

THE VIRUS MADE ME DO IT

Emil Guillermo May 23, 2020

The virus is a trickster. It puts a lock on your body parts and takes your breath away. And then it makes racism socially acceptable.

Social distancing? Isn't that when whites left the city for the suburbs? And then again, when they regentrified the cities, and made the poor leave for the Central Valley?

Don't say, "We're all in this together." We're not. The virus discriminates and exposes all the racism in society.

And it's screwing up our politics. The right wants to aggressively open up and be virus sluts. The Left wants to stay put and go conservatively to the nunnery.

I know it's affecting me. I'm rooting for hydroxychloroquine to do its thing---to be totally ineffective fighting Covid and to do everything it normally does but cure the virus.

I think the president is taking it because the drug sounds like a stripper's name--high Roxy Something Something? If the president is taking it, let's hope it works the way it always does.

Does that make me a bad man to say that? I did not call him morbidly obese. I would just say fat.

The virus has made me say a lot of private things that should stay quarantined in my brain. Now I am emboldened to say them through my mask. But loudly.

The virus has turned me into Donald Trump.

I blame it on three months of sheltering at home. But I am getting better.

When Stephen Miller's wife, Katie, a press secretary to Vice President Pence, was told she had the virus, I thought of all the things Stephen Miller has done to poison the mind of the president on immigration and people of color, and to elevate the status of Nazis. His wife has the virus now? I wanted to cheer! But I didn't.

Instead I acknowledged karmic justice at work. The gods had given Miller the chance to get it right—to exhibit a little empathy in this empathy-deprived administration.

The virus has treated all people of color, blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, Asians unequally. In Los Angeles County, the virus has killed Pacific Islander 12 times more than whites. Pacific Islander? Think of the Rock and multiply by 12. (Or six. He's half- black).

The scapegoating of China as the source of the virus has resulted in the targeting of all Asian Americans, because among racists, it's seen one, seen them all.

And now the virus was going after Stephen Miller's wife. I prayed for him. Like he probably wouldn't for me. Because despite the virus, I am not like Donald Trump.

I am still a decent human being who believes in love of country, and humanity, and in real science and truth.

It will take more than the virus to kill all that.