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Diaries on Corona Fears

(15)

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Spent most of today doing nothing, if we're being realistic. But doing nothing right now is in itself, something, as in what used to classify as "doing nothing" is now possibly an essential component that defines my day. For example, I did laundry and showered; usually this would be overshadowed by an incredible amount of more impactful events centered around common elements of daily life, but right now, they make the headlines of my day. In a sense, depressing, but in another, an enlightening lesson to value not only what I took for granted as regular social interactions, but simply the elements in the background that allowed daily life to function as it did, things like regular running water, electricity, internet, food services, maintenance, etc. This is in fact even highlighted further to me now; it is incredibly easy to forget that quarantining is in itself a privilege and is totally impossible without these elements operating in the background; having shelter, services, everything that is considered essential for survival today.

With the pandemic going on, things that used to be in the "background" have been brought to the frontline and has forced me to radically re-evaluate how I view daily life on campus. On that note, I think I also fully conceived today the fact that returning to "normality", or life pre-pandemic, will be fully impossible. The psychological impact, which can be described as traumatic without any exaggeration, will affect the nature of all social interactions in the future, especially on campus, and will certainly place new boundaries, definitions, and regulations on how people perceive daily life here; in essence, the effect on our subconscious will be impossible to reverse. Moreover, the economic prospects looking dim means that, possibly and God forbid, we may be entering a period of extended tension, especially as college students entering the market, and even more severely for those who are in majors that already faced job uncertainty pre-pandemic. By definition, COVID-19 is an "event"; a ripple that distorts the fabric of time, so that everything before it has led to it and everything after it is its consequence. My life, on and off campus, as well as billions of others, may very well soon be defined in "post" and "pre" COVID-19 terms.