

ALWAYS WRONG

Mankind always tends
to choose the worse
of two evils.

Philipp Neth, 06.05.2020, MMP, Coronadoku



All gone...

Humanity lost a lot on the 23rd January 2020. On this day, the government of China ordered the initiation of the lockdown of Wuhan and nearby cities. They were infected with a new Virus. The Corona-Virus-Disease, commonly abbreviated as COVID, functioned as a catalyst for the plans of the Chinese Government. Within days, they organized one of the most robust and far-reaching surveillance systems ever. Face tracking, Checkpoints, Tracking Apps and the Neighborhood-watch worked together. Parks were suddenly empty, as no one was permitted to leave their flat. Places that were normally crowded became ghostly empty.

Western media started discussing this novel „Chinese Virus“, meanwhile the lockdown situation in Wuhan was ignored.

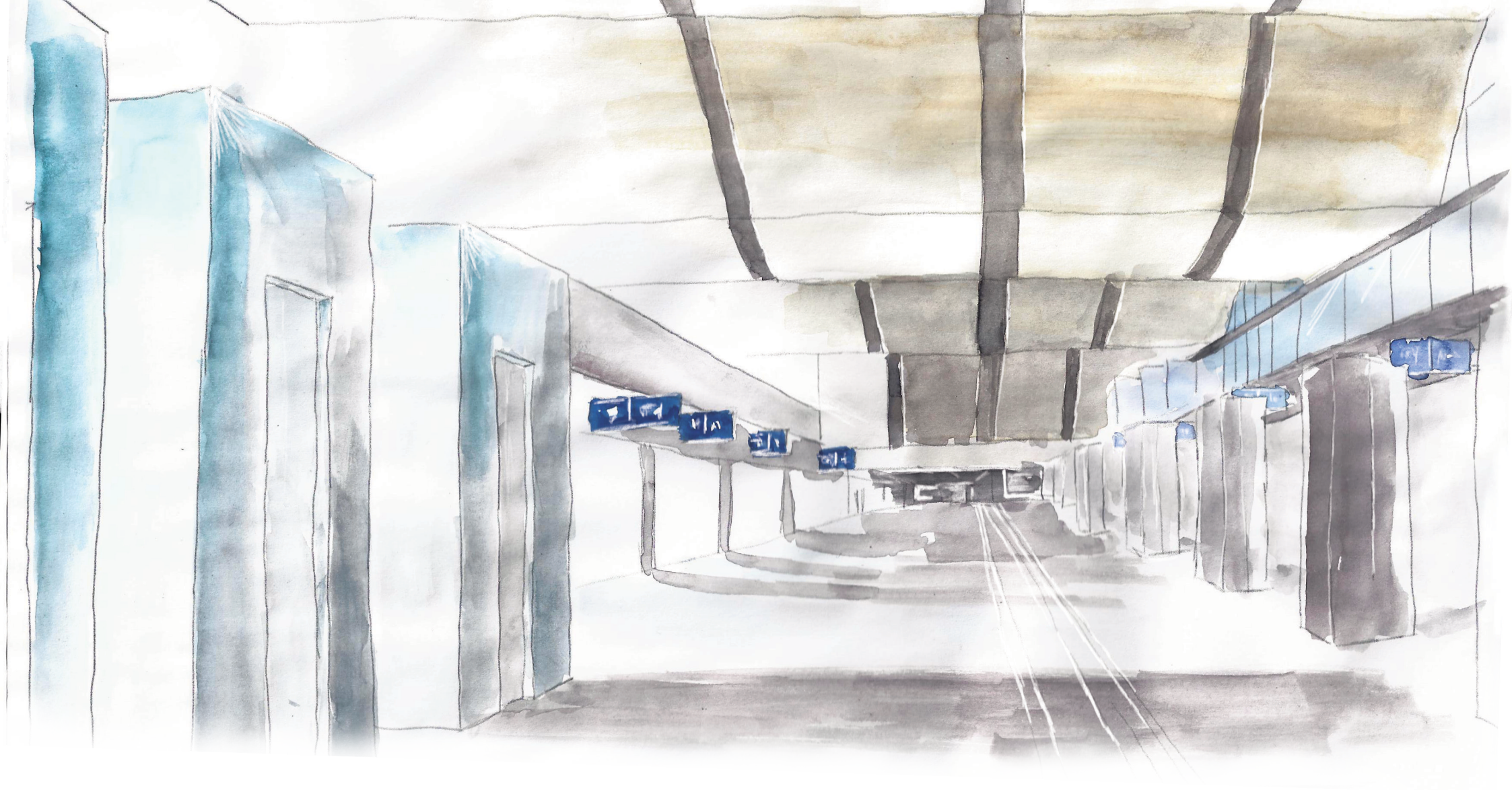
Due to the lengthy incubation period of 2-5 days before symptoms are apparent, the virus started spreading rapidly. Often traveling with unsuspecting tourists, it was transported from country to country, city to city, from beach to beach. Suddenly, no one felt safe anymore.





Like China, nearly all countries started to close their borders, lockdown their towns and restrict the freedom of movement of their citizens. All choices were made fearing this novel virus, rarely were questions regarding the quality of life and economic wealth asked.

Corona reached every single spot, everyone on this planet. Perhaps not by infecting someone, but by influencing every part of the daily life. Holidays got canceled, beaches stayed empty. The only one to profit from this development was nature. It could recover and reconquered places, it had lost long ago.



Daily life changed unequivocally. Like soldiers in war, we stopped asking: Why? Why do you want me to stay at home? Why can't I see my grandparents? Why do scientists claim that mask help on Monday, but on Thursday they say masks offer no protection? So many questions were never asked or asked insufficiently, because the answer was always the same: „Not enough data available, but safe is safe.“

Not “going into lock down,” was now considered the murder of thousands. The longer the crisis lasted, the more data we collected, the more I relaxed. The fact that this novel „killer virus“ disproportionately affected the old and weak, helped me personally to quickly recover from the Corona-Shock and go back outside, hug my mother and to live normally.

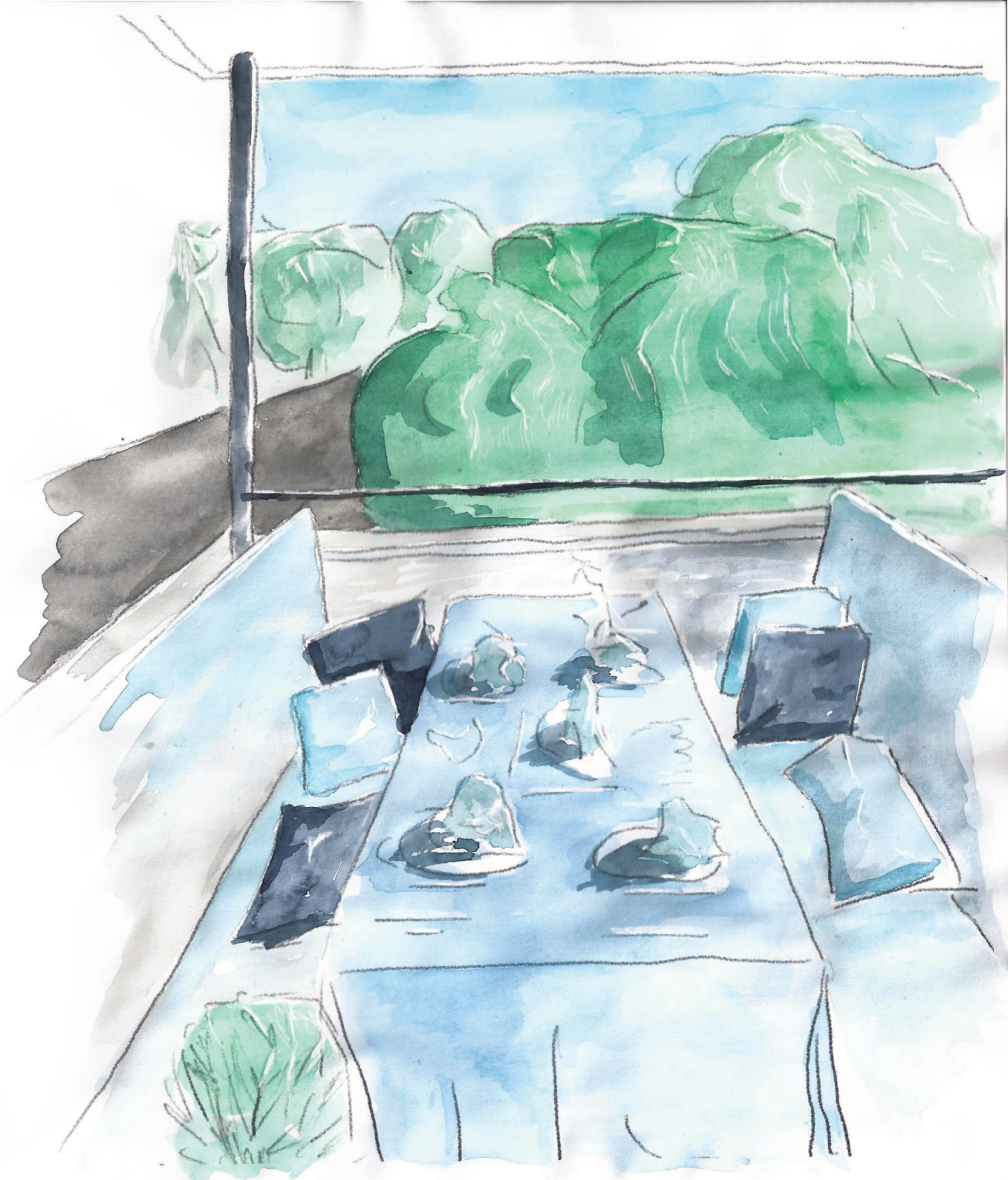
I was mostly alone with this insight. Although the data was available to the public, most of the population continued panicking and social media was definitely not helping. Within days, the “lockdown movement” became stronger than many religions.

I was shocked to see many places empty. Every closed restaurant meant that its numerous employees were unemployed. Every closed store is an existence on the brink. In Switzerland, 2 million people were temporarily on short-time work, which amounted to approximately 25% of our citizens.

It will take decades to recover from the financial disaster, we created with the „soft lockdown,“ I started wondering, how long we would stay at home? More should have noticed inconsistencies in official statements made by relevant authorities.

Just then, while reminiscing about the lovely times we ate, talked and laughed together in restaurants and pubs, peering into the news revealed the darkest sides of humanity— and a world on fire.

China, widely considered to be the source of the virus, benefit from the fact that the world's attention is directed towards it. They started to occupy new districts and oil fields in the Chinese sea. In at least six African states, civil wars ensued or resumed, caused by warlords and old hate and fear. In the USA, questions on race and discrimination caused widespread riots and demonstrations. The world is burning more than since a long time.



If one word describes humanity, it is perseverance. Thus far, we took everything that challenged us and tackled it. A long time ago, humanity started developing a filter for such events. Whenever something was so devastating, that even talking about it was hard, we as society tended to just move on. It happened during the Black Plague, the Spanish Flu, and it will happen after Corona. Humanity will move on and just leave it behind. And indeed, perhaps, perseverance is the only thing that really could help us in future pandemics.

Unfortunately, people are very persistent in their stupidity. When the relaxation of the lock-down was announced, some illogical decisions were made, because lobbies tended to be more influential than scientists, researchers and doctors. One of the results is that shops, that had been open for 200 years, during devastating crises, wars and epidemics, remained closed—and yet, hair salons were allowed to open.





And yet we have not completely disappeared. We tried to keep in touch via skype, zoom, Facetime or any other chatroom that was available to us.

What I personally learned in this time is that nothing in the world can replace a hug and a good handshake.

In January 2020, mankind
lost confidence in each other.
We will feel that for a long time.