

**- CHAPTER ELEVEN –  
OF THE EVOLUTION OF OUR SPECIES**

*A Few Months Earlier*

*17 July 2020*

*At the beginning of the second containment, in France*

*TV set of "Non-Stop News"*

*Special program devoted to the new Covid 20,  
23h30*

— Well, ladies and gentlemen, before we leave, we will conclude this special program in an unusual way. As you have understood, the little that our expert doctors have told us tonight is that this variant "Covid 20" is not very contagious, but it is, unfortunately, much more deadly than the 19th. I'm going to share with you a news item which is in the theme, but which we would gladly do without. It is with infinite sadness that we are going to pay tribute tonight to a great name in field journalism, whose death we have just learned of.

Affected. The presenter, in prime time, took the decision to wear a mask and a visor like the few experts invited, on an already sparse television set without an audience. Despite this, we can guess that she is moved. Her voice is flickering.

— It is Jean-Bernard Gervais. Journalist for 40 years, editor in chief for 7 years of one of the three largest French daily newspapers, his field of predilection has always been health.



## *Darwin 21 par Henri DUBOC*

Known for having covered the AIDS epidemic in its early days, he is a great huckster who is leaving. He was never afraid to leave his comfort zone to continue covering, in the field, scourges such as cholera, malaria or Ebola. I regret to announce that he has just left us, carried away by the Covid-20, in a resuscitation room at the Louis Mourier Hospital in Colombes.

Silence. Fear on the set. The show was already freezing. According to old criteria, it looked like a failure, but the audience was fed up with the media euphoria and the overexcitement of the "first wave". The journalistic "novelty" that was the Covid pandemic is no longer a game. And the death of this co-worker, almost live, drives home the point: a second wave is on the horizon and the virus is new, perhaps worse.

— This very morning, Jean Bernard Gervais, on his hospital bed and just before being intubated, signed this editorial in "Diplomatic Planet". A committed text, questioning his own place among our species. The editorial staff of Non-Stop News has decided to pay tribute to him, by giving you, aloud, his analysis.



## *Darwin 21 par Henri DUBOC*

### **On the evolution of our species**

#### **Editorial**

**By J.B. Gervais, Editor-in-Chief**

Here I am at the hospital. After years of chasing infectious diseases, it was time to take the plunge, like those war photographers who got too close to their subject. As I write, I know as much about my chances of still being in this world tomorrow, as we know about this new variant, the Covid-20. We know it's more lethal. We know it kills children. We know it's different from Covid-19, which, earlier this year, reopened the ball of those pandemics we'd forgotten about.

It's emerging at distinct but synchronous points on the planet, and we're all hanging on to hundreds of questions. Back to square one? One among many? The beginning of a vicious cycle? Are we pawns, prisoners of a Pandeminopoly board, condemned to go through and through the prison box without ever finishing a turn? Humanity is ready to face dozens of second waves; waves of death, fatigue, fear,

unemployment, violence and outrageous theories. Natural evolution, bioterrorism, cycles of viral mutations programmed in the laboratory, or by Mother Nature herself... Between science, austerity, conspiracy and the reality of a world where comfort has been overwhelmed by the principle of subsistence, it is urgent to stick to simple, real rhetoric.

"We do not know. Let the numbers speak, let the time speak, and let us protect ourselves".

I don't know if I could have that time. I am writing in a hospital bed, my brain kept out of the water by the flow of oxygen in my nostrils, distracted by the incessant "beep-beep" of the saturation alarms. And I wonder what I'm doing here. What is the meaning of this illness, and worse, what is the meaning of the care I am receiving. Some people think that Nature has decided to surprise us: but no. Nature doesn't play. She's doing her job. Needy. At most, she's cheating our time scale, after sparing us for decades.

Afterwards, the real question is: where will we place the cursor of humanity in the face of this Darwinian selection pressure? Self-containment, confinement...



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that's the fight. To do nothing is to accept it. To promote it is to tip into a terrifying ideology of unknown scope.

The first symptom of this terrible "evolutionist" doctrine that I see emerging from day to day, were the first armed manoeuvres in the United States, to deconfine themselves in spite of common sense. However, it was for reasons of economic subsistence. In a stateless nation, forcing abandoned citizens to "borrow" their existence, the current of thought was overshadowed by the usual incantations on the sacrosanct "Freedom" to hold a gun, rather than read the newspaper or vote. As for the current race riots, this is not an evolutionary theory in the face of a virus. It's about surviving under the unnatural pressure of a latent genocide, which we only see what smartphones can pick up. Oppression by under-educated white policemen, whose stupidity and violence are backed by a power in their image: President Warner Lee.

Yet, it is in this country, already anchored in the "March or Die", that a theorized Darwinism, applied to mankind, is emerging: "if you don't survive the virus, you

don't belong on earth. Let the weak die. Make way for those who can survive. Nature is showing us the way, let's embrace it. Let people catch it, and we will know who is compatible with life".

And to follow the international press, I see that this little song is covered a little too much, and everywhere.

What is the next truth that these luminous apostles of Mother Nature's inexorable forces will proclaim? Let's stop healing? Let's subsidize the proud survivors? Let's enshrine the law of the strongest in the constitution?

Of course, Mother Nature has always inexorably applied standards of pressure and selection to the living world. This is how she has shaped us: thus, the Australopithecus have become Homo Sapiens.

So let's sound the alarm: if Mother Nature has given us this wonderful opportunity to heal, to care, to help, to be empathetic, to think, to build, to accompany the weak and the old... is it to dream of the Australopithecus's ways?

No. Let's not deny our true "Human Nature". I know that I still have things to bring to my own species and I say this as I see the moment



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coming when I will be intu-  
bated.

In contrast to the eco-  
extremists, I do not think  
that the Great Lady has made  
a conscious decision to bring  
her offspring into line. No,  
the planet has not set itself  
"quantitative goals" in order  
to purge itself willingly of its  
over-invasive human beings.  
In revenge, our mother has  
repeatedly asked to undergo  
technical inspections. She  
ensures the robustness of  
the animal species that she  
has been carrying for mil-  
lions of years and gets rid of  
models that are too old or  
too fragile.

Covid 19 and Covid 20  
are these technical controls.  
We pass them brilliantly if  
we get out with our souls  
and hearts, our science and  
intelligence. We will be less  
than savage beasts if we pass  
them inert and resigned, in  
the ravages of death. The  
original title of Charles Dar-  
win's revolutionary work  
was:

"On the Origin of Spe-  
cies by Means of Natural  
Selection, or the Preserva-  
tion of Favoured Races in the  
Struggle for Life."

Struggle for life, the  
"struggle to survive".

Let's assume we're  
Sapiens. It's not 39°C of fever  
and respiratory distress that  
will make us better men.  
This passive "struggle" does  
not involve a virus. A strug-  
gle is active, through educa-  
tion, science, hard work and  
reflection. Self-sacrifice. The  
will. So that others, like me,  
can sign editorials that allow  
me to bring, at my little level,  
my stone to this edifice that  
gives meaning to who we  
are.

Humanity.

