do their own nation, the United States of Racists.

It was daytime, we awaited the eighth night. I was sad, looking back in history, I saw no acceptance for real change among them, who still stuck in racism and the dream of slavery. I hated to hear Biden speaking, not because it was a bad speech, but it was a speech, stop quoting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., talking about 1968 and that it was a moment of change - what the fuck about what fucking change he was talking! 1992 had been long after 1968, and 2020 was long after 1992! Stop talking in this way, stop talking about Rosa Parks, stop talking! The only who should have a voice now, were the Blacks, all the discriminated - who the fuck were the Black democratic candidates, was there a Latino, an Asian? Thanks God, we would have again an old White man as president, whoever for whom you would vote! What a fucking signal was this, a real true new beginning!

We walked though the streets and alongside Colombia River. Another night would come, another night in weird Portland. I closed my eyes and saw a line of presidents, all women - Black, Brown, a Latina, an Asian woman.....and should this woman be one day a Native American woman, then maybe there would be hope, but not with this old White men who said always nice words.....

At The Road Fork!

Still rising, or falling again - it was hard. In some states the cases exploded again, in some there was a plateau, only in a few the numbers decreased. And what meant, a plateau? A plateau on a very high level was no increase, but nevertheless a very devastating situation! All in all, very soon, the next ten thousand Americans would have died.

But this was no longer the major topic, and maybe this illustrated the situation in the States very good. If a hundred and ten thousand dead Americans within weeks was not the headline any longer, than something very grave had happened. A country at the edge of the abyss? How often this would have been said in the past? Civil War.....1963.....1968.....1992.....2020 - the year of real change?

The last two nights had seen much lesser violence, the situation seemed to relax. The president got more and more criticized from different sides, his actions seemed more and more born out of necessity. But should this give hope - Mattis or Asper - or had you to fear, that the president's actions would only become more and more extreme? Much would depend on the actions of his closest bootlickers like Barr or McConnell. Not to forget good Jared and nice Ivanka. But at the moment I had the feeling that the future was wide open, but unfortunately this meant in both ways! It was a moment of taking a deep breath, all four police officers accused now, the next days could be crucial. And then this fear, also in 1992 there was a trial, this was not the problem! It was the feeling, that in this worse moment, with a virus still there, with a president disgusting beyond all limits, with all this hate and racism, there would be a chance. Only that this president no longer dominated the news, changed a lot. Suddenly others, their concerns, their lives, their feeling, their hopes.....were in focus, no longer a selfish little man.

And yet, nothing would be more dangerous than to underestimate the still existing threats - still very, very long months till inauguration day! And not again the mistake, to think to know, who would be sworn into office, next January. This would be the most devastating failure, the failure of 2016, so many aspects were unclear. What, if a second or third wave in November? What, if this man in office gets more and more the feeling, that he will have no legal chance anymore, to win the next election? A lot of questions, a lot of possibilities for devastating developments.

Massive demonstrations in Portland, real massive, ten thousand and more! Peaceful days and strained nights. Caroline and I were among them on the streets, we looked at this mostly young people, they fought for their future in a country that needed nothing more than fundamental change. A future with climate change, as if this would be not burdening enough. Young people on the streets, often the beginning of change, but change would be not enough this time! It was as with the White House, a new president would be a must, but by far not enough this time! What, if again a "Centrist" Democratic Party would rule, not willing or too frightened for real big change? Joe Biden's words about health care sounded not that euphoric, would be a "new" Obamacare enough? 2020 - a year for the history books in any case, only the outcome was not written so far. Wide open? A young generation on the streets, not only in Los Angeles, not only the Civil Rights Movement, not only students, so many diverse young people on the streets in so many cities? If this shows no result, if this protest finds no ear, if the next president will be not willing for substantial change, if racism will be a natural part of this nation also in the future.....then this nation would destroy itself.

At the road fork, still both ways were possible. Looking into a young face, now or never, I had this sudden feeling of liberty - it has to be now!

Rising

No, the numbers rose again, the number of infected, but also the number of deaths. Back again on

the level of the plateau, that we had for quite a number of days in mid and late April. Not much more increase, and we would hit our so far peak for a third time, or maybe we would even surpass it? Was I too pessimistic? Maybe only a temporary increase, that would transition into the next decrease? But one question was significant: What effect would the demonstrations have! It would be sad, would this understandable, this necessary, outcry, cause a new wave of infections. And yet, it would be a surprise if not, or everything we had learned about the virus, had been wrong! The church service in Minnesota - yes, also I had seen the pictures in TV, also I had cried, but was it blasphemy to ask, how much of the people in the church got - maybe - infected, maybe had to die now? Why this nation was in this situation, were you had to go on the streets, were you had to come together with others to mourn, to be angry, to shout it out loud, knowing, that this was not the most clever thing to do, amidst of a pandemic - why!

A president that spat in the face of passed away, killed, George Floyd in the Rose Garden - you had to be ashamed, to be an American, that the whole world became witness, of what happened in the United States of America today.

"You're not in a good mood."

"Neither you."

"No. it seems that whatever happens, that it will become devastating. You cannot accept any longer what happens in this nation, but we have this virus? But what virus? Racism is a virus, COVID-19 is a virus, the man in office is the personification of a very deep illness, I've the feeling, that the body of this nation is exposed to too many viruses and illnesses, that the body collapses now, that any treatment would have to have that aggressive, that the side effects alone would be life threatening. But doing nothing, that would kill the body in any case. To do a little, would only retard the inevitable death. So, whatever you will do, the result would be devastating."

"And yet, if a body is seized with cancer, a consequent treatment maybe will not cure everything, but the patient can still have many years of a fulfilled life. My grandpa had cancer, but had still some years. My pa has cancer, but he lives since many years with it now."

"And if the body is full of metastasis already, if the cancer is a very aggressive one? Then it's too late, or the treatment will be horrible. Some of these patients ask for a dignified death then, a natural death without treatment, till a certain point, till they decide, that it should end finally."

"And our nation?"

"Who will do the diagnosis? Without any doubts, it looks not good. But sometimes strange things happen, but not that often."

"What should we do now?"

"Stepping on the streets, I think this is the most important, what we can do in this situation."

"Yeah, Caroline, you're right."

"Don't forget your face mask, Peter."

No Good

Rising numbers, not so much more deaths, but fast increasing numbers in infected - caused by an increase in tests? Well, Oregon, second lowest number in tests per capita? Not really, or? Two or three days more such an increase, and we would have reached a new overall climax - why now? Till the end of last month everything seemed very positive, now such a fast increase again? I already said it, I was no fan of roller coasters.

At least the demonstration became more and more peaceful, more and more videos with police violence popped up. The president barricaded in the White House, a coward, not the balls to show up, not enough soldiers in the city anymore?

What disturbed me was, that you heard not much from the straight conservatives, from the far-right. One could say: Yes, they have nothing to say anymore! But yes, the man in the White House was a coward, but for my taste, it was too silent on the right side.

Tomorrow was Sunday, a new week would begin, the numbers in Oregon, the numbers nationwide, more and more states with rising numbers again, over one hundred and ten thousand deaths now. Tomorrow was Sunday, a new week would begin, still protests at the end of the week? I hoped so! But it would need a long wind, a long lasting endurance, and not at least, it would need the political will, especially also the acceptance on the conservative side. Too many requirements? I had a lot of hope, but a bad feeling, a very bad feeling in my stomach.

Exploding To An All-Time High

A new all-time high in cases, still only a few deaths more, explanations? Officials talked about more testing, as well as some larger outbreaks at workplaces, especially at seafood facilities. No real reason to be concerned, officials said? No good situation.

The Portland police chief, Jami Resch, had resigned. A white woman, now replaced by Chuck Lowell, a black man. She had replaced Danielle Outlaw, a black woman, the first woman in this position in Portland, after Outlaw had become Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department, Jami Resch had been her deputy. This all sounded not bad at all, men and women, black and white, it sounded diverse, but it felt, as there would be a dark flipside.

All over the nation, even the world, the protests increased constantly - peacefully! More and more actions, announcements, withdrawals, statements..... - too much for my taste! Collin Powell dared to talk about, that the president would lie - gosh Powell, you were "The Devil's General", your lie costed uncounted numbers of people their lives and caused endless suffering, be a "man" and do what Harras did: Precede him on his way to hell. And by the way, wasn't it George W. who dreamt about a never ending republican presidency?

It was the danger of such a time, that the hypocrites and opportunists would occupy the protests and try to use them for their own interests. And one of their interests was, to thwart the demonstrators efforts for real change. Some cosmetic, now we allow the "niggers" to kneel down, as long as we White owners can make a fucking lot of money with them! Please, do not let us talk, in such a historic moment, about that, what we said and did before, we have learned a lot in the last days, like a leaf in the wind. I could no longer hear this shit!

The only voices that have to be heard now, were the voices of the Blacks, the Latinos, the Hispanics, the Asians, the "Real Americans", the demonstrators - all others, especially the old White men, had to shut up their mouths for a while now, it was not their time now, to talk.

I looked at the water of the Columbia River and had no good feeling. Hadn't we seen these developments too often -1963, 1968, 1992.....? This time it was different - really? I saw many ways this nation could go on, a road fork with endless possibilities to go on. One was straight on, some would change the course only slightly, or somewhat more, but some, to the left and right, would change the course extremely. I could not decide, on which path the nation was at this moment, it would need some more time to decide this, especially because every path leaded, endlessly, only to another road fork with endless new paths - but this was trivial, this was life.

I looked at the water of the Columbia River and had no good feeling. Would it be as always, then we would see some nice changes and nice concessions. The "niggers" would be allowed to kneel down, as long as the NFL stayed as a White billion dollar corporation, everything was fine! I could no longer hear this shit!

Trevor Noah

"It's good to talk with you, Trevor."

"Difficult times, it's always good, also for me, to talk with other people, Peter. The numbers in Oregon are rising?"

"Yes, we had never such an increase in cases. Sometimes more than three percent in a day now. For a very long time we had one percent, maybe two, but then a good decline with many days under one percent in increase. It seems, that it's because of some hot spots, the number of deaths increases not much. But it's this problem with the two weeks, we have to wait and see. In many states you have not to ask, the situation in many states becomes more and more devastating. New York? You always start with a reopening now?"

"Yes, but I hope that our mayor and governor will maintain with their course, that we will reopen slowly and carefully."

"Can I ask you about the NYPD?"

"Of course?"

"You're black, you're from South Africa, now you're living in a not so cheap penthouse in Manhattan, you're obviously very privileged now, you're named as one of the most influential persons in the US, do you feel uncomfortable, when a white police officers stops your car, because one of your tail lights not functions?"

"Why you're asking?"

"I'm white, I'm not poor, but compared with you, I'm not unknown, but compared with you. Should a police officer stops me in Portland, because one of my tail lights not functions, I'm relatively relaxed."

"Yeah, there's a reason, why so many are on the streets now. It was always a different matter, whether a white or a black man sat in a car. You know, sure, I can use the main entrance today, like the white artists, the white guests, I'm a celebrity. But unfortunately I'm still a black artist."

"Well, I live in weird Portland, two thirds are Whites. No ten percent are Blacks, no ten percent Latinos, no ten percent Asians. And even we manage it, even when Portland is somewhat diverse, that we have neighborhoods for the Blacks, the Latinos and the Asians. I rose up in this city, sure, I had mainly white friends, with mainly Whites in the school, I thought not about it for a long time. I saw movies about New York in my youth, "Fort Apache, The Bronx" or the movies by Martin Scorsese, later "NYPD Blue" or so. I thought, this is the other coast, this here is the West Coast, the upper West Coast, this is Oregon, this is weird Portland. But hey, what happens today in Portland, how blind I was? I don't get it, Token - it's not enough to be Stan or Kyle. But what would be enough? To tell the world: Hey, I had a phone call with Trevor Noah, he's a friend of mine, I've Black friends, even some Latinos and an Asian friend? This all is nothing more than petty shit, as long as we would have no fundamental change. Look at the GOP in Senate, this tells you all. Hey, they found a black Senator, their only one, to lead the police reform now - how disgusting is this? The "quota nigger" and a few women among the White men, preferable the old White men. It's funny to bring down statues now, as long as we have all this White hypocrites who think - hey, I'm no racist! Not to talk about them who think, like our president: Hey, I'm White, therefore I'm superior! I see a lot of lip service and activism, but I see no fundamental discussion."

"Yeah, and you're the White guy. But it's the best chance we had since decades to change something. But yes, as long as the GOP will not be able to a real reform, we will have no real change, or we will have a even more divided country."

"And we as artists? I walk through the streets of Portland, but I feel like an alien - yes, I'm the White guy. I ask myself, wouldn't it better that all these Whites would stay at home and shut up. That those who get discriminated, would be the only one, allowed to demonstrate, allowed to speak out? You know, as I saw Nancy and the others kneeling, you as always found very good words, I felt ashamed! We have not to talk about the disgusting GOP, or this racist president, but I have not forgotten what Hillary said about President Barack Obama, as they were competitors - how racist was this? I mean, a racist is a racist, but all these women in the parks, I fear hat these Whites are the real problem. People like me, living in weird Portland."

"Both is a problem, to be honest. We cannot have an open society, not with them, not with those. But at the moment we have a major problem therewith, that racism has conquered the White House. It's the tragedy of this moment - yes, the police, but then the White House, then the GOP, then the militant groups, and what we would need would be a discussion about this daily racism, about the

breeding ground for all this other problems. But it's to fear, that we will have some reforms, maybe Joe Biden will win in November, but in some years we will be in a situation, not that different to today. WE will look back and see, that again we had no fundamental changes, no fundamental discussions, as so many times before. That's the worst feeling you can have at the moment."

"And we, we artists, we make our art? I'm pissed off, that I have to vote for Joe Biden, this is no real change!"

"AOC, maybe she will be president one time?"

"Wow, and then? Who would follow her? An even worse nightmare, as the nightmare that followed President Barack Obama? This nation has to change, but this would include the will, to come to terms with the past, to talk about the atrocities and massagers, regarding the "settlement" of the American land, regarding slavery and much more. You know, that I've German ancestors. An old Chinese man once said to me, sitting in front of a bakery in Los Angeles, that the Germans had asked about forgiveness after WWII, that they had faced up with that, what had happened, what they had done. Movies, documentations, books, memorials - till today this time would be not forgotten. I will not judge about these words, it's not on me to do so, but how wonderful would it be, could a young African American, could a young Native American say such words one time about the USA? When they simply would be two young Americans, with different roots, but united as Americans. But I fear that our nation is far away from this point. Closer now today? Would be good."

"I think we have to be honest, it will be a very, very long way, we just only entered it. Yes, we're artists, we have our art, but art can be very powerful. Dictators always fear an independent art, they know why. But art has its limits, in the end people have to act, a book, a movie, a play can be inspirational, but the people's actions change the world in the end, no books, no movies, no plays."

"It was good to talk with you, Trevor. Thank you!"

Portland Down

It was horrible to look at, looking at the pictures of the nights, looking at the numbers, looking at the country.

Again some violence erupted in the nights, but what messages the protestors got, from the president for example, his wonderful executive order from today for example - or better, from his "speech" in the Rose Garden. It was more a threat - or? An idle threat, or the beginning of a conservative backlash? What had to be the strategy?

The numbers rose in a way, as never since the beginning of the crisis. Around three percent more cases a day was the new normality, the numbers of new deaths was not good, but seemed not really rising. It was an uncertain situation, in the end mostly two counties at the coast were responsible for this increase. Therefore, not that much to worry about?

It could be, that the nightmare, at least the nightmare in Washington, could come to an end. But even if Biden got elected, and apart from, that inauguration day was in January, and that it was to fear, that this administration would not accept a defeat, Biden seemed not to be the strong and inspiring president we would need now. Oh, forgotten, of course, he would choose an African American woman as vice president, how kind!

Looking at the politicians and the political commentators, I had the feeling, that too many said too much. Since three weeks now the people were on the streets, and only to see other black men dying. On the other hand, it was in fact different. In 1992 everything lasted five days, sixty-three people had been killed, thousands wounded. Yes, also now death on both sides, but compared to 1992 one could see some changes. Especially that the demonstration spanned from one coast to the other, from north to south. But then too often you had to hear, how fantastic our police officers were, and not only from the liar in office. But it had to be a first, absolutely necessary, step, to state, that it was a structural problem, racism in the States was a structural problem.

But the police as an example, police officers with a long record of complaints, but nothing

happened? Police officers fired by one department, hired by the next? Police officers not prepared for their job, some training was all. But hey, this was one of the American systems: Hire and fire! No very good and stable basis for a social society - but who said, that the States should be "social"?

"Bad mood?"

"Have watched one of Trevor's videos."

"I do not think that the video as such is the problem?"

"No. It's a sentence he said: *If you weren't black, maybe you'd still alive*. I thought about, how often my life could have ended, would I be not a White guy? Drunken - maybe dead. To be panicked, ran away - maybe dead. Some think I look like a criminal - maybe dead. My shoe touches your lawn, you feel scared - most probably dead. But I'm the White guy, I can be totally boozed-up, I can behave like I wanna, I can piss on every Black Men's lawn! Do you think I would be dead, would I be no White guy?"

"Possible, obviously it's very easy to die as a Black man or woman. Sometimes it's enough to sleep in your own bed, in your own house. The American nation has a fundamental problem with those former "slaves". As they were "slaves", everything was in order, but thereafter, after this brutal and bloody war? Sure, the Civil War had not only one reason, but the "slaves", their "liberation", was a good argument for both sides."

"Yes, it could be all so easy. This could be a wonderful White nation, a White gentry with all this Negroes, Asians and Latinos as servants and workers. I think that many Whites have this in mind, cannot accept that others should be also Americans, especially Americans with the same rights. But those Black people? "In The Heat Of The Night", the facial expression of the old White man, after this former "slave" had slapped him - he simply could not understand it! I think better you cannot illustrate the White America - we simply cannot understand it, we have no connection to this former "slaves". We're like the White surfer boys and their White girls who adored them, at the shores of California, while the Latino boys cut the lawns. I think that the White America never "had a use" for this "minorities", especially not for the Blacks, especially after they were no longer slaves, after they had caused this horrible war, after they demanded rights, and had fought for them. And then it happened, they started to become politicians, and finally even POTUS. This was too much!"

"And the backlash was brutal, and even after what all has happened it's not sure, whether the majority of the Americans will elect this time an old White man, one who is not destructive in the first instance. This nation is obsessed by the chimera "race", in a time, when we know that "race" is only a chimera. But we, the White people, are trained to look first and foremost on the color of the skin, when we see somebody. I see no chance to overcome this easily, especially not with laws and regulations, not with nice words and activism. Black colleges for instance, why we have Black colleges? We have to have colleges for all - we have a very, very long way to go!"

"What gives me at least some hope?"

"What?"

"I have German ancestors. What about to be a German after the end of WWII? No matter what you have known before, but as it was shown to you, all the atrocities the Germans had done? And today, not everything is perfect, but today there're synagogues in Germany again, after the gas chambers. If this is possible.....but it had costed millions their lives, and even today there are Germans who praise Adolf Hitler."

"But no longer gas chambers, but synagogues again?"

"Yes....."

Rising

The weekend was there, the numbers were still rising, double as many cases now, as in the two previous peaks, and still rising. But what also true was, that the number of deaths was stable. One or two a day, sometimes none at all, sometimes four a day, but we had this also before - so, in fact,

everything was okay? It seemed so, as a Portlander trusting your governor? Why not, there was no reason not to doubt on her statements - and other states with such rising numbers? Texas, Florida, Arizona or Oklahoma? Could you trust their governors? But still we had eight hundred till one thousand deaths in the USA every day, no longer in New York, where they died?

Soon we would reach a hundred and twenty-five thousand deaths, two hundred thousand at the horizon, how many at the end? You needed WWII now for comparison - a president who had declared himself as a president in war, who had said, that maybe sixty or seventy thousand will fall in this war, and now? A war, that was far away from over, a war that not lasted since years, but only since months - what does this told you about the Commander in Chief?

A president, who not gave a jot about the health of the people, even not the health of his biggest supporters in Tulsa today - what did this tell you about this man? Would you think, that such a man was interested in someone's life who not supported him, who disagreed with him, for them was the red triangle! This man would have had a brilliant career in Nazi Germany, dreaming of Nazi America!

No doubt was anymore, that this was a crucial moment in the American history, the development that started with Reagan, continued with Bush father and son, reached now a climax. And then suddenly in one week, two judgments from the Supreme Court, not surprisingly 5-4, but 5-4 prejudicial to the president! They had fought that hard, had installed bootlickers like Kavanaugh, and now two such judgments in one week? Should this be a signal, as much as the sustained presence of the people in the streets? Bolton's book? No talking about Bolton's personality now! The book from the president's niece? His base was not important, but should all these developments convince enough independents to vote for Biden? How often had Biden failed because of Biden? And yet, our only hope he was!

If next year everything would be good again, then these weeks would be seen as the beginning of the end, and if not? The red triangle he had already shown, he loved Xi's concentration camps, to what extent his plans had advanced, for the time after the political takeover of Washington in November? Had he already made a non-aggression pact with Putin and Xi - he had German ancestors! This was a crucial time for the USA!

I gave voice to my thoughts, not everybody liked them. But it was important to speak out now, no restrain was adequate anymore, it was the time for an all-in. The only problem was, that neither your hand, nor the other hand had any importance anymore. All-in was all what had been left, and the hope that your hand would be good, at least good enough, knowing, to have by far not the best hand possible. So, the question leftover was, on the other side of the table, a bluff or a monster of hand - Cincinnati Kid? But if the kid would lose this time, no beautiful girl would wait around the corner.

Still Rising

Still rising, the number of infections, still only a few deaths, still a feeling of uncertainty. But then the feeling, that it was good to live in Oregon, with a woman as governor, a woman, who was able to make meaningful decisions. For instance a stop of further reopening for seven days - it was good to live in Oregon.

The situation at the whole West Coast seemed not to be that easy, not in California, not in Washington, not in Oregon. But at least you had the feeling that your governors not acted because of the wishes of a man without scruples, that they acted like independent people. And this gave you the feeling, of at least some security in an otherwise stormy time, especially here in Oregon.

I thought of plans that I had had, the theater in L.A., Old Downtown, would I ever perform there? Some days in Los Angeles, some days in Portland, every week, I had thought. A tour beyond the border, Calgary and the cities around, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico still missing. Some days in

the UK and Ireland, maybe France, Italy or Germany or Spain? Australia and New Zealand, South America and Asia, maybe Africa? Now everything had developed in such an unpredictable way - nobody could have had imagined this, they would have laughed about you, would you had written such a novel. But now it had become reality.

I missed the audience very much, their presence, only the knowing that they were there, often not seeing them, only in very small venues. I missed the applause at the end - comments, even if thousands, were not the same. The conversations at the end of the shows, sometimes for hours - I had forgotten the name of this very small town, in the snow, the New England States, very much at the beginning of the tour. I feared, that I would never become a chance again, to be there. Forever banished in a city, in front of a lens, talking with anonymous entities, creatures from another galaxy, separated by insuperable dimensions, crazy thoughts!

But I missed it really, this tension, waiting to step on the stage, the moment when it was over. But the real problem was, that the current development not looked good, now at a time, when in comparable nations in Europe or New Zealand the situation relaxed more and more. And even they prepared for a possible second wave in fall, even that the numbers dropped constantly - well, not in the UK, but they had a failure as PM, only topped by our president, maybe Brazil. What would this mean for the States, a second wave? Not even the first wave was over, I had the feeling, that it would never happen, Portland and L.A., only one time on the stage of the old theater, only once.

This time would become a time for the history books, and it would tell you a very bad story about the United States. I closed my eyes and heard the applause - no, it would take a very long time till the next time on the stage.

Who Writes History?

A school in Portland, a statue in front - whose statue?

Well, one could say, the statue of an important American politician, that the students could be proud, to have the ability to attend a school with his name. A Founding Father, maybe "the" Founding Father, wedded to the enlightenment, a philosopher even - you could not praise him too much!

Well, one could describe him in a totally different way, phony, nearly as a monster, a rapist, a pedophile. It would be a disgusting imposition for a student then, to attend such a school, to pass this statue every day, reading his name every day, especially as an African American.

And the real Thomas Jefferson, a mixture of all this, or was one description wrong? Assumed it would be not 2020, but say 1800? What would you say about this man? Maybe it would depend on, whether you would be his guest, a White of course, enjoying all the luxury his mansion offered? Maybe it would differ, if being one of his slaves, especially as woman? Sorry, he offered also his slaves some "luxury"!

The history written by a White slave owner would never be the same, as the history written by one of "his" Black slaves. The White America had no problems therewith, why it should? The former slaves would see this different - maybe black colleges were, seen in this way, not the most stupid idea? What would be an all-embracing American history?

Students had pulled down a statue of Thomas Jefferson in Portland a few days ago, Whites always wrote the American history, history became always written by the winners, the ruling class, at least the "official" history. The American history, narrated by an uncountable number of novels, movies, songs - in the popular culture, narrated the whole world. "To Kill a Mockingbird" or "Invisible Man", they not told you the same story - of course you had read them both! But what had been "your" novel, while looking at "The Artificial Nigger"? It not helped, "my" history was not "their" history, and nothing would ever change this! And yet, the past was the past and nothing could ever change the past, but the presence created the future in letting it becoming past. This past had not

been written yet, this history became written with every second of your existence, but how strange was it, to ponder on the narration of one American history? A history, that would tell about all those living in this nation, as a common canon, the history of one nation.

And the man, lying at the foot of the stairs now, who was he? Well, he had slaves, as a man over forty he had sex with a fourteen-year-old girl, he made his fortune by exploiting his "workers", he saw himself superior to others - Dante, "Inferno"? Many clerics, even popes there, many nobles and wealthy people - Thomas Jefferson? I would think, would Dante have known him, he would have found a place for him, there, in hell.

Climax Reached?

The rise seemed to have stopped, a plateau seemed to develop, a plateau on a very high level. Hope that the plateau would develop into a new descent? Experts said, that in one or two weeks we would see an increase in deaths, also in Oregon?

Every day the number of states with an increase in cases rose, sometimes with very dramatic increases. Often, as in Oregon, the new numbers were the highest since the beginning of the crisis. And in one or two weeks, the highest death rates since the beginning of the crises?

Apart from some exceptions, very telling exceptions like Russia, the UK and Brazil, the world around the United States were able to deal with the virus, often their numbers became very low now, sometimes they had defeated the virus like New Zealand. The striking point was, that even these countries feared a second wave, that even these countries acted in a very cautious manner. Reopening slow, step by step, if hot spots appeared, counter-measures were introduced - distancing, hygiene regulations and masks were recommended or demanded. Not so the US!

What happened in the White House? Was this a big gamble - all or nothing? Did they expect to get reelected with a quarter million of deaths or more till November, nearly as much as in WWII had to die? The actions from Barr, did they think, that this would not alienate the independents? What was their plan, their consideration? Did they dream about a putsch?

Who should still elect him? African Americans, for them he did so much, more than any other president ever, calling the protesters a mob? The Asian Americans, who had been to blame because of the virus, and because of every dead American? The Latinos, while posing in front of the wall, this wonderful wall that protected us from all this vermin and low lives? The young, who were all radicals and criminals, not marching with swastikas and assault weapons, marching because of one or two dead criminal "niggers"? The women, who he likes to force to kiss him, who had their definite place in his old men's White world. He would have liked it, to have a fourteen-year-old slave girl.

Should this all give you hope, that maybe Joe not would win the election in November, but the criminal bunch in the White House would lose it? A dangerous hope, not only of one reason. And then, next year, with Joe in the White House and the democratic establishment with the majority in both houses in Congress, then everything would become fantastic? Sure, every White man would have a Black friend then, everybody would love Asian food then, everybody would know a Latino musician then, it would become heaven on earth. This country was divided till its core, no easy remedy available, no easy surgery. A brain surgery full conscious maybe, with your own beating heart in hand, an impossible task, only a not born genius would be able to.

We had committed a genocide, the people who lived here before, the Native Americans, the First Nations, the indigenous people, name them as you liked it, we had slaughtered them. Then parts of this country degenerated into a society of slaveholders. They amassed wealth by treating humans like animals, only as cannibal you could be more debauched. This country established, from the beginning on in its total, a system, that guaranteed endless wealth for some, by treating the majority not much better than slaves, till today. The list could be much longer, but I heard not to one of these points a clear and distinct word or statement, at least not if pale skinned, especially if a politician -

the people in the streets, statues who fall, symbolic deeds with symbols of a corrupt historical narrative. But symbolic deeds would be not enough to change something - Joe Biden, the Democrat of the democratic establishment, I not even saw him to be able, to tear down a statue.

Was it irony, at the very beginning of the virus the Republicans said, the Dems would do everything that many would die, so that the president would not become reelected? Now the White House did everything, that more and more Americans died every day - what a fucking irony this was! Should you be happy, should you be sad? Angry you should be!

No!

No, still rising numbers, more than double the number of cases as in April! But the death rate still very low, some days without any death, one or two a day, but not more for most of the days. If this staid in this way.....within the next one or two weeks we would know more, that it was only a matter of testing and some hot spots, especially in the fish industry – or maybe more. The United States overall?

The numbers exploded, especially in some states the development was dramatically, some states shut down again, but not consequently. Especially the confusion about the masks was still unbelievable, we had no national leadership. It was Monday, soon the month would be over - the national death rates? Difficult to say, at the weekends the statistic always dropped, then the one or two weeks delay, at the end of this week, but not later than at the end of next week, we should have an answer. But one question was easy to answer.

Looking at the European statistics one could see, what would have been possible in the States. But they had leaders in the national states, they had plans and responsibility in Europe, they had citizens who accepted the restrictions - but why? The national states, as well as the European Union as such, supported their citizens, all their citizens. Not everything was perfect, but it gave their people at least some halt to bear the restrictions, as well as the fact, that their leaders were role models - in the US?

A president who showed every day, that he was a racist, that he was not interested in the people, that he had no scruples, no morality, no conscience - he would be a perfect dictator, with German roots, he should be sad, not to have lived some decades before. The 20s and 30s, the 40s - the first half - would have been his decades. He loved the Nazis, he loved the racists in the south, he would destroy the nation within the next four years.

"What do you think, Caroline? Will this be enough momentum, to end this devastating time? Do we need two or three hundred thousand dead Americans first, do we need severe riots, how many more dead black men we need? Is it enough to pull down statues, who pulls down the daily racism in our heads? I'm ripped apart, I feel squashed like an insect under a shoe, if we screw up this historic moment in November, then we will have handed the United States to the evil!"

"Still we have all the chances, it seems, that more and more the momentum works against the president and his bunch. We have to set all our money on our cards, we will have one shot in November, but till then we have to work hard and consequent."

"And still it's not for granted, what will happen in November, it's not for granted, what will happen in the time thereafter. An old White man who dreams about, to destroy our nation, and another old White man who looks weak, who offers only the old old White man recipes. No, this looks not that good. You know what's in my mind?"

"No, not really."

"President Barack Obama, the first African American president, maybe he was at least in some ways very "White"."

"He was definitively no progressive, but maybe this would be what this nation would need. I'm very curious about, whom he will present as vice president. In any case, he should come to a decision

soon."

"Yes, otherwise she - of course a woman of color, what else! - will have no time to develop her personality as vice president. She has to oppose the current vice president."

"Typical Joe, he's not the man for fast and progressive decisions. He's not the man for taking a risk, he tries to make it the safe way, but maybe the passionate campaign Bernie talked about would be not the worst idea. A very crucial time!"

"I fear, that this all will escalate towards November. But I see no other possibility anymore, we have to go through this. Not because this will offer the catharsis, simply because we have no other chance anymore to have any kind of future, to be at least something like one nation. To be honest, at the moment I see no one, who could form this chaos and distraction into one national body. No perfect form, but at least to one form, not a pile of shards."

"Yeah, all in all no good outlook. The abyss or a very uncertain future, not more alternatives we have anymore. Like sitting in a car, driving full speed towards a canyon - only two alternatives. A very decayed looking bridge or the abyss, for braking it's far too late. So, lean back and enjoy the ride, maybe it's your last one."

Escalation?

Never so many states had rising numbers in infections, not to say, exploding numbers. Other countries had managed it, to flatten their curves very well, the American curve reached every day new record figures. A president who still talked about, that the virus would suddenly disappear - would the death toll rise soon? But as if this would be not enough, every day new unbelievable stories, a president who had no problems therewith, that Putin paid money therefore, that American and international soldiers became killed in Afghanistan? But hey, it was his buddy Putin, he cared not about vets, why he should be interested in some soldiers? He was not interested in nearly one hundred thirty thousand dead Americans, every day hundreds more. He needed his time to ensure his racist friends that he loved them, that "Black Lives Matter" was hate, that slave owners needed statues, to show the former slaves every day their place. And the GOP said nothing, at least not much. It was difficult to understand.

Never we had so many ill persons in Oregon, I feared that the death rate would rise soon, more hospitalization we already had. But looking at the curve of Oregon and curves of Arizona, Florida, Texas, Mississippi or South Carolina? Highest hospitalization rates ever, the death rate would follow?

I still struggled with the impossibility to be onstage. Yes, daily videos, once a week for CBS, but I felt like a caged bird. Able to fly around somewhat, but not able to spread my wings to fly high, to fly towards the sun, the sun only a light on the other side of the window. A president out of control, a ruling party not able and willing to rule, a nation in crisis neglected by its politicians, politicians who simply ignored the problems - we have done a fantastic job! What a statement from a "wartime" president who lost eight hundred till one thousand of his people every day? Hubris and ignorance in a perfect combination, still four months till November. What would this four months make with this nation? Some signs were positive, dropping poll numbers for the president, conservatives withdrew from the president, but would this be enough, surprised and shocked that he still had a chance for a second term.

I had the feeling, that this month - July - would become a decisive month, at the end of this month we should know more. More about the pandemic, more about the polls, more about the craziness of the president, the failure of the GOP, the inaptness of the Dems, the peoples movements, the state of our nation. And yet, would it be something to celebrate, declining poll numbers, rising death rates? More people on the streets, maybe severe riots? Maybe I was wrong, but I saw some black clouds at the horizon, and they moved in our direction. It was this mood, this special mood, when the sky

started to darken, the birds stopped to sing, only a light wind, the temperatures dropped, this strange illumination and you knew - this would become a tempest, a real devastating one.

Some Statistics?

Never we saw a rise in cases in so many states at the same time, in many states hospitals sounded the alarm, and the nationwide death rate? Well, no definitive rise so far, but it seemed also, that the decline was over. Steady in the best case, what would the next week offer on numbers? Tomorrow would be Independence Day, a day to celebrate? The president would spread hate, as an African American, would you be in the mood to celebrate, to celebrate what?

In Oregon, we never saw such high growth rates since the beginning of the pandemic, near or over four percent, with no or only one, one time two and one time three deaths a day, during the last days. The rate of hospitalizations rose distinctly, but the curve of patients in ICU or on ventilators was relatively stable, a modest rise. A very puzzling situation. But then!

Seeing all the statistics from the different states, in the same scale, per capita, provided by "The New York Times", it was difficult to find Oregon among the unbelievable many states with increasing cases - a "dwarf", compared to the "giants" like Arizona, Florida, South Carolina, Texas or Nevada. Their curves had something threatening, how you could find only one minute of sleep in the night, being the governor of such a state? Believing in the president's lies?

Well, tomorrow would be Independence Day, let's celebrate! And next weekend? We were already one of the nations, who had handled the pandemic very badly, how worse it would still become? We talked about life or death of humans, hidden in statistics. Why not showing every day a live report from an ICU - the death in agony as daily reality for those who worked there? But this wouldn't be okay, like pulling down the statues of our Founding Fathers. Tomorrow would be Independence Day, let's celebrate!

Independence Day

Our president said: Forget the virus, let's celebrate. Our president said: We have the pandemic under control, what we have to fear, are the radicals from the left, who try to steal our cultural heritage. Our president was a notorious liar, should you think about this? I was not happy, not in the mood to celebrate, more than in the last years the question arose: What's to celebrate?

Always, especially in my youth, this was a day to celebrate, the declaration of independence from the European mother states. An expression of self-confidence and self-discovery, but more than ever, now in relentless brutality the question was there, was this only so, because looking at the pictures and statues of the Founding Fathers, I saw men like me? Independence Day, what a slap into the faces of those, from whom we stole the land, the land which proudly declared its independence in 1776! Independence Day, as a "nigger slave" on a plantation, as a young African American man or woman, without a real perspective today, fearing the White cop at the corner, fearing every day the way to school, as Asian, exploited as coolie, spitted in the face today by proud White Americans because of the "Chinese virus", as Latino or Hispanic, doing what others not wanna do, all of them criminals and murderers, the women all whores - Independence Day?

I had hoped for a strong presidential speech, of course not from the president, but from Joe Biden! But would he have been able to speak out the truth in a blunt way? Obviously not! The Clinton way, never hurt the people with the fucking truth! Of course most of our police officers are good men, why not saying ninety-nine percent? Some black sheep, a long history of misconduct? Sure, movies about L.A., the LAPD, and New York, the NYPD, in the 40s, 50s maybe even the 70s, but today? Oh Joe, never say the fucking truth, someone could be offended! Pussyfoot around, you Dems are

good in it!

The Clinton presidency, everything was good - or? Everybody loved everyone in the United States, no racism, no discrimination, nothing! A nice president who loved his cigars. But then came Mr. Barack Obama, now everything was really good! Wow, a black man as president, not long ago he would have been a "nigger slave", but now he was President of the United States - how wonderful in this eight years, to celebrate Independence Day!

But to say it straightforward, I could not remember, that we had real profound discussions about systemic racism and misconducting during this eight years. About a real profound reform of our discriminating school system, about health care for all, about a meaningful minimum wage - ah, there was this man in Senate, but with such radicals Mr. Obama not liked it to have contact, he loved more Hillary and the Centrists, where he had his base. No, he was no bad president, but also he not dared to start fundamental discussions about the United States - Joe will be in a good tradition!

Independence Day, never I asked myself more than today, whether this United States would make any sense any longer, whether there ever existed something like this United States, like this image of the Wild West, insincere narrated by hypocritical John Wayne? Shouldn't we be honest, saying that this was a nation built on injustice and violence, till today? But who would be able to start such a discussion? Clinton was distracted by more important things, was Obama a failure in a way - really, Joe Biden? I was sad about it, the second time Bernie had not got a chance - what would have had happened, Sanders vs. the president, Sanders as president? To be honest, I could not imagine who should be able to start this discussion, only the streets - "Four dead in Ohio" came me to mind, CSNY. Would this be the only solution?

Happy Independence Day, let's celebrate our fucking president and all for what he stands for! We're one proud nation, forget this "Indians", this "niggers", this "chinky eyes", this "beaners", this "fagots", this "lezzies".....come on, let's celebrate Independence Day!

A Week Later

The situation nationwide became more and more devastating. Last week - Independence Day - one could say: Well, yes, more cases, maybe even more hospitalizations, but no more deaths. But already at Independents Day, more in ICU and on ventilators? And so it all developed as to expect, as the simple math of a pandemia told you - since Monday the highest death rates since a month! A whole month of positive development erased, and it was to expect that this was only the beginning of a negative development. Oregon?

Very difficult to say! The numbers of cases seemed to rise no longer again, at least not the last days, maybe even the beginning of a decline? The number of hospitalizations much higher now, like in mid April, as well as the number of patients in ICU! The number of patients on ventilators still were significantly lower, but days with four, five and six deaths a day, for Oregon high numbers! So, on a very low level compared with states like Texas or Arizona, the development in Oregon was concerning. On the other hand, thinking at California, South Carolina or Florida? Being an American, seeing the developments in European countries or New Zealand, countries hit at the beginning as hard as the United States, maybe even harder, the way how they had handled and managed the crisis? You had to cry out, you had to become ashamed, thinking about all the lives wiped out, all the lives destroyed, only because of the inability of a mentally ill president and his criminal bunch and his bootlickers around him. I would like it, to spit on the president's ugly grotesque visage!

Every day it was harder to bear, but it was not this president as such, it was this complicity of the GOP as such, that a whole half of our political system was paralyzed, not able and willing to set

borders, to stop this insanity - one of the signs, that a two party system was not the best possibility! So much would have to change in this nation, but we only tampered with the problems, we not tried to solve them in a serious way. I took a deep breath and tried not to fall into despair.

Heading Towards The Disaster?

Oregon, still a steady raise in cases, now around three hundred percent more than in early April, also the positive test rates were up high again, high meant six percent in Oregon. Very frightening was the number of hospitalizations, as high as at the peak in April again, but the number of people in ICU raised not in the same way, especially the number of people on ventilators was still relatively low. Half of the number as in April, and still not that many deaths. A week ago we had a certain peak in deaths, but the last days only two or three deaths, last Saturday none. It was Tuesday morning, the development in Oregon not perfect, but still under control?

Not under control the development in the South, but as well as in California. At least California started to react, the southern states, especially the puppets of the president had some problems to react. Florida especially, even Texas started to react - but now, with such exploding numbers? Last week the death rate in the USA was as high as four weeks ago, all the efforts of the last weeks had become erased, what would this week show? Rising death rates most probably, everything else would be a surprise - and the concerns of the White House?

We have to reopen our schools, if not voluntary, then I will pressure you - what a wonderful leader we had as president, together with - my forty million dollar yacht got damaged - Betsy! We opened our economy to fast, now the American people had to pay the price - of course not Betsy on her yacht, or the president on one of his golf courses. Now we have to reopen our schools hastily, we have not to talk about that especially underfunded public schools will have to pay the price this time. The school kids, their parents, their grandparents - why this should concern you on your yacht or while playing golf?

America, the nation that failed completely in fighting against the virus - maybe comparable to Brazil or India, but that made it not better! Who was responsible for this failure, what was the main failure? The president? No! The White House? No! The government? No! Why? The American people knew whom they elected, everybody could know it! They elected him and them, now we had to live with the consequences! But was it that easy? No!

We were a democracy, but a weak one, with only two parties. At the moment, if one party failed, the ruling party failed like the GOP at the moment, then this system was in deep trouble! The GOP no longer existed, we were near to a dictatorship like in Russia, with politicians who were only puppets of Putin. And the courts? Kavanaugh and Gorsuch? Had we to talk about Barr? Still this part of the system functions in some ways, but it was extremely endangered. And the opposition?

Sorry Nancy and all the others, but you all looked not only weak! But the democratic establishment shunned conflicts - why they should, they would win back the White House in a few months? Maybe a very tragic miscalculation - there was this little man in Germany.....no one took him seriously at the beginning, they thought he would be only a temporary little problem! Where were the initiatives to mobilize the streets, but the democratic establishment and the streets, Nancy on a demonstration? A history book in five years, will it damn or praise the political developments in 2020?

A Devastating Week!

"The last days were so devastating, in Portland, in Oregon, in the nation. About what you should talk, should you stop talking, the situation on the streets. This nation falls, Portland falls, and you feel like a little child, while the bully steals your lolly. We're not even able to keep our city safe,

we're not able to keep this fucking Washington out of our city!"

"Talking about the city? The number of cases a multiple of the number in April and May now, the number of hospitalizations as high as the so far peak at the beginning of April, even the number of people in ICU is not far from the former peak in early April. The people on ventilators? Still not that many as at the beginning of the pandemic. But then the death rate, as high again as in April and May! Yes, the last days were very devastating for Oregon and the city, only by looking at these numbers it's obvious."

"And we should not forget the long-term consequences. Even by weak cases they have found them now, very often brain damages. What does this mean for them who not die, but had to stay in hospitals, not to mention ICU or ventilators? And then our wonderful health care system? "Bankruptcy caused by illness", in other countries they even not know this term, they not understand what this should mean. In a year, two or three, how many will have to live on the streets because they have to struggle with long-term consequences, in a nation that cares so wonderfully for them who get ill or need help? It's hardly to describe in what a way this whole nation fails!"

"Yes, and as if this crisis would be not enough, we still have our problems with racism and more. And these problems will not suddenly disappear, like this troops suddenly appeared in our city! Why just right now these icons of the Civil Rights Movement are dying? Wouldn't it had been a relief for them, seeing this president losing in November? Or is it, that someone thought, it would be better for them, not to see the dark outcome of all of this? This nation is not affected with flu, this nation has spinal cord cancer, in an advanced state."

"But we had it, we're not even able to keep this federal officers out of our city, we're not able to get information who they are, in camouflage, they use unmarked vehicles - do we live in a democracy or in a dictatorship? Stupid question with this bunch in the White House!"

"What do you think will happen?"

"I fear that Joe Biden will win in November, after weeks and month of increasing devastation. It will be, like after a war, you will have won the war, you had been able to defeat the invaders, but they will have destroyed everything on their withdrawal, they will have committed awful war crimes, and you know, that even after decades the wounds will be still there. Maybe this would be bearable in a nation that would stand together, but not in a divided nation like ours. I fear that what we experience today will be the breaking point for this nation, it has to be in a way, no "more of the same" will be possible after November, whatever the outcome will be. Joe? I'm not sure if he is really aware of, that the good old days are gone now. Yes, his friend, President Barack Obama, this time of innocence is over, now we would need a real wartime president, because the next "war" we have to fight will be a "war", more bad as the Civil War, this time it will be a "war" about, whether we will survive as one nation, or if this United States will fall in pieces finally. But as long as I look in the face of an African American woman as a White man, and seeing her dark skin will be different as to see a woman with black or blond hair, then I fear.....it's okay, to say, look, this woman has wonderful blond or black hair. Why is it so different to say, look, this woman has wonderful black or white skin? It's because we're not talking about hair any longer, it's because we're talking not about skin any longer, we're talking about the personal qualification of a person suddenly. We're talking then about, that a White class considers oneself superior, the dark skin becomes a marker for a low life, like our president likes to use Nazi language, likes to talk about people he marks as low lives."

"In which way you look at it, why this all becomes such a disaster for this nation? The world around us struggles, but they do it very well, we fall. Is this the time, when the lie of the American Dream finally shows up, that this American Dream was all the time a chimera, a White chimera, a tool for a White upper class to cement their status. A revolution? Saturn? Joe? Will I ever see this United States again?"

Portland Down!

Yes, a wartime president, fighting a war against a free and liberal nation, against the spirit of the United States. His agenda was, to create chaos and fear, the same strategy terrorists used for their aims. And weird Portland was a perfect ground for his war.

The second day in a row with over a thousand deaths in the United States, the last time we had this seven weeks ago! But the president not mentioned it with one word in his briefing, but had enough time for hate speech against liberal majors and governors. Portland, Oregon, the West Coast was hate ground for him, he would like it, to lead the federal forces into battle against the liberal ideas there, ignoring the battle that the nation fought with the virus. He was destructive till the bones, not even able to give one aim for a second term: Hate, destruction, causing suffering and death, that was all that he could think of. A mentally ill and ruthless psychopath, surrounded by a greedy and not less brutal and relentless horde of willing murderers.

Riots in Portland - riots? We all knew the pictures from the "riots" of the 50s and 60s, black women and men were no longer willing to accept the "rules" of the Whites. The Whites called it riots, and too much had to die, others called it a fight for freedom, too many had to die. Burning buildings and blocks, no, not what you should hope for. But I saw peaceful protesters at a park, gas and police brutality and a grinning president, not knowing how to hold a bible - what does this told you? Me it told, that it would make no difference, protesting peacefully or violently, if the president would wish chaos and violence, he would get it - the one or other way.

I sat at the river and looked at the water, the proud city in my back. A time to be born, a time to die - a time to resist, a time to oppose! This city would never accept this disgusting government, would cave in, would accept provocateurs in the city. No, the city was not perfect, by far not! But this was the United States in the end, again I thought about an independent West Coast. We would have all what we would need, we would have a good spirit, we would have nice neighbors, Canada at the north and Mexico in the south. Maybe also Nevada would be interested in - and who knew, maybe also one or two more? It was not only a naive rhapsody, it thrilled me, the idea to get rid of this arch-conservative states, every year they got billions of dollars from us, not able to do it alone, then they could show, how much they knew about economics.

Looking at the Oregon numbers, still mixed emotions, compared with other states we had very little problems, but also we were not able thereto, to follow the European countries in their successes, to flatten the curves. Five - five! - people died in Germany at July the 22., would mean for the USA twenty dead people - Germany, a much denser populated country than the USA! The number of deaths in the US at this day? One thousand and one hundred and three, one thousand and eighty-three more deaths, one thousand and eighty-three people who would have not to die, with a responsible leadership - at one fucking day! In Germany died not more people like in Oregon, with nearly twenty times the population - it was fucking to think about such numbers, because one thought about human beings!

Yes, California, but nevertheless, I would be happy to live in an independent West Coast, we could make it better alone - I looked at the water. Was this selfish? I saw a couple, not able to life together any longer - was it not better to be consequent, to divorce? If they liked their fucking conservatism, racism, their view on women - okay! We would extend a warm welcome to all, who would like to share our ideas - I looked at the water. If Biden not win in November, then it was time to leave, but maybe it would be too late then? And if? No, we should to start to become consequent, to create an independent West Coast!

Among The People!

"Well, we have a mayor who stands with his people, being among them, staying with them, whatever will happen. No coward who needs police brutality, he can bear a lot, not starts to cry like

a baby by the slightest reason, we will stay with him!

Ted Wheeler is our mayor, and we know whom we can trust! We can trust our people, we can trust the Portlanders and the Oregonians, we can trust the West Coast people, we should think about it!"

A Naked Woman

"A naked woman in front of federal troops, sent to cause trouble, and the conservative hypocrites are freaking out! Oh well, that's too much for you moralizers, even a dressed young woman in Senate is too much for you woman haters, especially if she has an own mind, is smart and can form whole sentences - and gosh, she's from a minority! But naked?

And say it, she had a hot body - or? She was fucking flexible - would you have liked it, to be on the side of the guys in camouflage? That was Portland, weird and proud, too much for the hillbillies at Fox and YouTube - the president? Did you jerk off while watching her, or do you would have liked it, would your troops have hit her, while shooting at her? Would you have liked it, would your troops have arrested her, would have tear-gased her? But hey, they withdrew, your fantastic troops have withdrawn? Well, for many men a naked woman is too much, not impressed by those uniforms and arms, not impressed by this macho behavior, simply a naked woman, not impressed!

What she has done was very brave, it would have been very easy to harm her. She has disgraced the federal troops, she has shown them their limits, in a very Portlandish way. Portland is proud of her, this fucking troops will not impress us, nor this fucking president! If you wish to fight, you can have a fight, but be prepared that you fight with Portlanders - women and men from Portland, weird women and men from Portland, not impressed by a weak president, his footboys and gofers!"

West Coast's Burning!

From the south to the north, the West Coast was in turmoil! California struggled with the virus, especially Los Angeles. Oregon, especially Portland, fought for its independence, strove against the meddling from the stone-cold murderer in Washington. Washington, especially Seattle, as well. The West Coast burned!

Wasn't it obvious, that our idea of living, especially of living together, not fitted to wider parts of this nation? Yeah, I knew, Los Angeles and San Francisco, and even Seattle and the Portland weirdness, all these places were not perfect, had a lot of problems and caused a lot of problems for their citizens. But at least we tried, we developed, not rotted in conservative self-pleasing. We not accepted the men with hoods, militias with assault weapons and swastikas - yes, racism also at the West Coast, homeless people in L.A.? No, we were not perfect at the West Coast, but we were aware of it!

And yet, I was not satisfied with our reactions - had a woman not showed it? Why throwing firework over the fence, that gave them only the pretense, to act like they loved it, as the big cock macho men. But a woman pointing on them was too much for them - we should learn. We should learn to fight for our independence in a more clever way, in a feminine way.

A horse-drawn hearse crossed a bridge, this time the man could cross the bridge, it would have been better, if he had been able thereto fifty-five years ago. No, also the West Coast was not perfect, but at least we tried!

Fear the Reaper!

He had arrived in Oregon, twenty-two deaths in the last two days, eight and the next day fourteen - even in April and May we had no day with more than seven deaths, one time we had two days six death in a row. Yes, compared with larger parts of the nation this sounded silly, but for us

Oregonians it was a problem, like the federal troops that tried to cause chaos. No national plan to fight the virus, nearly one thousand five hundred deaths per day again - per day! All efforts thrown back, it was mid May again, not enough ppe after all these months! A president who ran crazy finally, supporting openly the worst conspiracy theories, like conservative representatives and senators - what the hell was wrong with this GOP!

What was wrong? Denying systemic racism - would a racist admit, that there's systemic racism? That poor have no real chance - would a profiteer of this system admit, that this was an unfair system? That no mean was to dirty, to get and keep political and economic power - what a fuck, this disgusting bunch of old White men, called GOP - what a disgusting joke! - would be never willing to change their disgraceful world view. These were greedy, disgusting people, only interested in their own advantage, no one one would like to have as neighbors or housemates.

We had to get independent, Oregon or the West Coast. We had to become a modern nation, we needed severe reforms. This was an utopian dream, with this phony GOP, we needed plurality, we needed various parties, one person, one vote, popular vote! All this and much more would be impossible with these conservatives, and maybe also with this conservative Dems, called Centrists, Clinton Dems or whatever.

Oregon at the edge? Would we ran into severe problems in the next weeks? I stood in front of a fence, this was our city, but we would need time, time we not had anymore. Only one hope, was left, Biden had to win, what a fucking hope! This would give us at least time, time to breath, time to be consequent and becoming a modern society. Oregon was strong, the West Coast was strong, time to get rid of all these racists, women haters, this old school guys, gun fanatics.....time to breathe free, in a free Oregon, a free West Coast, time to take matters into our own hands, no longer burdened by all this conservative ballast! A free Oregon, a free West Coast - yes, liberate Oregon, liberate the West Coast, no longer handicapped by this conservative hillbillies!

Why Still Asking?

"Why still asking this fucking president questions at his phony "briefings"? At least the liberal press should do better, a nice German newspaper said once about a far right politician from Austria: Not talking with him, taking about him!*

We should do better, why listening to him when he babbles his lies about Portland, let's talk about him, let's prepare for November, we have a lot to do now, do not waste your time with his lies! Everybody should be aware of, the worst you can do in November is, not to vote! Vote by mail, vote in person, but vote! We will need every vote, we have to win, we have to win with a high margin!

This nation, the world, needs a message, that the last years were a mistake, that we Americans can do better, that we will not degenerate into a dictatorship, that we will not become the next Third Reich!

You will teach Portland a lesson? Maybe you can enforce violence, maybe your forces will try to break us, but a whole city, a whole state, a whole coast will not cave in, violence will not break us! You will lose, in one way or other, the Portlanders, the Oregonians, the West Coast people, we will win!

These briefings are a farce, these questions are a farce, these hearings are a farce! We have to prepare for November and the time thereafter. We have to stop to listen to this old White conservative men and their misanthropic opinions and their evil-smelling world view! Oregonians can do it better without this greedy bunch, let's do it!"

* ("Die Tageszeitung" - TAZ - about Jörg Haider)

A Conversation With Caroline

"Do you really think, that we should have an independent Oregon, an independent West Coast?"

"Would be easily possible!"

"For economic reasons without any doubts, it would be a loss for the rest of the US. But we're one nation, we're like a family?"

"Sometimes it's better to divorce, lately I have more and more the feeling, that we have not that much in common with the rest of the USA. Okay, parts of the East Coast, but you know what I mean. And what a family we are, do not care much of each other. Okay, if you could say, that this were the last years, that it's because of the man in the White House, but be straight, we never lived together in this country. It was always rich vs. poor, Whites vs. minorities, men vs. women and so on."

"And why this should change fundamentally with an independence? Do we have these problems not also at the West Coast - California performs not very well in the last weeks, they have no problems with racism, in L.A. nothing is dishonest, as well as in San Francisco, Seattle and of course not in Portland?"

"Of course not, but you see no differences between our governor and the governor of Florida? Yes, California, but what about Texas, South Carolina, Alabama and others? Do not think, that the West Coast alone would have handled this crisis better? All this fucking shit from the president and his wonderful son-in-law? We had coordinated our efforts, still we're successful. Last week we had over a thousand deaths nationwide every day! We had a bad peak with fourteen in Oregon last week, but it seems, that it had been only a short peak. And have we to talk about the federal troops, only here to cause chaos and death, in Portland and Seattle? Without all this nonsense we could concentrate on the virus, we could have fair elections in November, no voter suppression, no gerrymandering, no corrupt US postal service!"

"Of course, I know what you mean, but we're together, and we will be together in November and also next year. Also this nation has changed in time."

"Yes, like the New England States, nice in blue today. Some rich families, but about such a thing you not talk there, it's too nice there, all the nice landscapes and landmarks, all the White landmarks."

"And we do better at the West Coast? Have we to talk about Silicon Valley now, as an example? And in Portland is all wonderful?"

"No, but be honest, would we have not better chances without all this Southerner ballast? And why not Washington and Oregon, why not Oregon alone? We could have trade with Canada, I think also the EU would like us, Australia and New Zealand? I know that this makes no sense at the moment, not to try it seriously. At the moment we have to avert the total disaster that comes nearer and nearer, but nevertheless, we have to think about it seriously."

"After we have averted the disaster, yes. But at the moment we have to prepare for the storm. I think that Portland is maybe the beginning, but without any doubts not the end. We see to what this administration is capable to, death and suffering is no problem for them, as long as others have to die and suffer - quite on the contrary, it's a tool for them, a very good mean to achieve their aims. Yes, we would do better without all this. But at least at the moment we have no other chance, we go down with the rest of the nation, or we can open up a new future. Yes, we would do better without all this."

Stabilized?

The situation in Oregon seems to stabilize, the corona numbers, stabilizing on a high level! The number of patients on ventilators dropped, what was very good, no day with more than five deaths a day in the last four days, yesterday only one. Also nationwide the numbers started to stabilize – around a thousand two hundred deaths or a thousand three hundred deaths a day.....hey, all in all under ten thousand deaths a week, soon we would have the two hundred thousandth dead human in the States caused by corona, experts talked about the possibility of three hundred thousand dead Americans at the end of the year. Now I became aware of, why this president saw this as a success, it were not his dead people, they simply not counted for him.

Portland? Fire at a precinct, violence every night in Portland, like this president liked it to see. But what was Portland, a building, a block, a street, a neighborhood or quarter, or was it a not so small city with a large surrounding area? Hours in the night, hours at daylight, demonstrations in the night, demonstrations during the day, Portland was more than five minutes in the news! L.A. Skid Row, with a perfect view on the glass houses Downtown - I never had understood, why they not walked a few blocks northwards, to not only have a nice view on the glass houses, but to be among them. Thousands of homeless people flooding Downtown, every day anew, after they had a sleep in their tents, in "their" part of the city. Would be difficult then, to ignore them. And this nation, the White upper class, was perfect in ignoring matters that could mean, to have to share, wealth, power, influence and more. I walked down Seventh Street and saw the people sitting in their tents - these were no humane living conditions. But hey, you walked the wrong direction, Seventh Street was okay, but the Diamond District is more north, there, at the glass houses, where people like you belonged to.

Resisting to inhumane living conditions, to unfair living conditions - a fire at a precinct? How many they killed every day, not talking about the virus, talking about a health care system that left millions unprotected, and protected additional millions only insufficiently. The violence in cities like Chicago or Boston - not your problem as long as you lived in the right neighborhood, on the right side of the river. Talking about reasons for violence - why, as long as the violence not affected you, more, as long as the violence played into your hands. Oh, one of my yachts got damaged by the last hurricane - poor Betsy! Happy Mitt, not interested in this fucking violent poor, only if a scapegoat was needed

Would we need more riots, real riots, in the whole USA? In what case Mitt would be interested in this fucking poor, would Betsy not talk about her yacht, but about the people who lost everything, who lost their lives in the hurricane? But hey, it is what it is, you have to accept this, you have to be nice and humbly, behave like a woman has to behave, at least as long as you're no money hungry bitch like Betsy. Caged Heat till the Boiling Point - was this the only solution? If a ruling class not was willing to, to "allow" real change, history always repeated one story. A fucking story, why not learning from history? No hundred days anymore, and the American history would have reached a crucial moment, what would happen then? I looked at Joe, I looked at the Dems in Congress, I looked at the Democratic Party and inhaled deeply - was there only one time, when they were really - really! - interested in the people of Skid Row? When they were interested in real and profound changes? But gosh, that would mean that people like Hillary or the wonderful Kennedys would have to share - hey, it is what it is!

Kamala

Still a situation of uncertainty in Oregon, the last four days started with bad numbers, the last two days showed better numbers again. An up and down, but on a too high level, a too high level for Oregon, we could do it better! In many parts of the nation schools opened again, with very doubtful results, devastating the disgusting lies of the president - oh, mostly Latino and African American children got ill? Where then was the problem?

The deaths rate started to drop slightly, no longer nearly a thousand five hundred deaths a day, only around a thousand one hundred or two hundred deaths a day - what wonderful progress! In Germany they had in the last two weeks between one and twelve deaths a day - they even had a day with no death. Well, at least we had a male president who handled the corona crisis fantastically, we do not needed one of this bleeding women, only good to force them to kisses, at least if they were hot enough.

But today was a special day, Joe Biden had "picked" - after weeks and months! - his vice president, Kamala Harris! At CNN they went head over heels, the president with his common chatter, but why I was not moved by all this? Why I was in a way disappointed and saw a lot of problems? Kamala knew Beau very well - should that give me hope? Kamala attacked Joe very harsh at the debates, but now this all was forgotten - should this give me hope? Kamala had some problems to talk about marijuana - should this give me hope? The black community had demanded for a black woman - should this give me hope? Kamala had not convinced during the debates, she suspended her campaign very early, before the primaries started at February the third, at December the third - should this give me hope?

"Riots" in Portland, as well as in Seattle, still every day and night people on the streets. But why, we had such a wonderful team now, they would fix all our problems - Kamala was a woman, the father from Jamaica, a professor for economics, the mother a Tamil woman from India, a cancer researcher! More diversity was hardly possible, more breathtaking facts either, but I feared, that it would not become that simple. I saw her on the debate stages again, she had her moments, but in the end? But what was the topic, that it would happen, that the president would use her to radicalize his base, how nasty she was with Brett! But wasn't the question, the much more important question, to what extent she would be able to mobilize young voters, women, minorities, and not at last, independent voters?

I had to say, that I was somewhat surprised, I saw no sense in it, to have a running mate with whom you debated before, with whom you had harsh argumentation before. But I was no politician, I would never shake hands with a dictator, I would call him a dictator, right into his face, no good habit for a politician. We had no choice, we simply had no choice, Joe and Kamala or the end of our democracy! At least I had the feeling, that Kamala Harris could give Joe Biden strength for the time after November the third, whether the president would leave the White House voluntarily or not. Even if he would, it would be no bad matter, to know a strong woman at Joe's side.

Falling And Rising

The number of cases dropped, the number of deaths the last two days higher again. Hospitalizations still high, ICU and ventilators better, no distinct message! Today, Wednesday the twelfth, the highest death rate nationwide since months - shocked and nearly unable to move. Why I should be happy about Kamala, her record as prosecutor was not the best, she had changed? I was disappointed, that it was not possible to find someone, not belonging to the "family".

But, it was what it was, they had to win, everything else should be unthinkable. Would they win? Well, the first reactions from the president, Fox News, opportunists like Jim Jordan - Laura Ingraham! They looked like hens, panicky running around in the hen-house, hearing the fox outside. But unfortunately there were enough, only listening to Fox, believing bootlickers like Jim Jordan. But it was all about a few states, who was interested in Oregon, Washington or California? We would vote blue, it was not important to what amount. Florida and some swing states, they were the battleground states, only they would decide. This not motivated to vote, but you had to! Even in Oregon you had to, even it would have no meaning at the end!

But a nation that accepted over a thousand unnecessary deaths a day, a nation that had no problem therewith, that millions had no health insurance, that hundred thousands of Americans had to live on the street, that a "black" baby died more likely than a "white" baby, that we could spend trillions for the military, but we had no money for supporting schools, why should a nation who accepted this

all, not accept a Fuehrer Donald Duck? It was to hope, that Biden and Harris would be not as arrogant as Clinton - would they be really interested in the concerns of farmers, and I not meant them in California! Would they be really interested in the concerns - we talked about politics, or? Would this play out - fuck, it had to, there would be no second chance, I had the feeling that this "pick" was a mistake! Please, you not told me that there would be no alternative African American woman in the whole United States - had I to name some? It's about family, no Joe, it's about the nation! Too many tactics, and still Hilary in the background, why I found so easily so many concerns - and I would vote for them!

It felt like standing on shaky ground, quicksand, marsh land, no good feeling. I felt uneasy, restless, why this man had still a chance, what does this told you about America? At the West Coast he would have no chance, at the West Coast moral integrity was still alive, would be a good founding ground for a nation! I was torn apart, a play on a stage, slaves fought for their liberty, unfortunately I was the White guy in the play! Joe and Kamala, why the hell I couldn't be happy and glad, why, fucking why?

Convention

Today the Democratic National Convention began, the last four days were very "unstable" in Oregon. Less cases, but many hospitalizations, deaths rates sometimes very high, then dropping again - still no good feeling. Well, the "riots" in Portland – and Seattle.....

Not so "unstable" the situation nationwide, for a longer time now at least a thousand plus deaths a day, slowly increasing! Still no national strategy for testing, schools forced to open, of course without a national strategy, and of course the president knew that he did a fantastic job - and he did! He did the best to sabotage the election in November, more and more he feared to lose. But still it was not written in stone that he would lose, still this told you enough about the State of the Union, how sick this nation was!

I had to make decisions, of course, the foremost was now, that Joe Biden would win. Obviously he planned to have only one term, then Kamala Harris would be the democratic nominee for presidency? Or would we see again the same disaster as this time, a diverse field, at the end the two old White man, and finally the oldest one, the darling of the establishment. But at first they had to win in November.

In the end all was obvious. First of all Joe Biden and Kamala Harris had to win in November. The next step would be, to ensure, that the handing-over of office would happen in a normal way. Would this has been done, then it would be possible to start with the hard work to fix all the problems this nation had. Well, if ever this would be possible, one could have her or his doubts about it.

And the West Coast? Definitely it could be an option to get independence. We could deal - not necessarily fix, but deal! - with all these problems much better, would we be independent, but at the moment it was all very theoretically, with a second term of this president this nation would betray all its beliefs, would drown in chaos.

What should one say, to hear and read in today's news, that the president had shortened the gap to Joe Biden? That these were nationwide polls, who was interested in the popular vote? This president could have five million votes more, as long as Joe Biden would have at least one more electoral vote than the president? In a way this would have some sarcastic quality, but such thinking was very dangerous, not only for one reason. No, Joe had to win, and then we at the West Coast should start a serious discussion about, whether it would not be better to become independent, but only after Joe Biden's victory. I had to concentrate more on my daily videos again, and the weekly shows, especially on the weekly show, next Thursday would be the next!

Thursday Showtime!

"Well Caroline, what do you think about today's recording?"

"You talked about the important topics, of course, so much more would have to be said at the moment, but you still have your daily videos."

"Yes, but what should be the summary of the first three days of the convention? That the gap between Biden and the president closes again? That it's by far not safe that Biden will win Florida and enough swing states? That, looking at the State of the Union, it's shocking and shameful to see, that it still could easily happen, that this president gets a second term? He praises QANON now, because they love him? What does this tell you about QANON, but much more, what does this tell you about the president? In every nation with a functioning democracy this would be the end of his career, in the USA this maybe will get him a second term?"

"Yes, it's devastating and disappointing. Yes, you can talk about, how good the speeches from the Obamas or AOC were, Hillary? Two Kennedys were on the list so far, more of them? The ballot box will yield the result, a GOP and a president who do everything to hinder voters to vote, with an electoral college, with only a few states that will decide everything - we're on the wrong way as a nation!"

"You only can hope, that the Dems start to wake up now, this will be no fair election, and everybody who thought only a second it could be one, is a fool. Why not from the beginning fundamental opposition? At a certain day it will be too late, let's hope that this day is not in the past today."

"Barbara has called, she wishes a conversation with you."

"About my talking about an independent Oregon, West Coast?"

"I think so, but I don't think that she will put pressure on you. Also, you have said very clearly today, that at the moment it's important that Joe Biden will win, everything else one can discuss thereafter."

"If there will be a "thereafter". Look at Belarus, the people are on the streets, Hong Kong? Why I still see no large demonstrations that demand that the president steps back? Yes, some "riots" in Portland and Seattle, across the nation, but where is the loud outcry? Fine, we had some good words the last days, but this is not enough. You only have to see the reality of the polls, this election is still open! And time runs out, a hundred days, seventy-five, fifty, twenty-five - election day! Yes, Joe will win the popular vote, but who's interested in? Where is the national outcry over voter fraud, what happens with our postal service? I would like to hear every day that this man is a Nazi, what includes automatically a racist, it's not about an incapable idiot who would harm our nation, it's about a Nazi who would transform our nation into a Nazi dictatorship. Why is this message so difficult to deliver?"

"If we have a vaccine, a large part of the population will refuse a vaccination. What does this tell you? We're the only nation with such a discussion over masks, we have no testing system, we have no tracing, like every industrial nation has it. What does this tell you? This America is divided in many ways."

"And in Oregon? The number of infections drops very significant at the moment, of course, due the offset in time, still more deaths, but they should drop in a week or two also. Do we handle the pandemic good? Nationwide it's a disaster, every day far over a thousand Americans have to die, a small city every week! Why we can accept this? Why many nations were able to, to flatten their curves significantly and are able to, to keep them flat, even when also they feel the pressure of a second wave? We were not even able to overcome the first wave, is it because we're stupid Americans?"

"I fear, that we had a development in the last decades, away from our former allies like France and the UK, and their political principles, Germany or New Zealand, Scandinavia. We are more and more like Russia, Poland or Hungary. Today we face a future, that would link us to China, but not to France or the UK. There was a time, when the United States stand for democracy, as a beacon for other nations, today we're democracy's biggest enemy! We have too much power, way too much the world economy is interwoven with us, would we fail, this would have a disastrous impact, the

whole world would become badly affected by it."

"And where is the support of the American people from foreign countries? What do you think, what would happen, would he get a second term? I fear that Europe for instance would find a way, to come to terms with the man in the White House again."

"Europe not accepts the outcome of the election in Belarus, maybe this gives hope?"

"And they traded with the dictator since decades - very fine. No, the American people have to stand up - riots in Portland, in Seattle? If you not feel riot in your heart in such a moment, then you're either a Nazi, an opportunist, an ignorant, or simply stupid - is this the description of the American people?"

"I not wanna sound cowardly, and in every nation you will find such people, fitting to this description, therefore also in the USA, but I think this would be too easy. We should not forget, that this nation elected President Barack Obama. I cannot see it, without pointing on the Dems - about the failure of the GOP, history will judge. But Hilary was arrogant, the Dems today are deeply divided, no nice speeches can cover this up! These primaries were not better as in 2016, the result, the oldest White man, disappointing! Yes, Kamala, maybe in four years - really? Maybe a Clinton again, or why not a Kennedy? In the debates Bernie talked about, that we would need a passionate campaign, to motivate the democratic base, the young, independents, to vote for the Dems. It's not enough, that someone tells you, that you have no other chance, than to vote for Joe, even if a former president says this, even if this is true, this sounds like blackmailing - and it not functioned in 2016."

"So, the future is wide open sounds not that good at the moment?"

"Not really, a good song, a good album, but sometimes it would be good, only to live in your own world, with this sweet little queen, who cannot run away."

"Unfortunately this is the reality, and at November the third we will have a result. Yes, call it as you like it, we have to elect Joe Biden. Maybe it's not the American people, maybe it's the way we organize our political system? From the primaries till to the presidential election, all is complex, expensive, time-consuming and appears very often as not really democratic, at least if "democratic" should mean: One person, one vote! It's like our judicial system, we would have to do a lot of fundamental and severe changes to become a real democracy."

"Maybe too much and too severe changes."

"Maybe."

Facing Reality

What was reality?

Was there a reality, and this was not meant scientifically, it was meant regarding the daily human life? And the question was not about, whether there would be something like reality as such, of course there was something like reality for every one of us. The question was about "a", one, reality for all of us. And it was very easy, nearly banal, to answer this question, of course there was nothing like a, one, reality for all of us.

The situation in Oregon - the number of cases dropped significantly, also the number of hospitalizations. Nationwide the number of deaths dropped, no longer nearly a thousand five hundred, only a thousand one or two hundred. In Portland every night riots, also in Seattle. Even when Oregon handled the situation better as most of the country, also Oregon had major problems in containing the virus, could do it better. Every day at least a thousand Americans died, and most of the conservatives thought, that would be okay - what a nation we had become! Riots in Portland, these were no riots, maybe we would see riots soon, when more and more people became finally repelled by this nation, sick of this nation. It was a difference, to look from one of the crystalline elevators of the Westin at Skid Row, or from Skid Row at the iconic architecture of the Westin.

And yet, shouldn't there be at least some matching points in all these realities? The right to live for

instance? What you should think about a nation, a society, that refused or limited this right to some of their people, because of their wealth, their gender, their sexual orientation, their color of their skin, their accent and more. Only if you fitted most perfectly into the demanded scheme - rich and White and European based and preferably a man or at least acting "like a man" and of course conservative - then you had the extensive right to live, better, your life was above of the lives of the others.

What was reality?

Aliens, who manipulated history? Not? The "brain in a vat"? Was it possible to disprove this gedankenexperiment? Aliens, who manipulated history? Maybe some common ground would be needed?

What was reality?

A thousand plus dead Americans every day was reality, but was it acceptable or not? Avoidable in any case, but acceptable? The problem as with slavery, that you had to decide whom you wanna ask? The slaveholder or the slave, you would get different answers!

What was reality?

Walking down 7th Street, Downtown in the back - a homeless asks for some change at the 7-Eleven. Earth was reality - or? The humans on it were reality - or? All humans became born and had to die - or? All humans had a life, one life - or? Enough matching points - or?

This was the reality!

Showtime!

"Well, a word can change the world - really? Action without any doubts. So much happened in the last days, so much has to happen in the next days. I'm only a commentator, I only speak, others are acting, Jack."

"Well, I run only a small theater, but maybe we're doing our part? I think that your today's recording is very strong."

"And yet, the recording is obsolete already, at least in parts, even not broadcast now! This was, and still is, a very dynamic day - and I see this as very positive. I've the feeling that this could make the difference, I hope that this is the beginning of a long boycott!"

"What difference? First and foremost Biden has to win, then we have many severe problems, problems you cannot solve in a certain time. Even under ideal circumstances it would take years, not to talk about, that we're no ideal nation. It's powerful what the NBA players are doing, but it can be only an exclamation mark, a shake up moment, but they could boycott for years, the people have to be willing to listen to them, they have to become active also."

"But we need to pressurize the politicians on both sides of the aisle, not see that Biden is the ideal candidate, that he will be the best president for the job. Well, maybe the next president four years later, maybe he should have his chance, he has to have his chance, but it would be time now, that this nation looks in the mirror, the White part of this nation."

"Of course, a fundamental discussion would be needed, but the convention of the Republicans shows you one, that with this GOP you cannot argue, this GOP is not capable to anything, and what will happen with the GOP after a win of Biden, not to talk about the president's "base"?"

"This party would need a total new beginning, otherwise you cannot govern with them. And the White upper class? Something has to happen, a revolution, at least a kind of revolution - but is this

White upper class willing to share, willing to accept a black person as a human being, on the same level, as they see themselves? I cannot see in what way this should be possible - the old man with his orchids, "In the Heat of the Night"? He will never change his opinion about the "nigger" in front of him, his "ideas" will die when he dies. But enough young will be there, who will keep his ideas alive. Real change, how many generations would this need, under ideal circumstances?"

"Giving up?"

"No, not in any case. But I fear, that this nation has waited too long to begin with severe reforms, and it's not even sure, that this nation will get a new chance. Could it be, that we have seen today the beginning of a movement, the movement we would need so urgently? I don't know."

"Nobody knows this, an independent West Coast?"

"You think this is a stupid idea?"

"Well, we're one nation....."

".....really, were we ever one nation? Today is a day that bestows hope, let's be hopeful. Let's fight for Joe Biden's presidency, let's fight for a strong democratic Washington. I would like it, to live in an independent West Coast, I simply would like it!"

Death In Portland!

Now it had happened, the first dead in Portland, the first dead protester, the police said not much, a man with a bullet in the breast, a white man, it seemed as that he had been a supporter of the president. Supporters of the president had started to come into the city from outside, quite so as the president complained always of the "left-wing looters" from outside, who came only into the cities to make trouble.

A person was dead, most probably murdered, was it nasty, the picture, to see the president cheering about it in the Oval Office? Crocodiles in trenches to stop immigrants - shoot them, maybe not dead but at least in the legs, so that they cannot longer run so fast. Why not handcuffing them after shooting at them, after they were paralyzed, in a trench with crocodiles? What when reality was more absurd, then the most absurd stories you could imagine?

A person was dead, no reason to be happy, a reason to be anxious, was this the beginning of the apocalypse now? The president on the first horse, the second, third and fourth? Jared and Ivanka for instance? McConnell and Bar for instance? Kavanaugh and the citizen who kept silence for instance?

Cases down, hospitalizations unclear situation, deaths up again, no good situation. Still a thousand plus dead Americans every day, soon we would hit the next "milestone", two hundred thousand! Not many wars were left, to compare this death rate with, and those wars lasted years, not weeks and months!

Ted Wheeler, we needed persons who started now - if not too late - to find distinct words, but why holding the hand out to him again? He laughs about you, because you're weak, this president needs strong opposition, then he becomes uneasy, then he makes bad mistakes, then he will lose temper and will unmask himself. A Germany newspaper wrote: He is much, but he is no Nazi - sorry? Talking about humans as scum, lowlives and vermin? Who said this, the President of the United States of America or the Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler? You got it, both! Hitler about Jews, Sinte and Romani for instance, the president about "Niggers", Latinos and the bad Asians who made us ill.

Not much more than two months left, and every day and week more escalation. "Kinder brauchen Grenzen" (Children need limits / boundaries), a classic German book about raising children - and more, this was also correct related to spoiled presidents. Very late now, but "besser spät als nie" (better late than never) was a common German phrase with only one problem, it could be already too late! But this pointed to only one possibility, now opposition with all means you had, in Washington, in the states, the cities and especially on the streets. Portland had to resist!

I saw a promotion clip about a CNN war correspondent appearing in my mind, better about two -

had forgotten their names, sorry – one of the women was white, one black, should this be important. I saw a report at CNN, but it was not from abroad, from one of these women, not from the Middle East, Afghanistan or Iran or Iraq maybe, it was a domestic report, from Portland maybe or Kenosha, but it looked like civil war, at least not far away from one. Still two month time, to have a real one, especially with a president who would have at least no problem therewith, if not more!

The streets of Portland, weird Portland, two third a white population, a hundred percent of the citizens Americans? A city that not loved God, what should such a city hopes for? Maybe that it would be possible to live together with respect for each other? What story the history books would narrate some day? It had started in Portland, the first had been murdered in Kenosha, then again Portland, then.....? And the president had sat in his comfortable leather chair in the Oval Office all the times and had grinned, together with Jared and Ivanka.....

All great empires had found their end, Alexander the Great or the Roman Empire, only to name them. For everything there is a season, they said, maybe a new season began now. And yet, still Greece and Italy existed nowadays, in a different form, but was it today worse than before? Maybe it was better, no paradise, but the people liked it, to live today and not some thousand years ago? The time in between not always the best, but.....sometimes things had to end.....

The sun shined, only a few cirrus at the bright blue sky, the streets filled with people. Peacefully, at daylight - and in next night? Yes, the persons from outside, only interested in to cause trouble, only interested in to cause pain and as final consequence death - vehicles passed by, with not only Confederate Flags.....

A Portlander Dead

A Portlander shot dead, a supporter of the president, was this of importance? Black or white, was this of importance? It seemed as he had provoked others, was this a reason to shoot him in the breast, to shoot him dead? Would be, like shooting a man seven times in the back, because of an invisible knife.

A Portlander dead, a human being, enough to get sad. Now the killing had begun, where this would lead to - well, the president had a clear conception of it, the cute woman had divulged it. He had a clear strategy, unrest, political and social unrest, causing as much turmoil as possible, to blame others - oh, I think he had read history books from the home country of his ancestors. The always same strategy, and even yet there were signs, that it could function again. It was devastating.

Social media, was this the origin of all problems, Nixon had no social media, also not Hitler. A corrupt wealthy White upper class, they had had all, as well as henchmen and opportunists, maybe this was more important than social media. Social media offered new possibilities, but not created the problem as such. Child pornography was no "invention" of the Internet, as well as not the manipulation of elections.

Was all worse now, than in earlier times? Question: Would it be possible to top Mao, Stalin or Hitler? Engulf the world strongest economy in the abyss, cause a new civil war in one of the major nations in the world, create a vacuum, outcome unclear. But why complaining, we had created a system, where it cost you nearly a billion dollar to become president, sometimes even more! What did you think, this money came from? Do not be that naive! Draining the swamp, no longer lobbyism - but hey, then no longer a president, it would be too expensive then, to get one!

The longer you thought about it - the electoral college for instance, the costs to run a campaign, not only as presidential candidate, racism, social inequality, health care and so on, and so on - the more you had to ask yourself: Why this all not imploded, why this nation still existed? Or was all this the beginning of the implosion? The core of a massive star imploded at the end of its development, the result was a supernova - once started, nothing could stop the process, a star, sometimes brighter than a whole galaxy, dimmed afterwards to nearly nothing, if not becoming a black hole. Would the USA

become a black hole?

A Portlander shot dead, Aaron J. Danielson, it appeared to me like an execution, even when the video was no good. I did not see a deadly weapon in his hands, no act of self-defense I could see. Did he act in a right way, I think he provoked, but killing him?

A Portlander shot dead, Aaron J. Danielson, not everyone in Oregon or at the West Coast was blue. Also in Oregon and at the whole West Coast red counties, but all in all we were blue. Did we in Oregon and the West Coast ever had been that radicalized in the past? Burning blocks in Los Angeles came me to mind, always burning houses and blocks, whole streets. But assumed, Rodney King never would have happened, as well as Jacob Blake? Why then this houses, blocks and streets should have had burned? There was a cause and an effect, you could condemn the effect, but by eliminating the cause, the effect never would have had happened. You could blame and criticize the effect, but wouldn't it had been better to eliminate the cause? At least if you had been interested in, to rescue lives, no mater if black or white, for or against the president. But this would require a president, who was not interested in death, turmoil and riots. And this was the problem - catch-22, all theorization came to a sudden end, dropped dead - the end of logic, the beginning of chaos and anarchy. I was not religious, but would I, I would see the rebirth of the Antichrist, again on its way to kill millions.

At the end it would make no difference, a naked dead body, rotting in the fields, who could any longer say, who this person had been - the vultures only in the rotten meat interested were

Mixed Messages

Cases dropped, hospitalizations also, death rate still relatively high - wow, nationwide since a long time now, a weekday with under a thousand deaths, so everything developed fine? Still violent protests in Portland, now also protests in Kenosha and Rochester, but was this enough? Some signs gave hope, others fanned fear, it was absolutely not foreseeable, what the next weeks would all happen, either the time after November the third.

Obviously a very small cause could have a dramatic effect now, the president's statements regarding soldiers, the tensions between supporters of the president and protesters that became more and more intense, what would happen if another black man would die, statements from the president, statements from Joe Biden, it was simply not foreseeable.

You had to live from day to day now, no forward planning made any sense any longer, you had to prepare yourself for different possibilities, but in the end you had to see what would happen in the end. Still a happy ending was not excluded, even if not very likely. A major disaster seemed very likely, like seeing a devastating storm front at the horizon, but maybe the wind would change?

The circumstances of the death of a man on the street, the circumstances of the death of a man at his home, both deaths caused a lot of questions and not for the first time one had the feeling, that the police, the authorities, not played with their cards on the table, that they had much to hide and to cover up. It was a feeling, but it seemed not, as the police did much, to change this feeling.

What a country we had become, we failed totally on the pandemic, we had to discuss if the next presidential election would be a fraud, like in a former Soviet republic now a dictatorship. We had people in the government who sabotaged the already unfair school system, the US postal service, the juridical system, that whole state as such, like we would live in a banana republic. The people around us laughed about us, or felt sorry for us, the Canadians in the north, the Mexicans in the south, nations and their populations around the world. It was the low point - so far? - of the decline of the United States of America, the only remaining superpower in the world, the United States of America dismantled itself, under the watchful eyes of the world. Would this period become the time in the history books, when the United States of America became a petty nation, China the world's new real and only superpower, even Europe would have no longer a chance, without its ally United

States of America?

As said, nothing was foreseeable any longer, a spark could be enough now, to start an indelible fire - in the positive as in the negative, what would be likelier? The United States of America, a nation at the crossroad.

The Fire Had Started

The West Coast burned, California as every year, Oregon and even Washington. It felt like the beginning of an apocalypse, the plagues, let's count and see if you would find ten. The president and his administration, the fires, the virus, climate change, a nation riven by racism, a nation riven by greed - oh, six we already had, without any effort, should we find four more, should be no problem at all, or?

And other parts of the nation? The next hurricane would hit the southern coast soon, many hurricanes, one after the other and a president who openly said, that he thought that he would know it better than the scientists - it will get cooler, a failed nation on its way to destroy itself. We all could have known it better, the scientists told the story since the 70s, now it began to materialize, do not say you could not have known it! The swansong, the last hurrah of a formerly strong and proud nation, a dinosaur not able to change, convicted to decay, built on a genocide and slavery, driven by the greed for money, finally decayed into a dictatorship - could be the story of the Roman Empire, could be the story of the United States of America.

The climate would change, resources would come to an end, millions would search a new place to live, but the humans have had always an answer for big problems, even more greed and war. The West Coast burned, what a fine metaphor, the air became toxic, even no Silicon Valley helped anymore, no racist slogan, no bigger long weapon with even more deadly rounds, the world started to laugh about these humans and the humans had no better doing, than to make it even more difficult and worse. The United States of America, leader of the world, leader into the abyss - oh, Joe would win the election, that would become be the big deal!

The deal is, that this nation failed miserably in nearly all aspects - it's Judgement Day baby, and this time it's no Hollywood blockbuster, this time it's reality, fucking reality!

Hoping For A Miracle?

What would happen, what you should expect, how you should react - such questions penetrated my mind. All the behavior from the president, henchman like Barr and others indicated only one end, that they knew that they would probably lose the election, that it would be probably a close result, and that they would not accept the outcome - all indicated this scenario.

And then, grabbing a weapon and stepping on the street, ready to fight? Hoping that our former European allies would not accept such a behavior? That he would screw it up, despite all the advice and lessons he had got from his new friends and buddies in Russia or Saudi Arabia? Decades of wrong decisions and development, the inability to start to reappraise fundamental problems of the American nation like their affection for violence, the structural racism of the White upper class, the phoniness of the American Dream, that the "good old days" were long gone - now we had to pay the price for this inability.

Very easily this development could lead into a historical disaster now. What a joke, that it all started with a bad joke, that a bored self-proclaimed businessman thought, it would be funny to start a new TV soap - pretending to be a candidate. And then suddenly he liked it more and more, and suddenly he got more and more support and suddenly.....there was this little private in WWI, after the war he discovered that the people liked it to listen to him, and suddenly he had a dream, a whole nation would listen to him, he would lead a whole nation, he would be the Fuehrer of a nation, chosen to become the leader of the world, and for some years his dream came true, and costed millions of

humans their lives. What crazy stories history could offer!

But this not answered the question, what to do if it really happens, and it was no question that there were groups that hoped that it would happen, groups that did everything that it would happen. Without any doubts, we would get the result of the election not fast, for not only one reason, should we hope for a landslide win of Joe Biden? This seemed to be the only possibility not to run into a very dangerous situation that could easily lead into a disaster, but how likely this scenario was, not very likely obviously!

Why this nation no longer believed in democracy, in data, available and checkable for everyone - definitively the Internet was not to blame. Maybe the Internet made some things easier, but the Internet not "invented" something, maybe was able to fuel things, but the Internet was no creator, always someone stood behind the Internet.

As long as a "nigger" remained a "nigger", as long as a "red skin" remained a "red skin", as long as.....this nation would decay more and more. Nearly arrived at the level of a dictatorship, the decay would continue, a figure like Barr would have no problems with torture chambers, the screams of those who would oppose the dictator would give him a boner. If one lesson was to learn from the Nazis, then that such a regime was the fulfillment of all the dreams of psychopaths, now they could live out their darkest dreams. You wanna rape a young girl? No problem, as long as she's Jewish or a "nigga", or the daughter of parents that oppose the mighty leader! Look at Barr and hear him talking, look at Kushner and hear him talking, look at Goebbels and hear him talking - do you hear it?

A little hope was left, sometimes history could be astonishing, but most of the time history was cruel, relentless. And to be fair, not history would be to blame, the failure of the American nation would be to blame, the Americans would be to blame. All laid on the table now, all cards were to see, no hidden cards anymore, now it should be very easy on which hand you should bet your money, in any case you could not say afterwards, that you have not seen this coming, everything laid on the table now.

A few weeks, then it would become history, what would be the outcome of the complete failure of a nation? And assumed it would not become that bad, assumed Joe Biden would win the election, assumed with a landslide win, would we have learned our lesson as a nation then? Hardly to believe, to be honest. Maybe it would need the total catastrophe first, this kind of apocalypse, when not only ten or hundred thousands became murdered, maybe. A few weeks only left and I felt this cold panic touching my neck, it was too late now to write a novel about a Nazi USA, lean back and wait, have a view out of the window, eat some wonderful seafood, I felt this cold panic touching my neck and I felt so fucking defenseless, vulnerable, and I felt a warm breath softly touching my shoulder and I thought about white roses and a proud Nigger named Nat

Bad Gets Worse

Bad times for many reasons, Portland now, on top of all we already had to bear, the city with the worst air on earth - really? Worse than Bombay or so, really? Well, every time you thought, now it would be enough, the next punch came. It was a feeling, like an eighty-foot wave would fall over you, and you would be not the happy Maya Gabeira, beating it. You would be the unhappy guy, buried by the monster, never seen again.

Every death hurt, now very close to two hundred thousand and no end in sight, but sometimes it was even more hard. There once was a woman, a little strong woman, who had a dream, why it had been not possible that she could live somewhat longer to see her dream coming true? Maybe because her dream would not come true? This was a frightening thought!

There was something around my neck, I could not see it, but I felt it, felt that this something started to tighten, more and more with every day. Already I had problems to breath, to swallow, my mind got hazy, tears in my eyes - soon the lonesome hero would appear and everything would be fine

again. But I could not see him, could not hear him, not knew his name. So many of this old heroes had died now, where were the young ones, I feared that there were no heroes left. I coughed, not because of the bad air, I had tears in my eyes, not because of the bad air, I feared to lose my conscience, not because of the bad air.

Would the only hope be, that this year would go down in history as the year of slaughtering the own people and so far unknown hypocrisy, could this be the moment of calming you, would you know this? What would this change, asks the human in the concentration camp, entering the shower. What would this change, the last words of the human while getting tortured. It all would make a sense, they say, would later generations learn something from it - an awful lot of dead with tears in their eyes, a little strong woman among them.

Hillbilly Nation

No more federal funding for Portland, Seattle and Chicago - fuck you, you assholes in Washington! We live in a hillbilly nation, where around half of the nation had no idea about the world, had missed the last two hundred years, too stupid and too lazy to use their own brains! Could such a nation survive? Should such a nation survive? Why it should, it would be time to be consequent! We could no longer continue with this course, also not with a democratic helmsman, who would only slightly change the course. We would need a jibe, a tack would be not enough! But where was helmsman for this maneuver? I could not see him!

We talked about systemic racism, but much more we would have to talk about our systemic political crisis, based on the ideas of the White Founding Fathers. Their idea was never to share their wealth and power with the others. The slaves? The immigrants from the wrong nations and regions? Those who already lived in the new states like California or New Mexico? We had not to talk about them, who had lived here before, in this continent, those who would have better disappeared? It was all about White supremacy, that was the reason for this political system. And now, as even this system seemed no longer to ensure the White supremacy, voter suppression and gerrymandering should help. But as long as this was no topic, discussed openly - discussed by whom? The Dems? You were joking! This White bunch? Oh, yes, so diverse than never, so diverse as Joe Biden, as the Democrat's establishment!

200.000 - two hundred thousand! No national outcry, this nation was doomed! It was incredible what the people were willing to believe, even if the reality was obvious - but was this for the first time? No, but that made it not better - on the contrary! Portland, where was this former so weird city at this moment? What had happened, we had to change this. Maybe it had been too easy, in weird Portland, now nothing was easy anymore. We had to become a real democracy, we, the Portlanders, the Oregonians, the people at the West Coast. And our racism, the Silicon Valley and San Francisco, Hollywood and Los Angeles, were we better than the rest of the country? Were we had been able and willing to start a fundamental discussion about the unfairness of our political system? And I?

Videos and a weekly show, but for whom, for people who already would elect Joe Biden, even if only because there were no alternative? The comments I got, many of them positive, very fine! The others were aggressive and very often abusive, if not threatened you and your life. I could do or say whatever I would do or say, this people I could not convince to anything, the others were convinced, was it in this situation still important to do or say something, especially to say something? What should you hope for, more dead black men, a hundred thousand more deaths because of corona till election day? It would change nothing, both sides would feel confirmed, this was a silly game.

So, for what one should hope? Some nations changed after an ultimate catastrophe, some needed only a "normal" dictatorship like Spain or Portugal. But in the end history not provided many examples for profound changes without a foregoing catastrophe, none was aware to me! The end of the GDR, the communist part of divided Germany? Not really a good example, very strange circumstances and coincidences, and in the end it was a reunification, a very different situation. The FRG, the capitalist part of Germany, not even changed its name, it was more that the FRG swallowed the GDR, still the people of the former GDR had their problems with this. And the States? Really, maybe we should not think about a reunification, but about a separation. Basic ideas in different parts of the States seemed not to be consistent with each other, why should it be a good idea to try to form therefrom one nation - there was at no time one nation! Time to be consequent!

200.000 - two hundred thousand! A president, not to excelling in his disgustingness, gave himself an A+ - what else you needed to illustrate the degenerateness of a nation, as if a president could say this without consequences, a president who could hope for reelection? Maybe it would be the best for the nation that he would become reelected, at least that it would become a very close race, and we would have a lot of trouble between election day and inauguration day. Whatever, something had to happen with this nation, a watershed, a turning point, a harsh break was needed! We could not continue as usual, especially not with a president Biden. Maybe this would be even more dangerous, than a Nazi dictatorship under this president!

I walked through the streets of Portland with tears in my eyes, this had to be a turning point, the year 2020, the year when it all begun - what, would we know soon.....

Oregon Down!

Why?

Why? Why Oregon? Numbers up again, and not only slightly! Hospitalizations followed, and we all knew now, had learned it, what would be the next steps - ICU and deaths! Why? Why Oregon? I had said it already, would I believe in this God, I would see this all - the virus, this president, the fires, the endangered democracy..... - as a punishment, but a punishment for what?

Maybe therefore that also we, the good Oregonians, the good Portlanders, had not been able in the past to draw the necessary consequences? Well, we had been the good West Coast, the intellectual West Coast, we had been the good ones, the role models for an enlightened USA - and now? Why? Why Oregon?

Had we really tried to start the necessary reforms like to overcome the electoral college or the way judges for the Supreme Court got nominated and confirmed? Was it not very cheap to complain about the GOP's behavior in 2016 and now again in 2020? The system had given them the power in 2016, and the system gave them the power in 2020, to act as they acted - they not hurt the system! And no discussions about moral values now, the morality as Bill had sex with Monica in the Oval Office - I knew, he not fucked her! - and the hypocritical words from his wife thereafter? But today both had no problems therewith, to point the finger on the president - look at him, he has no moral values, he's a hypocrite, he's money-hungry and lusts for power, much more than we both ever did! No mirror, to look at?

Maybe the problem was not that much a decayed GOP, than leftists, also not interested in to start real change, to hit the hot topics in a severe way. Maybe it had been much too easy the last decades, sometimes a Democrat as president, sometimes a Republican as president - all was so well-balanced! What about a third or fourth party what would have challenged both parties, but that would have needed popular vote, a real democracy, and be honest, none of this two parties was interested in, to become challenged by a third or fourth party. So, both played their play, and both had been satisfied therewith, at least till now. But now the GOP became greedy, with this president

the balance was hurt, this president dreamt about to become a dictator, and the GOP liked that thought as well! But back to the beginning, when we in Oregon, at the West Coast, had consequently tried to change the underlying system, that made all this possible?

Now it was too late, it was too late for the Dems and it was too late for the Oregonians and too late for the West Coast. A woman had become honored today, some saw her as a bitch, who at least had died at the right time. As long as such thoughts could be said in this country, posted as comments in social media without consequences, enjoyed by the president of the USA and dominant parts of the GOP, that long we knew, that we would not be able to find any common ground again.

Why? Because we had screwed it up - we! Not the bad Republicans, the racists and the Nazis, the fundamental evangelists, the white supremacists, yes also they all, but also we! Portland, a weird city, but be honest a white city, of course we tolerated the "blacks". But now it was too late, the final stage had begun, the endgame had begun. But if, if this not ended in a total disaster, would we be able to begin then with the overdue fundamental discussions and changes? With Joe and Hillary in his back, always stressing, that he would be no socialist, darling of the establishment? Maybe we would get another chance, but it was to fear, that also this chance would become another idle chance, unused as so many before, unused by the Dems!

It rained, but this was okay. I had seen neither Caroline nor Jack for a longer time. They both had tried to contact me more than one time, but I was not in the mood. I had neglected my daily videos - every day commenting the same stupidities? Why we in Oregon, why we in Portland, why.....?

President Down?

Thursday, soon a first decision could be made, the first debate. And what ammunition Joe Biden had got just right now from "The New York Times"! Over two hundred thousand dead Americans because of an incapable and ruthless president, continuing protests against racism, and now "The New York Times" had finally released the president's tax returns, and they were even worse than you could have thought. If this and all the other topics were not enough to pressure the president, that Joe Biden would be not able to pressure the president with all this devastating matters, then it would be alarming!

Could Joe Biden win a lot this evening? In any case he could lose a lot, if not everything. On the other hand, could he make it, to let the president look like a fool, then this could be the president's end - at the end one had to come to the insight, everything could be possible! Had we had this tension in 2016? I couldn't remember for, that it was such a roller-coaster four years ago. I had the remembrance, that it had been in a way a boring mood four years ago, and the debates had fulfilled this mood totally! But now it was different, very different, not lastly because of the article of "The New York Times" - again a newspaper started to play a significant role, maybe again a significant role in, to bring a president down. The Dems failed for years, and now a newspaper could be the enforcer - again? If this should become reality, then we would have every reason to praise our free press, and to be aware, how important a free press was for every democracy.

Still some time, I was nervous. Caroline was with me, we sat in Jack's Bar, and of course the TV was ready. It was good to be not alone, it had been difficult for me to be together with other people lately, but I had to change this again. One year, Caroline and I, we had been on the road, from one coast to the other, from the north to the south, and now we sat together in Portland again - so much the mood in the city had changed! In Oregon as well, the fires, the rising numbers, also the death rate, the tensions with the White House.....

"Can this become an evening of relieve? What do you think, Caroline?"

"Would be good, so much pressure everybody feels today. But this president is not to underestimate."

"The best is, at least from my point of view, not to have too many expectations. And why, Biden has

not to win the election this evening, of course he has to prevent, to lose the election tonight. But I'm sure that time is with Joe Biden, especially after this devastating article. And "The Times" has announced, that more will follow. I do not think that this was only hot air. Every day when the president is not able to improve his numbers, but more and more questions will be asked which pressuring him, is a day closer to Joe Biden's win. Biden has not to win the election tonight, but if the president cannot set some marks, it will be the next step for him towards his biggest defeat so far. Biden should be relaxed in a way, let the president talk, the more he talks, the more he hurts himself, like in the briefings."

"But Biden has to avoid some traps, like socialism and his son, but then he should have a good evening."

"I would agree with you, Caroline. There are some weak points Joe Biden has, but compared with the problems the president has now? From this standpoint, and would this be a poker game, I would bet my money on Joe Biden, definitively the better pot odds! But it's said, that some players even folded a monster, only because they got nervous - no hour anymore, and we will get the answer."

"That's right, be my guests and place your orders!"

"I definitively need a high-proof one!"

"Me too!"

"Three from the hard side of the river, will me a pleasure!"

After The Debate

"What the hell was this! We all know that this president is an asshole, but thinks he, that he can convince voters with such a shit, beyond his brainless base?"

"Well Jack, my problem is more what he has said about the election and what he has said to his racist and fascist friends. Who not sees now, that this man is a racist and a fascist, then I feel sorry!"

"Sometime I think he's not really a fascist, maybe not even a racist, Caroline. Sometimes I think he's even worse, that he's one of these guys who think they can use racism and fascism for their purposes. But this would make him only more dangerous, if he even not believes in this shit, but would have no problem with gas chambers, as long as he could be the man in power."

"I think that we all can agree therewith, that this is a very academic question at the moment?"

"Of course Caroline, and I think Peter said this not to start an unnecessary discussion. But hey, if you believe in this nonsense with horoscopes, okay. But if you only use it to make money, or even to manipulate people, then it becomes even more disgusting, apart from that horoscopes are nonsense as such. But, it shows that the GOP has a very high responsibility now, to keep away as much harm from the nation as possible. And to be honest, this makes me very nervous, this decayed and rotten GOP and this president who runs finally mad, who reveals more and more his mental illness?"

"Well, but you said it before Jack. Biden has time, time is on Biden's side. Biden is in the lead, he made no real mistake, his opponent discredited himself. So far everything seems to be good, if this development continues, will Biden not only win the popular vote this time. But we see a president who's ruthless and relentless beyond any measure, he will have no scruples to do the best to destroy this nation as much as possible. One I have in common with the president, we both have German ancestors, and the Germans were very good in the awful "strategy" of "scorched earth". He would have been a very good Nazi in Nazi Germany, a very good SS officer, he had smiled while the Jews had to undress, and in fact, at least at the moment it's not important why, this is something for the history books, at the moment we have to do the best, that this man will be not able to plunge this nation into chaos, to provoke a new civil war - and yes Jack, with this rotten and decayed GOP....."

""The Sorcerer's Apprentice"....."

Patient Number One

"Look and see, the United States have a new corona patient, Jack!"

"Yes, like nearly seven and a half million other Americans - how many have died so far?"

"Nearly two hundred and ten thousand now."

"One more? Why not a white dead billionaire for a change? Oh, I've forgotten, he's only a blender, a fucking businessman and broke!"

"I for my side wish him the best, some fucking days, but then a recovery, just to lose the election. I wanna see his orange monkey face when he has to see that Joe Biden swears the oath at inauguration day. It would be a pity, would he die - on the other hand, so many had to die because of his unwillingness to fight the pandemic, it would be only fair, would he die because of the virus."

"That's what I meant!"

"But in Oregon also not everything develops that good, one has to confess."

"No, but the whole situation in the country develops not well. All illnesses of this country have their outbreak at the moment, illnesses like a widespread racism, a boundless capitalism, relentless and greedy white billionaires.....and on top corona, as the rest would be not enough. I think that would you see this ill body from outside, only one thought would be in your mind, this body is along its way to die."

"Another one?"

"No bad idea!"

Two Days

What all could happen in two days? A global natural disaster for example. Compared with this, the situation in the US was very relaxed, with only a president infected with COVID-19, hospitalized but then decided to return. Downplayed the pandemic in videos and tweets and entered the White House without wearing a mask. Over two hundred ten thousand Americans had to die now, not much compared to a real global catastrophe, maybe a large meteorite would hit earth?

Now the president decided, that it would have time till after the election, for further support of the American people, the Supreme Court was more important. Who would care about some more dead Niggers and Latinos and poor people, when he would have accomplished the aim, to dominate the Supreme Court for decades? Small business owners? Such failed suckers who were not capable to create a big business like our best president?

Nationwide the numbers rose, as we headed into fall and winter. Oregon, Portland? Still on a, compared with hard hit states, lower level, we also were not able to get the pandemic under control. Rising numbers, or stagnating on a higher levels, that was all we accomplished. Tonight would be the debate of the vice president with his opponent, Kamala Harris. Pence refused even, that there would be a plexiglass shield between them, for safety reasons, what else one had to say. Oregon, Portland, my home? I feared, whatever next year would be, nothing would be again as before. And I meant this not in a good way, that we maybe would be on our way to fight against racism, that we would discuss better gun laws, I meant it in a bad way, that we more and more would fall apart as a nation, even with a Joe Biden and a Kamala Harris. Should I be happy? I would like it, to see an independent Oregon, an independent West Coast, but not to see parts of the nation developing into a racist and fascist swamp more and more - *southern trees bear strange fruit*? The future will be the past, that would be harsh, no thirty days anymore.....

Bad Numbers

Everything turned bad again, here in Oregon, here in Portland. If this development only continued for a short time longer, we would reach again record highs in all aspects, especially also in deaths.

Well, one could say, the whole nation developed in that way, even worse in many states, but could this be a relief?

The winter comes - was there not a TV series I never had watched, where this was the message of horror? Even now, far away from the real winter, only somewhat colder so far, the development was devastating - what would be the terrifying news after winter? Five hundred thousand dead Americans, half a million of dead Americans, nothing seemed impossible anymore!

But why also we here in Oregon, well Washington more, not to talk about California. Should we simply say, well, bad situation in Oregon, but others do it worse? Would we have soon a new mayor in Portland, a civil war that started in Michigan, a president, finally nuts, destroying the nation finally? Never I had experienced a time, when every day, hour, minute things happened, a year ago unthinkable.

The clock ticked down.....

In What A Nation We Lived?

"The GOP has finally showed, that the American people overall are not important for them. Important for them is, to kill the ACA, to kill Roe vs. Wade, to kill climate regulations and more. That this behavior kills thousands, hundreds of thousands of Americans, is not important for them, Caroline."

"We're still over two weeks from election day and millions have already voted. I think that this is a good sign, Peter."

"Yeah, fake ballot boxes, the actions in Texas, Russia in the background, this election is so unworthy to the American people. People have to wait hours, sometimes six or even more, to elect? This is not thinkable in any modern nation, either the USA is the exception, or we're simply no modern nation, a banana republic."

"But isn't it good, that all tends thereto, that Biden will win? It could be worse."

"Nearly half of the Americans still stick with this president, and as if this is not bad enough, this could be enough to get the majority in the electoral college again. And I have still my problems with the Dems."

"They had no legal chance to thwart Judge Barrett - and to talk about moral in connection with this GOP, is a mere joke. But they have all the chances after the election."

"Yeah, and this is exactly my problem. They had all the chances at the beginning of President Barack Obama's time in office, not much they made out of this situation. Well, all points to a win by Joe Biden, but the Senate? The Senate will be more difficult, but they would need Senate. But it would need brave Dems then, Dems who are interested in profound discussions, brave to start severe changes and reforms. Joe Biden with Hillary in the background? This is not the staff, I would like to see. But for the moment we have other problems."

"Maybe we should be somewhat more optimistic?"

"Yeah, maybe Joe Biden will achieve a landslide win, maybe the transition of power will be peaceful, maybe we will see half a million dead Americans next year, maybe we squander the future of coming generations at the moment because of our handling of the climate crisis. And I have not talked about racism, about religious fundamentalist who are absolutely no democrats and not interested in a democratic nation, about the question of reparations for the Native Americans, about a White rich upper class that exploits this nation, about so many other questions. Yes, maybe Joe Biden wins with four hundred electoral votes, maybe the president and the GOP will have their Waterloo, of course losing Senate, but what will be then? We have no longer Nazis in the States then, white supremacy and so on? It's this sheer amount of problems we have in the States that slays you."

"Yes, and yet we're at a point today, where it has become the simple question about brute survival. At the moment we're struggling to find any ground under the feet, we will drown otherwise."

"I have heard that drowning is a nice way to die."

"Experiences?"

"Not that I remember."

"Then you should be careful, maybe it's an awful death in the end."

The Unhappy Clown

A few days left, and still nothing decided. Yes, of course, it seemed as this time it should go the "right" track, but, the "right track"? A nation on the wrong track for at least decades, maybe centuries, maybe from the beginning on - nearly always on the wrong track, nearly! But why only nearly?

Women fought for their rights and could achieve at least some successes. African Americans fought for their rights and could achieve at least some success. Yes, there were some positive developments, but in the end? Women were still second class, their achieved rights endangered all the times, especially again in this very moment. African Americans were still second class, their achieved rights endangered all the times, especially again in this very moment. Some other examples would have been possible, but in the end everything was disappointing, especially again in this very moment.

This fairy tales told by a rich White upper class, with the GOP as their willing means to an end, about that weapons would secure security, that worker rights would destroy the economy, that health care for all would be communism, that races would exist, that women would be not equal to men, that men would have to "lead" women to the right decisions, such fairy tales and many more. That this would be a free nation, based on.....yeah, based on a brutal genocide!

Look at the "proud" Founding Fathers at the wall and realize that this was the beginning of a failure! And it was devastating, it would be so easy to see it, one only had to look at Europe - or other parts of the world - to see it! Countries without weapons were the most secure countries! Countries with strong worker rights like Germany were strong economies! Every European country had a system of health care fore all and none of these countries were a communist country! It was proven by scientists, that the concept of race made no sense, you only had to listen to science! Countries with more rights for women did better, especially countries with women leaders! You only had to open your fucking eyes and see! Why was this not possible in this country? Because a small White rich upper class manipulated and betrayed a whole nation - but why not speaking it out loud and clear, why not shouting it out?

A week and a few days, the final downfall, or.....yeah, what "or"? The final downfall would be the final downfall, nearly it seemed that this would be the better choice, because then it would be clear, that this nation would find its end. But the "or"? This nation was sick, a deadly infection, since decades, since centuries, since the beginning. Maybe it would be better the patient would die? Could one hope that the patient still had a chance, sometime patients recovered like due to a miracle, patients, for many years in coma, suddenly woke up! Could this nation still transform into any kind of modern nation, whitout a final downfall?

Why one could say with any justification, that European countries - and many others in the world – had become modern nations? What was the difference in their history? The history of Europe from 1776 till today in comparison to the American nation? A history of wars, rising and falling empires, whole nations transformed again and again. Europe in 2020 was a totally different continent as in 1776, one had only to look at a map! Whole nations were confronted with the question: How to continue? And the answer was always: Not as before!

As an example: Even the Congress of Vienna, 1814/15 after Napoleon, and the following "Age of Restoration" (~1815-1830) yielded new and even progressive developments. At the Congress of Vienna one of the achievements was, to ban slavery for instance! It was an initiative of the British delegation, by the way! Europe became what it became, because it got destroyed not only once, for the last time because of WWII. There's this saying: Sometimes old has to perish, that something new can rise. Sometimes, but not always, and not necessarily.....

The American nation would have alternatives and possibilities, but one have to use them, before it's too late and only the total destruction is left, like it happened in Germany - "zero hour", for the first time (the western part of) Germany became a real democracy, after becoming a Nazi dictatorship - self-inflicted! The American nation? History will tell.....

Postscript

I will stop writing "The Happy Clown" today, this story is my mostly failed story - but what alternatives I would have had? It's nearly sarcasm that the third part starts with a paragraph, headlined COVID-19!

My idea was, to write about an artist, now becoming a huge nationwide, even worldwide, star, like a Dave Chappelle for instance. I was not sure about his relation to Caroline, nor what will happen to him. Maybe becoming a rich asshole, a kind of Kanye West, or maybe staying grounded? But maybe more important was the idea, that he would stay for some days a week in Los Angeles, to record the show, and some days in Portland every week. In between is San Francisco, not far away Seattle and the Canadian border. Tours to the so far missed states - Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico - I have planned, again to places from the nationwide tour (Part II), also to Mexico, Europe and so on. All this became destroyed by the virus, Peter had to stay in Portland.

Looking back I see, that the real development with COVID-19 and the president would have been a great possibility, but it was not to see, in what a way the pandemic would develop, neither the president. This is a problem of my writing, daily about the given day (several stories!), maybe two or three days later because I had no time. Would I start Part III today, I could develop a fantastic story, what all has happened in Portland for instance, but in a way I feel this as boring. Maybe this is stupid, maybe this will destroy my efforts to become a writer, but to write about the current president after a possible win of Joe Biden is cowardly for me! You have to write about him today, you have to name him a swine and Nazi today, not when he's no longer in office!

I'm sad about, that it was not possible to me to write this story in the way I thought about, it was wonderful to travel through the United States, even if only virtual. I would have liked it, to do it again, also to travel with "Peter" to Europe, to Germany. To write about, to be a big, big star. But, it is what it is, new writing will begin soon.....