

Elliot - Age 15
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The Virus

The beginning was difficult to comprehend. I suppose most beginnings are. The complex origins or for pun's sake germination of the virus lurks in the shadows of its growing magnitude. Like a warship moving towards the horizon, the virus's origins shrink to the human eye as the virus spreads and time passes by. Similar to the Big Bang, Covid-19 started with something so small, the mutation of a virus, and multiplied into something so immense. It is now officially considered a pandemic. It is mind-boggling to picture one single virus in one single person spreading over the span of a few short months growing to infect over one million people.

When faced with the increasing magnitude and minutia of the sinister Coronavirus, I find it consoling to focus on what's in my direct proximity. Life has undoubtedly changed. As the virus spreads rapidly it seems that life's speed slows to a halt. Lately, I have been doing things I normally do not have the opportunity or time to do. I have been reading more books, drawing more, playing more music, taking long walks and even dabbling with coding. All of this alone time has come with a painful cost, though. I am thankful that my family and I are physically healthy and sincerely grateful to the medical professionals and first responders on the frontlines. My struggles during this crisis are relatively insignificant. Still, I feel my sanity slowly diminishing as I'm exclusively confined to my home, attached to the same place for weeks on end, only rarely leaving for the supermarket or walks. I can only see my friends and family through Zoom or Facetime and find it difficult to connect when talking to a screen. Fortunately, I randomly saw two friends in person while walking. The encounters were very short and we kept our mandatory six-foot distance, but they helped bring some normalcy to my life. The outside world has been quiet and quite frankly awkward lately. When walking outside there is an uncomfortable energy between people. Everyone avoids each other as if their fellow neighbor has the virus and can contaminate them. If I were to walk on the sidewalk and encounter someone according to the unwritten rule book one of us would have to cross the street. This adds to the unsettling environment caused by the virus.

I hope that the virus will dissipate. We will no doubt be affected by this experience for years to come.