

Series:
Echoes of the 4 seasons

Book I

eBook
English
Italiano
Português

(((((...echoes of spring...))))))

A season to not be forgotten

SILAS DeTULLIO

The world is big, but it fits in the home. Wait for the window to open and you'll see...

Philosophical romance

Dedicated to the International Red Cross and its affiliated entities

Tribute to all Covid19 Fighters

Events portrayed: reflect facts, experiences, coexistence and simulations

Character's names: are fictitious and any similarity to living or deceased people is coincidental and unintentional

Rated to all readers

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Synopsis

I write this book during the acute, growing, and fearful phase of the Covid19 pandemic, making myself available to volunteer for humanitarian areas – social and health –, given the challenges of essential services. Since it is not possible to physically volunteer in different countries at once, I dedicate the fully net income from the sales of this book to the International Red Cross and its affiliated entities whose humanitarian actions in situations of conflict, pandemics, natural disasters, etc., are always present and invaluable. May the contents of this romance contribute to the promotion of education, recording, with simplicity as it may be, a time that will echo through many seasons, northern and southern, and I will silently listen to it...

SILAS DeTULLIO, Author

§1 Writing is a solitary navigation, but it can also be solitary when rescuing history...

§2 In this moment of action, but also of reflection on how we got here, I decide to write this romance in recognition of Covid19 fighters. It reflects my vocation to continually educate myself and my duty to be better. It reflects, above all, the majestic atmosphere of the home, simple as it may be, but an essential trench, for fighters or not.

§3 The possible mistakes along my trajectory I didn't learn in my home of origin. On the contrary, this home had been a storehouse of good custom and the best Jewish-Christian teachings. It taught me the achievement by merit, distinguishing rights from privileges, also needs from wishes, celebrating Christmas every day, the meaning of civility and, finally, giving me a diploma that is not stamped on the walls, but on the soul. This simple home had been welcoming and full of true love, which made all the difference and prepared me for today, to love home and make it a school! I was born to live in a school and I do it.

§4 Among so many natural teachings of life, the four seasons of the year, in particular, teach us, repeatedly and freely, the cycle of nature and what it produces to sustain life itself. A teaching that is cultivated and harvested at home and from there given to the world.

§5 In this romance, in silence, I speak to myself..., falling in love with conscience..., expanding its reach through figures of speech. It objectively reflects practices at work, in projects, thoughts and interaction with people in my family, friends from work, study, coexistence in general and occasional; at this time, all socially distanced due to the Covid19 pandemic, revealing the true trench at home.

§6 In the form of dialogues, in my heart five characters are the main characters: ^{P1}Author (blue texts), ^{P2}Selph (graffiti texts) and ^{P3}Aneleh ^{P4}Acnarb ^{P5}Caasi (green texts), who fertilize my imagination, inflected from the older days to those of this time, an open portal to come and go, and taste the best of the two seasons' harvest; today, contained in their expectations of life, they seek to see the light dazzled by the shadows on the horizon, through half-open windows...

§7 For those who are almost always used to technical, strong, and dense writings; here in

...echoes of spring...

differently, you will find a *simple* book. Easy to explain: life is or could be or should be simple. For those who are already used to a simple life, they will read it savoring. And, for those who have not experienced simplicity, the opportunity has arrived or, for those who so wish...

§8 Good music accompanies me in everything I do. Accompanies me throughout this navigation, bringing historical lessons and special emotion. Music that dignifies humanity and brings it closer to the Creator. Universal language among human beings, music teaches us that it is possible to act as an orchestra to face the *invisible* enemy common to all of us.

§9 Although I don't know the dear reader's musical taste, I invite you to listen to the song I hear as I begin this journey: For the Beauty of the Earth, by John Rutter, an Anglican born in 1945, at the end of World War II. Sung by a children's choir, it touches the soul with lightness, despite the aggressiveness of today, when uncertainty is certain...

§10 Given the challenges facing the *unknown*, I end up with a simple but valuable *theorem*:

The world is big, but it fits in the home. Wait for the window to open and you'll see...

SILAS DeTULLIO, Author

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 - ³ Diligence
 - ⁴ Echoes
 - ⁵ Season
 - ⁶ Strategy
 - ⁷ Christmas
 - ⁸ Quarantine
 - ⁹ Perseverance
 - ¹⁰ Spring
 - ¹¹ Reflection
 - ¹² Resilience
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 - ² Social distancing
 - ³ New abnormality
 - ⁴ New normality
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Table of content

Part I. The Time...

Chapter 1. A long March Break

Chapter 2. Adopting of strategies

Chapter 3. Be vigilant

Part II. The Home...

Chapter 1. Taking refuge in metaphors

Chapter 2. Paradigms on the board

Chapter 3. Nostalgic melody

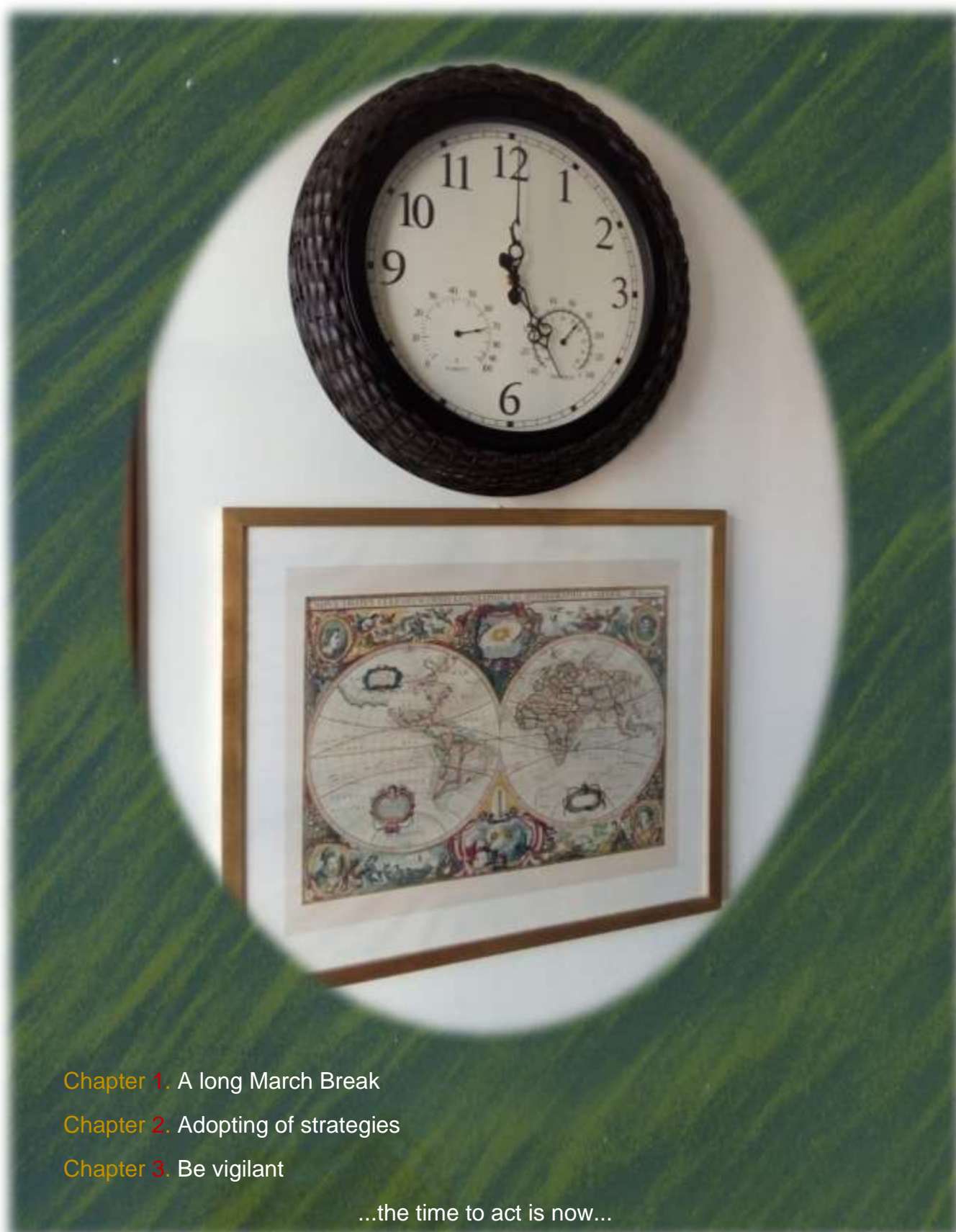
Part III. The Window...

Chapter 1. The color of the world

Chapter 2. Methamorphosis

Chapter 3. Hymn to life

Part I. The Time...



Chapter 1. A long March Break

Chapter 2. Adopting of strategies

Chapter 3. Be vigilant

...the time to act is now...

A voice announces, repeatedly, in all the media.

A technical guideline to be respected and promptly complied with.

We are in an exemplary region of social well-being and a model of democracy.

But democracy presupposes order and respect for the existing laws and authorities.

Chapter 1. A long March Break

§1 Year 2020, month of March, the 20th, Friday, 5 PM.

§2- Today, in the Northern Hemisphere, spring begins, the queen of the seasons.

§3- It will bloom, even if we don't watch it. It will bloom in silence... *Selph*, assertively.

§4 In silence one also speaks to the Creator of both the Universe and the 4 seasons of the year.

§5 It would be a week of interruption in the school activities that has long been rooted in the school tradition in the Northern Hemisphere with the usual expectation and, this year, coincidentally or not, starting with the spring.

§6 A tradition that has taught us and continues to teach us to celebrate with children the spring that begins after a long and rigorous winter. Winter that brings rest to the blessed land so that, at the right time, it starts producing again.

§7 It is worth remembering that other celebrations also mark the passage of other seasons, which reward us with their own beauty. They make us relive and value the natural cycle defined by the Creator, to Whom we owe devotion, always...

§8 From the long nights and short days typical of winter, to the orientation towards social distance, including the distance from public parks, minimizing the effects of the imminent contagion by the new coronavirus. A fearful scenario on a progressive global scale with the massive world news signaling a pandemic that would invariably reach all continents, frustrating the expectation of watching, as before, the flowering and listening to the singing of the birds returning from their hiding places that, for a long time protected them from the low temperatures of winter, which now gradually give way to spring.

§9 Digesting the hope of witnessing the charms of this season is not the fruit of imagination, but I lived it and I look forward to living it as many springs reward my journey with conscience. It reflects, in addition to nature, the interaction with beings from my surroundings looking towards the north and, on the other hand, with beings from my surroundings looking towards the south.

§10 Living in different poles and between Poles gives me invaluable maturity and peculiar visibility of the various scenarios. They don't make me better, they make me different; they make me sharpen my eyes, qualify my listening, differentiate my thinking, they teach me...

§11 I learn from graduates, experts in diplomacy... I learn from those without diplomas, but who are learned in wisdom... I learn with children in the singularity of innocence... Dialogues with those who are close to me and with those who are distant from me. Dialogues with my own conscience... And it is in this context of dense abstraction exercise that I try to decant whatever may have practical meaning and be applicable to everyone, or... to those interested.

§12 For those who tuned in, they realized that we are experiencing a historic and unique occasion since the beginning of January 2020 when after sprouting in December 2019, the new coronavirus began to spread rapidly. Health authorities around the world are warning about the threat of Covid19 caused by a virus from the coronavirus family. A deadly disease, in principle, recognized as being more prevalent in people with comorbidities, in particular with a weakened immune system, but that could reach any age, pregnant women, parturients, newborns and perhaps even the animals in general.

§13 An explosion of feelings of erosion or manifestations of guarantees about the appearance of this *ghost*, when there are more doubts than certainties, when prudence should be the station to be tuned into.

§14 Major events in ecosystems have emerged, when what should be raised is the great importance of recognizing how human activities of strange groupings of different animal species that never occur together in nature influence these events.

§15 But there are still other ways in which human activities can enable the emergence or transmission of diseases, such as dumping garbage and debris in inappropriate places, deforestation, diversion of river courses, inadequate opening of land for agriculture and pasture, etc. This cannot be forgotten or be remembered only in events that impact how the current one.

§16 In an even worse context for humans, the degradation of wildlife *habitat*, the high population density of more connected humans in cities that are exposed to pathogens directly from these animals or through intermediary animals, favors the emergence of new epidemics and pandemics now, or in the foreseeable future.

§17 Conserving biodiversity and reassessing practices that compromise natural environments to support progress or otherwise bring about such outcomes, especially in vulnerable wild areas where the risk is highest.

§18 The greatest alarm of this contagion had been given by cases, initially, among the main symptoms, coughing and difficult breathing, including in the progression of the disease, serious worsening of the respiratory condition, which is an organic function of expressive importance.

§19_ Expectations by supposed experts that it would be a passing wave...

§20_ Undoubtedly and fearfully, all over the world numbers begin to turn into names that approach us... *Selph* affirms.

§21 A remarkable experience triggers such a challenge to the science that we practice...

§22 A remarkable NorthPole-SouthPole encounter; although virtual, in real time...

§23_ Today, Friday, March 20th, the blooming and re-blooming season begins in the Northern Hemisphere. In this Pole, spring is still cold, being able to extend for almost all or all of its duration, as it appears to be for this year.

§24_ We have already adapted to this reality for a long time. Vividly, in unison manifest *Aneleh*, *Acnarb* and *Caasi*, recalling the promise of blooming or re-blooming.

§25_ For this year, the March Break will be extended, as you already know. We will not celebrate the arrival of the queen of the seasons as usual, which this year, lonely, will walk along nature's walkways, and may be repeated in other years; even so, it will smile, regardless of spectators, applause and not knowing our conscience... And about our conscience, about the facts, what is going on in your minds right now?

§26_ We will not be able to play in the parks.....Nostalgically,.....by *Acnarb*.

§27_ Not socializing with friends at home.....Touchingly,.....by *Caasi*.

§28_ Plans and schedules succumb to the virus.....Melancholy,.....by *Aneleh*.

§29_ Deep introspection for everyone and also for me, when we do not yet have the dimension of current events and cannot even estimate the future dimension in the face of a viral deluge to which we are exposed. Having *Selph* to push a directive statement.

§30_ You will have a long domestic weekend... This will be the outlook...

§31_ *Aneleh*, *Acnarbi* and *Caasi* listen attentively and immersed in silence, we remained like that as if we could subtract a magic solution from there. *Selph*, in search.

§32 With a sinking heart, I too felt for this statement of mine a bit surgical; not calculating, but assertive in the face of the unknown or supposedly known. I recognize, however, the coldness of a surgeon even outside the environments in which I am continually faced with the red color of blood. However, while the amateur oscillates in positions of inexperience, the professional must not waver, whether the environment is better or worse. It must be directive, yes, but perform science with conscience and determine a north prudently.

§33 Of course, the perception of the various contexts does not erase from my mind the feeling and special memory of having seen, in all rightful spaces, children playing with all their energy and seniors savoring moments of appreciation, which had always brought me a special reward. I do so, symbolically, because of the infants and elders of my life, extending to all who equally, experience the same reality.

§34 In this interregnum of generations, it is necessary to contemplate those who assume, at the same time, the intellectual production, and the production of wealth, as well as those who prepare to, sooner or later, be at the helm of the boat. These prospects are threatened by the uncertainties of a world in constant transformation but which through countless opportunities has also brought prosperity and joy.

§35 The brain has a limit, a boundary, the brain case formed by bones. In contrast, the mind navigates the universe, far beyond biological boundaries.

§36 Even with that ability, if we could see the solution perhaps the final rescue would not be so wonderful, so happy beyond expectations. And these limitations are typical of human beings. If, differently, they would try to take the Creator's place.

§37 Whispers in the dark night are increasing, generating nightmares, but the dawn will come bringing the answer. For this, it is necessary to act with assertiveness, which does not mean promises, but proposals subject to revision whenever necessary and possible, recalibrating the conduct given the vulnerability to which we are all exposed.

§38_ Inevitably, we will experience challenges outside the usual equation.

§39_ And for an adequate answer, what is the order, to act before thinking or the opposite? *Selph* projects a statement in questioning guiding rational practices.

§40_ We live in a sinuous historical passage of incalculable greatness for civilization which, throughout its evolution, has already recorded numerous and significant stories that add up within a larger context.

§41_ And what makes a story great? Ask *Aneleh*, *Acnarb* and *Caasi*, which echoes like a chorus in a choir song, typical of exercises already experienced.

§42_ It is not necessarily the numerous pages of a book that make it great, but the secrets hidden in our hearts, a tale as old as time..., they are echoes of our own conscience..., they are echoes of a true story...

§43_ History is the fruit of change and for every change there is circumstance. *Selph*, positive.

§44 The present circumstance produces a historic wound that bleeds and perhaps takes a long time to heal in the face of this worldwide challenge, a shared unseen adversary. With a high capacity for propagation and contamination, in addition to its lethality, it unexpectedly disembarks, triggering historic violence. It brings apprehension and even fear and, in a very short time and with clear signs that it has come to stay for a considerable time, mercilessly, it has brought punishments and takes loved ones at an age of intense and affectionate interaction, without the chance of any more coexistence..., without the chance of farewell...

Chapter 2. Adopting of strategies

§1 The contextualization of restrictive steps is becoming global.

§2 For one part, the guarantee of absolute protection; for the other, the castration of freedom. Despite growing concern, there is still a considerable part of the population for whom the wall comforts them, waiting for the wind to blow in their favor.

§3 While among the unconcerned ones it is discussed why the wheel is round, the problem is aggravated when their cooperation is the least desirable.

§4 Common sense must prevail. However, it is not simple.

§5 The adoption of restrictions as one of the steps must be understood as strategic. It's not a nice measure, of course; but, necessary. One should not lightly accuse rulers. They also don't have the exact measure of the solution. In fact, even the experienced sanitarians don't have.

§6 Rulers were not elected to perform miracles; but to do the best, recognizing technically prepared professionals, creating space for the participation of organized society, and reporting their attitudes, correcting what is necessary and not using adversity for political dividends. Must be respectful but strong; this is government. Otherwise, there will be a chaos. With this concept, the law, social welfare, and the example of democracy will be promoted. And democracy includes the right to participation, yes; but, equally, the duties. In other words, being a nation is a vocation.

§7 We were all taken by surprise in this pandemic. Also, the authorities. Therefore, no blame can be placed on the lack of quick response to this serious problem. The dimension requires the participation of everyone, and the challenges must be recognized given the variables that range from objectivity to subjectivity.

§8 Of course, suffering can bring lessons and we have to learn from this experience and be attentive, we do not know the future; by the way, it may be closer than we think.

§9 It is unnecessary to detail that this scenario in such a short time signals the collapse of many health systems, no matter how well structured they may be; in addition to the unsustainable economy in the face of the removal of those who produce wealth with intelligence and workforce.

§10 At the same time, the erosion of trust due to crises in representation reveal discredit in institutions in several countries, given the vested interests of public authorities in defense of their own benefits, which further elevates the disastrous scenario supported by the tripod SanitaryCrisis-EconomicCrisis-PoliticalCrisis.

§11 Frontline fighters, besides putting themselves in high-risk situations by working long hours, are also often socially isolating themselves from their families. For many of these professionals, exhaustion and stress are very different from anything they have experienced before, as they do not know the mechanism of a disease that suddenly appears and grows, frighteningly.

§12- *But how did this disease really appear? Aneleh* inquires with expressive curiosity.

§13- *This is a question that many press organizations frequently raise. Although there may be different interpretations about the specific mechanism of its development, general information gives an account of its natural origin, that is, it is a zoonosis, an infectious disease transmitted from host animals to humans through the new coronavirus that, in principle, was notorious from January\2020; but, possibly, with manifestations since December\2019, hence the name Covid19 (Coronavirus disease - 19). However, it is not yet known for sure whether or not there was an intermediate animal. It is worth remembering that this virus belongs to the coronavirus family, already known from other epidemics.*

§14_ And what is an intermediate animal? *Caasi* intervenes, expanding the previous question.

§15_ In the present situation, it is the species of animal that is or would be between the species where the virus originated and humans. For example, viruses carried by bats often do not cause diseases in them, but they can cause them in animals of another species, such as pigs, where they can undergo mutation, producing a virus that is more dangerous for human beings. These pigs being traded, the contamination ends up reaching humans. In this case, pigs function as intermediary animals between bats and humans. Remember, this is just an example to simplify the general understanding of this process, which does not mean in the current pandemic precisely that there were intermediate animals and, if confirmed, that they were pigs. Let us, therefore, continue the search for knowledge, in addition to information, orienting ourselves with experienced but cautious people.

§16_ Could it have also been developed in the laboratory? Continues *Caasi* questioning, referring to his searches on the internet and social networks, in addition to listening to comments from school friends and others in his routine.

§17_ It is not possible to believe everything that is heard or everything that is read. Counter-argues *Acnarb*, simulating a certain control.

§18_ Although speculation about the possibility of laboratory production has been aired in the news, this issue must be dealt ethically and with extreme care. We must be sure of this condition so as not to create a fact of the cinematographic imagination, a speculation, which could be more lethal than the virus itself.

§19_ Moreover, there must always be ethics. Otherwise, the practice of Conspiracy Theory will be expressed; say, reprehensible. And this is one of the most serious problems in the world today. Like the virus, it appears to be infecting the planet, too. *Selph*, with determination.

§20_ Contagion is one of the central themes. And how did this virus spread to all continents so quickly? Questions *Aneleh* with such energy.

§21_ This is a tragedy that is unfortunately happening with greater frequency as countries and people become more connected. It behaves like a plague given its high rate of contagion which, added to the great movement of people and cargo in general, worldwide, in a few words explains the gigantic and rapid spread. And there is an aggravating factor, curiously, there are pandemics that compromise breathing, one of the most sensitive organic functions. Hence the warning of the seriousness in these types of pandemics since it is possible for a person to fast for hours but could not survive without breathing.

§22_ But would there be the possibility of other forms of dissemination? *Aneleh* returns based on the question raised above by *Caasi* and rooted on the fact that the subject sparks a debate.

§23_ It is providential that we broaden the visibility of this entire context to develop a proper understanding and it is true that the topic invites us to reason and that is why we are here; but, in an oriented way, with the absolute right to put opinions and even emotions on the table, and learning, jointly and continuously, to shape understanding through study. Of course, in principle, other ways to spread a virus are possible. However, until proven otherwise, there had not been. So that we are not driven to give in to the pressures of the means of spreading information in a careless way, revisiting history is extremely valuable to free ourselves from presumptions. For example, thousands of years ago, in the process of domesticating animals, we also exposed ourselves to new pathogens. Two classic examples: measles (which originated from the interaction of humans with herds of cattle) and tuberculosis (which had already been transmitted through unpasteurized cow's milk). Knowing other facts helps to mature our ability to filter information, refining knowledge. Alternatively, film production will bring surprising possibilities to