

Kariem Hashem

Diaries on Corona Fears

(13)

30 March 2020

Nothing much happened today, even though it is Monday. I have the same quarantine walk, but in the morning this time, because the weather was simply too good to pass up. It hit 20°C today, which for this region of the world, is incredible; in addition, it was actually sunny, which is a rare combination, as the most common combination with good weather is cloudy skies and really high humidity. I needed this, I desperately needed this. As I leave the dorm hall I rush to get the initial sensation of warm sun hitting your skin; there's always an ethereal moment before your skin fully adapts to the sun's heat, where a sunray's warmth introduces itself to your body and starts integrating itself within the epidermis before piercing through, and in that moment is one of the most satisfying sensations one can feel.

Something is nicer in the air today, and as I make my way to the Union I see people, maybe 5 or 6, but its much more than I have seen on the same walk regularly. All of them, aside from one couple, are separated by a good 10-20 meters, mostly walking alone, but the presence of some spirit consoles me, especially within the stunning scenery of the mid-Spring quad, with the grass violently expressing its presence in a strong, deep shade of healthy green. More importantly, every tree on the quad has begun to sprout visibly; there's some life invigorated on campus, at a time where it was desperately needed. I come back feeling well, I do some abdominal exercises, finish the spread-out chunks of homework I had left, and catch up with friends now spread out across a globe, now united in fear and isolation but separated into two camps of either fear or desperation. My friends know my distaste for centrism in anything, but I feel a genuine affiliation to both sides; in the glimmering hope within some of them, and desolate desperation within the rest. This goes on for a longer time than

expected, and now I'm writing this at about 3A.M in the morning. I have "class" tomorrow, so I'm heading for a good sleep.

