

Diary from Quarantine – 26 – *Timid Restarts*

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Phase 2, the coexistence with the virus, is still very far. Nevertheless, starting from today we are seeing some timid restarts here and there.

The government authorized the reopening of bookstores, stationary stores, children's clothing stores and the resumption of forestry activities, wood industry, and production of computers.

This new set of decisions will not regard every region, as the 20 Italian regions have some degree of independence. Here in Lombardy for instance, since it is the worst-hit area, the restarts are not happening yet.

May 3 - the day of the official end of the lockdown - is not that far, and now that a new phase is going to start, I cannot stop thinking of how our thoughts have changed in just a few weeks.

At the beginning, words that are now very familiar, like coronavirus, pandemic, serological tests, and social distancing were completely unknown.

We were somehow ignorant and, as it always happens, the ignorant tends to simplify everything.

This is why I remember myself naively imagining, during the first days of the lockdown, a moment in the future in which authorities would have talked to us on TV announcing something like "The emergency is over, everybody out to celebrate!".

I was dreaming of my people pouring into the streets with much more intensity than that night in July 2006 when we won the World Cup and no one went home before the sunrise.

This time, when the joy could be clearly much bigger than that given by football, this will not be the case.

Restarts will be gradual, cautious. It will not be as if a war ended.

Italy will be like a severely injured animal that gets up and start walking again after a long while: you can see it is scared, you can see it is shaking and you watch it and wonder how it can stand on those tiny legs. But it somehow does.