

I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME MAYBE UNUSUAL THOUGHTS ON A BIBLE TEXT.  
HERE IS A SHORT HISTORY OF WHY I CAME ALONG THIS PASSAGE...

NORMALLY THERE IS A SERVICE IN THE HOSPITAL WHERE I AM WORKING...IT TAKES  
PLACE ON FRIDAY EVENINGS AT 7 PM. SO FRIDAYS ARE ALWAYS VERY LONG DAYS  
FOR ME WITH SOME LONGER BREAKS IN BETWEEN.

TWO YEARS AGO I STARTED A SMALL PROJECT. I TOOK A BIBLE TEXT FROM THE  
DAILY READINGS AND GAVE ME 30 MINUTES TO WRITE A "FRIDAY MEDITATION"  
ON THIS TEXT...JUST WRITING DOWN WHAT CAME INTO MY MIND WITHOUT  
READING ANY COMMENTARY OR ARTICLES... MEANWHILE I HAVE A SMALL  
COLLECTION OF MEDITATIONS AT HOME...

TWO WEEKS AGO I CAME ALONG THE TEXT ABOUT THE GREAT FLOOD AND NOAH'S  
ARK WHEN I CHECKED THE METHODIST LECTIONARY...AND I THOUGHT: WELL, WHY  
NOT WRITING A "FRIDAY MEDITATION", LET ME TAKE 30 MINUTES...IN THE END IT  
TOOK ME THREE TIMES 30 MINUTES FOR THREE MEDITATIONS...AND THE RESULT IS  
THE ONE MERGED MEDITATION TONIGHT...IT IS A SORT OF A POETIC  
MEDITATION...NOT ALWAYS LOGICALLY STRINGENT... THAT WASN'T THE IDEA ... AS  
ALWAYS IT IS UP TO YOU WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR WHETHER YOU LIKE IT....

FLOODED THE EARTH  
IN FORMER TIMES  
IN THE TIMES OF NOAH  
AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT  
THERE WERE 40 DAYS OR  
IN A DIFFERENT VERSE OF THE STORY  
150 DAYS OF A RISING  
WATER GAUGE

LOCKDOWN IN THE NARROWEST FAMILY CIRCLE  
QUARANTINE IN THE ARK  
A LOCKED-IN COSMOS  
NOT KNOWING

NOR EVEN SUSPECTING  
FOR HOW LONG THE NUMBERS WOULD RISE  
IF  
AFTER A BREAK  
THERE WOULD FOLLOW MORE  
EVEN HEAVIER AND LONGER  
RAINFALLS

WHEN WILL WE ARRIVE AT THE SUMMIT  
WHEN WILL WE BE ABLE TO RELEASE  
OPEN A WINDOW  
SEND OUT WINGED MESSENGERS  
HOPING FOR RELIABLE NEWS  
AND A PERSPECTIVE FOR THE FUTURE

BUT  
IT TAKES TIME  
SENDING OUT THE WINGED MESSENGERS  
ONCE  
TWICE  
THREE TIMES  
WHAT WILL RISE FASTER  
NUMBERS  
HOPELESSNESS  
DESPAIR  
DEPRESSION  
BEHIND THE SHAKILY WALLS

THE OLIVE LEAF IN THE BEAK OF THE DOVE  
ONLY  
HAS THE COLOUR OF LIGHT  
THE WINDOW CAN REMAIN OPEN

<sup>4</sup>AND IN THE SEVENTH MONTH, ON THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF THE MONTH, THE  
ARK CAME TO REST ON THE MOUNTAINS OF ARARAT.

AS IF THE ARK HAD BECOME TIRED  
IT CAME TO REST  
REPOSES  
RESPIRES  
HAPPY ABOUT HAVING FOUND  
SOLID FLOOR UNDER THE KEEL AGAIN

ONE YEAR OF LOCKDOWN  
ONE YEAR OF QUARANTINE  
ONE YEAR OF WORRYING  
OF PRAYER  
OF DOUBTS AND DESPAIR  
UNTIL THE EARTH KEEPS THEM / US  
GROUNDED AGAIN

BUT THEN  
ANOTHER EXTENSION  
AGAIN A TIME OF WAITING  
FIFTY-SEVEN MORE DAYS

NOT TILL THEN  
GO OUT OF THE ARK  
NOT TILL THEN  
AS LONG AS THE EARTH ENDURES  
NOT TILL THEN  
I HAVE SET MY BOW IN THE CLOUDS

AT THE END OF ALL PATIENCE  
THE SEVEN COLOURS OF HOPE  
RECURRENT UNTIL TODAY  
LEST IT WILL NEVER AGAIN BECOME  
AS IT WAS BEFORE

## WHAT IF....

WHAT IF CORONA  
WAS THE ARK  
WHAT IF CORONA  
SAVED US FROM THE FLOODS  
OF DESTROYING NATURE  
OF PERMANENT MENTAL STRESS  
OF THE NERVOUS FEAR OUR HEARTS  
SHOCK-EXCITED BY THE SOUND OF A DRIVEN LEAF  
OF THE ABSOLUTE PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

WHAT IF CORONA  
WAS THE ARK  
QUIETING US  
SAVING US FROM  
ALWAYS MORE  
ALWAYS LOUDER  
ALWAYS MORE BEAUTIFUL

WHAT IF CORONA  
WAS THE ARK  
THE CAVE  
THE WOMB  
THE WOMB OF MERCY  
GENTLY ROCKING US  
HELPING US TO SLOW DOWN  
AND SLOW DOWN  
AND...

WHAT IF CORONA  
WAS THE ARK  
OPENING OUR EYES FOR THE  
OLIVE LEAF OF PEACE  
FOR THE FUTURE  
AFTER THE WATERS HAVE GONE DOWN

AND LIFE IS NO LONGER THE SAME  
AS BEFORE

WHAT IF  
EVERY RAINBOW REMINDS US  
THAT CORONA  
MIGHT BE THE ARK  
AND ALL OF US WILL ONLY SURVIVE  
AS LONG AS THE FLOODS DO NOT RETURN  
AS LONG AS WE REMEMBER  
AGAIN AND AGAIN  
AND CHANGE

WHAT IF  
EVERY RAINBOW REMINDS US  
AND  
WHAT IF CORONA  
WAS THE ARK  
AND THEN...

### **AND THEN**

SUPPOSED  
JUST SUPPOSED  
WE WILL SURVIVE  
AND START LOOKING BACK  
LIKE NOAH  
AND ISAAC  
AND LAZARUS

ALL OF THEM SURVIVORS  
OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL CATASTROPHE

WHAT WILL BE  
HOW WILL WE BE  
WHO WILL WE BE

## **NOAH**

IF YOU READ THE BIBLICAL TEXT  
ABOUT THE FLOOD  
WHICH IS NOT ONLY A STORY ABOUT SURVIVORS  
BUT ALSO A STORY OF DEATH AND VICTIMS  
YOU WILL DISCOVER  
THAT  
THERE IS NOT A SINGLE WORD  
SPOKEN BY THE SURVIVING NOAH  
GOD ANNOUNCES THE DISASTER  
NOAH REMAINS SILENT  
DURING THE WHOLE PROCESS OF BUILDING THE ARK  
NOAH REMAINS SILENT  
SENDING OUT AND EXPECTING THE BIRDS  
NOAH REMAINS SILENT  
BUILDING AN ALTAR AND GIVING SACRIFICES TO GOD AFTER THE FLOOD  
NOAH REMAINS SILENT  
NOT EVEN A PRAYER  
THE NEW COVENANT AND THE COMMANDMENTS  
SILENCE

BUT THEN  
THE ONE WHO SURVIVED GETS DRUNK UNTIL HE IS COMATOSE  
AND AFTER BEING AWAKEN AGAIN  
HIS VERY FIRST WORD IN THE WHOLE STORY IS  
A CURSE  
HE HAS SURVIVED  
MOST OF THE OTHERS DID NOT

WHAT WILL BE  
HOW WILL WE BE  
WHO WILL WE BE

## ISAAC

AFTER THE EXPERIENCE  
OF NEARLY BEING SACRIFICED BY ABRAHAM  
HIS OWN FATHER  
ISAAC FALLS SILENT  
FOR NEARLY THE REST OF HIS LIFE

LIFE  
WRAPPED IN SILENCE AND MELANCHOLIA  
THE MELANCHOLIA OF THE ONE  
WHO CANNOT COPE WITH SUCH AN EXPERIENCE  
OF HAVING SURVIVED AT THE LAST MINUTE  
WHAT REMAINS IS  
BEING A LONESOME CREATURE  
LEFT-BEHIND  
SLOWER AND SLOWER  
NOTHING BUT SILENCE BETWEEN HIM AND ABRAHAM

THE MIGHTY SHADOW OF HIS FATHER  
GOES ALONG WITH HIM  
IT IS THE FATHER LOOKING FOR A WIFE FOR ISAAC  
REBECCA  
ISAAC REMAINS SILENT

HOW CAN ONE SURVIVE AS A SURVIVOR

WHAT WILL BE  
HOW WILL WE BE  
WHO WILL WE BE

## LAZARUS

BEING AROUSED  
BEING BROUGHT BACK INTO LIFE  
AFTER FOUR DAYS  
ALREADY THERE IS A STENCH

BEING BROUGHT BACK INTO LIFE  
WHAT FOR  
BRINGING BACK SOMEONE FROM DEATH  
BRINGING BACK SOMEONE INTO THE VIVID LIFE  
ONLY ONCE  
ONLY FOR SOME HOURS  
COULD WE CATCH UP ON WHAT WE HAVE MISSED BEFORE  
COULD WE TALK ABOUT WHAT WE  
DID NOT TALK BEFORE  
COULD WE FINALLY SORT  
WHAT NEVER BEFORE HAD BEEN EXPRESSED

WHAT IF  
WE WOULD DELAY DEATH FROM DAY TO DAY  
WE WOULD DELAY  
TEARS  
PAIN  
LOSS  
JUST FOR A WHILE  
UNTIL DEATH COMES BACK  
AND THEN THINGS AND FEELINGS WILL BE THE SAME  
STILL PAIN  
STILL UNEXPRESSED FEELINGS  
STILL UNSOLVED PROBLEMS

LAZARUS  
CALLED BACK INTO LIFE  
REMAINS SILENT  
NOT A SINGLE WORD SPOKEN BY HIM



WHAT REMAINS IS ONE SENTENCE ABOUT HIM:

<sup>10</sup>So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup>since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus. (John 12, 10-11)

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN  
IF SOMEONE COMES BACK FROM DEATH  
IF SOMEONE COMES BACK  
WHO HAS BEEN TOUCHED BY DEATH

THE GOSPEL REMAINS SILENT

WHAT IF CORONA  
WAS THE ARK  
OPENING OUR EYES FOR THE  
OLIVE LEAF OF PEACE  
FOR THE FUTURE  
AFTER THE WATERS HAVE BEEN ABATING  
AND LIFE IS NO LONGER THE SAME  
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WAS THE ARK  
AND THEN...

WHAT WILL BE  
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AT THE END OF ALL PATIENCE  
AT THE VERY END  
THE SEVEN RAINBOWCOLOURS OF HOPE  
RECURRENT UNTIL TODAY  
LEST IT WILL NEVER AGAIN BECOME  
AS IT WAS BEFORE