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## HOW THE EARTH IS HEALING DURING THIS COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Since past few months coronavirus has claimed the lives of lacs of people in the world. It is a highly contagious and deadly disease which spreads from person to person. Corona Virus (Covid - 19) has spread to almost all the countries.

Our prime minister Shri. Narendra Modi ji has announced a lockdown since 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 to combat Covid - 19.

I personally am enjoying the lockdown as my parents are spending time with me and it would have not been possible in any other situation. We are not eating outside unhealthy food instead we are eating home-cooked food.

But not everyone is having a great time like me. Because of corona pandemic many people's jobs are at stake. The poor people and daily wagers are uncertain when they would get the next meal. There is also a shortage of essential goods all over the world.

Doctors, nurses and other community helpers are struggling day-in-and-out fighting with this pandemic. Manufacturing units and industries are closed disrupting the supplies of goods and services. Foreign trade has also been hampered. In short, the whole economy has come to a standstill.

However, it is said that there is a silver lining behind every dark cloud. Similarly with human beings restricting themselves to their houses, Mother Nature has started healing.

With no human beings out on the streets nor any vehicles spewing out exhausts the air quality all over the world has improved immensely. Also due to the efforts of sanitation workers the streets are spotlessly clean and free of garbage. The Delhi air which used to be the foulest in India has drastically improved.

People there can now see beautiful blue skies. For the first time in decades the Himalayan ranges can be seen from Jalandhar Punjab. There was a gaping hole in the Ozone layer above Antarctica but now during the lock down the hole is starting to fill up.

Our rivers are again flowing with crystal clear waters with no industries discarding their poisonous chemicals and garbage into it.

With the rivers clean the original dwellers of these waters who had abandoned them have come back in many places to reclaim them. The Ganga river which was dirty for decades has now become so clean that we can even drink it directly. The Yamuna river in Delhi which had almost become a sewage canal has revived since lockdown. Dolphins have returned to Marine drive in Mumbai due to fall in water traffic and pollution. Now in Venice the dolphins and the swans have returned in the canals and rivers.

In Many places around the world have reported sighting wild animals like lions, civets, elephants, deer, peacocks etc roaming around on the city streets. This has inspired many cartoonists to depict wild animals walking around gawping through our windows while we humans are under lockdown.

Now-a-days I wake up every morning to chirping of birds outside my window. The other day I spotted a parrot nibbling on some fruit. Everyday I am sighting new varieties of birds, most of which I have never seen before. I will cherish these sights because once the things go back to normal, I don't know when I would be seeing them again.

Post lockdown when we venture out of our homes and resume our normal lives, we have to ensure that we maintain this beautiful nature.

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We cannot repeat our mistakes. We need to change our relationship with nature. By working together sensibly and sensitively we can have a better, cleaner future for ourselves and Mother Earth.