

Dear ----,

. . . you say that gradually you have realised that we are living in my plays. I think I've been saying that for years and the established theatre in the UK has been ignoring what I've been saying. Of course in my plays I didn't specifically identify corona virus. That wouldn't have been the point. The disaster could take many forms. But I was certain that there would be a disaster. And politicians now want to get out of the disaster by repeating the policies and practices that caused it. The real cause is the tsunami of modern technology combined with social injustice and the excessive consumption of needless things that is necessary to sustain and hide the injustice. All facets of the problem hang together and enforce each other.

A lot of the problem can be put quite simply. Everything that exists (human beings, animals, objects. . . .) are related to nature. That is the ground of existence and evolution. We are able to manufacture a gun – but the gun doesn't want to kill us. The manufacturers of the gun want to kill. In the same way, nature – and for the moment specifically corona virus -- doesn't want to kill us. We make the virus a killer in the same way we make the gun a killer. Simply put, nature has no purpose. The virus kills us for the same reason that water runs downhill. Our societies make the virus kill us. We like to think of the virus as our enemy and look for a gun – a means – to kill it. But we are our own enemy and the problem is social not natural. The problem has been slowly accumulating through history as we became more powerful and more able to manipulate nature. Now history has caught up with the present. The last hundred years have been the record of the catastrophes we bring on ourselves. And the catastrophes are increasingly frequent.

It is a political and social crisis and as we are necessarily social, it is a species crisis. Just as we now exterminate the world's animal species, and destroy the structures of existence by climate degradation, so we are exterminating ourselves. That is the logic of reality. Our technological potency blinds us to our social impotence.

Fundamentally the problem is two-fold: one is our categorical relation to nature and the other is human consciousness. We are the only species that is self-conscious and also conscious of nature. This deceives us into thinking

that we can endlessly manipulate nature for our own ends. But there is a logical relation between nature and consciousness. When for its own purposes consciousness manipulates nature, then its as if nature manipulates us – not that nature has a purpose but that it has its own relation to our consciousness. In effect, when we manipulate nature we manipulate ourselves but have no control of the manipulation. That is the logic of reality. Perhaps we cant really understand that and the question is more fundamental. In the past the question was asked: why is there anything rather than nothing? But the more urgent question is how is there anything rather than nothing? The question is an abyss that contains the logic of reality.

Best wishes, Edward.
