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A Pandemic Poem

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Anna Davidson is a senior majoring in psychology at Western Oregon University.

I am a non-traditional student. I live in North Albany, and I am an intern for a non-profit organization based in Salem.

COVID became real for me in January. My husband is in the technology industry and knew something big was about to occur. Little did we know how big, but enough to move our stocks. It became even more real on March 16, 2020. I walked into work that morning, and the shift in energy was truly shocking. I could feel the fear in the air.

2020 has reminded me of something I suspected for a long time - that we as a society are busier than we should be. That besides physical needs, there are very few truly important aspects in life other than peace, love and joy.

The Black Lives Matter movement reminded me very much of what we have learned about from the late 1960s. It reminded me that until someone truly stands up for what is right...and does it again and again...a message is rarely truly heard. And, even then, it is not understood by all. We must advocate for what is just and right in this world, and sometimes it's done with actions and words, and sometimes it's done with silence.

Air quality concerns were my biggest *physical* concern about the 2020 wildfires. However, the emotional concerns were significant. The ashes that fell from the sky reminded me that they were not just the remains of the pine and the grass...they were also someone's loved ones, belongings, beloved animals, and wild creatures that just could not escape. The situation was deeply saddening to me, and it reminded me to mourn all involved.

This is a short poem I wrote in March of 2020, shortly after the pandemic started.

A Pandemic Poem

More days than not are filled with fear
Only time will tell, my dear
Some want this all to go away
Others welcome time to relax and play
Perception is in the eye of the beholder

We are all on this earth
Right here, right now
We must work together – but how?
Patience, compassion, peace and love
The answer comes from above

Written by Anna K. Davidson—spring 2020