The Epiphany of a Virus.

It all started in a place called China. China is the oriental land of little men and women, but of high IQ's and natural abilities and in days gone by were overlooked and belittled until they proved everybody wrong.

Out it rose like a Phoenix from the ashes skyward, from the eleven million plus populated city of Wuhan, in central China's province of Hubei, expertly concealed from the eyes of the world by the Chinese communist machine, then when overwhelmed, shared it deliberately abroad so all could test the ingenuity of China's diseased epiphany.

From America to Europe to Asia to Australia and Africa, this thankless Chinese gift called Novel Corona Virus, aka, COVID19, leaped on humanity like an unexpected stormy rain. Like a Sunami, it overtook the most medically and technologically advanced nations on earth and brought them to their knees, as they weep, bury and mourn their dead, victims of the epiphany of a virus.

From America whose leader is a known jester, he clowned about the virus, called it a China thing, predicted it will disappear in days when his nation had only recorded fifteen cases as at that time. He left undone his duty as a leader to prepare his country to withstand the virus should it spread as it rightly did, and went on trading unfounded conspiracies, blame throwing and finger pointing. And now, America, that great nation is convulsing in shame as over a million of her citizens are infected and as she buries, and continue to bury tens of thousands for the cause of a 'China thing'.

Europe, primarily, main stream European nations, Italy. France, Britain, Spain and Germany (Germany was an exception as they were prepared) were hit hard and taken unaware in spite of their proud heritage in medicine. The inglorious gift from the oriental land panicked Europe, stung her leaders and mesmerized her egotistic populations. The above countries in Europe recorded high numbers of infections and equally huge numbers in death, redirected their economies, educational and social institutions and as the tide recedes, these prosperous nations only had to bemoan pitifully the scars left by the epiphany of a virus.

The statistics from Asian nations on the inroad made by Corona virus can't be truly trusted as those nations, especially, in the Middle Eastern countries, operate in authoritarian circumstances. For instance, Iran, that hard core Islamic nation, was hard hit from the start, but accurate information can never be ascertained as everything is suppressed even when it is not to their advantage.

No doubt, however, this novel virus did ravage Asia, of course, beginning from the head, China to the Middle Japan and to the tail Yemen, this epiphany of a virus was visibly felt and washed over the continent like a blanket of smoke.

From Russia, that land of Putinism, were too much noise making is a taboo, stories, weird as they appear, emerged

 that lions were released on the streets to enforce self isolation. But as with many of such unverified rumours, they cannot be relied on for any better accounting, Russia simply clamped down on information concerning her management of the virus, and allowed the rest of the world to guess or accept the censored information released to us. And that ended the case as little is known of the number of infections and deaths in that country. But there was a virus and in it novelty did visit Putin and his Russia.

North Korea is in the same category as Russia, nothing out unless state sanctioned. Till date, nothing has been heard about a single infection in that iron clad communist enclave that share a porous border with China. Could this be true of Kim Jong-un and his stronghold? Even CNN, cannot answer that question.

As for Australia, that continent, the product of disciplinary measures from the almighty imperialist Britain, whether they got blighted by the virus or not, much wasn't coming from there even as nations are tempted to brag about their containment of the killer virus but hardly are there any true reports of one nation that escapde the menace of China's gift to the world.

WHO, so acroynm, this World Health organization, they came off acting like a body privy to the origin and purpose of the virus reading their body language during the onset of the virus. Personally I was disappointed on their initial reaction on the outbreak of the virus in Wuhan, China. It took WHO days, if not weeks to declare a rapidly spreading virus a pandemic. It took them almost a month to send a team to China and so they vacillated until they did nothing and the worst happened. I didn't cheer Donald Trump's reaction against the body, but he has a point in his grievances because on this WHO failed the world, but on the whole, it was the epiphany of a virus

Alas, my Africa, the sun shine continent, of oceans and rivers; of forested lands and mountains and beautiful wildlife and wonderful ignorant people. The virus sprang on Africa like the sun undisturbed in it ascent. Gently, gently, it sipped into the continent, spreading from one nation to another until it took root much like the sun rises above all in slow degrees.

The virus ascendancy in Africa did not take her leaders and people unawares because we all beheld it with open eyes as it attacked and wreck havoc on the most sophisticated and wealthy nations on earth, devouring the rich and poor alike while yet Africa never recorded a single case. African leaders watched with their accustomed cluelessness, indecisive postures and visionless ill-preparedness.

And it came to pass, upon all their preparedness to contain the spread of the virus yet it did spread and unfortunately is still spreading even after the giver of this ominious gift had washed his hands clean. While the epicenter has returned back to normality, Africa is only now fighting her war against the virus. While the economy and social institutions of the epicenter have zoomed back alive, Africa is only now crawling to find her footing on the fight against covid19.

Laughable are Africa's measures to contain this gift from China as many measures taken were rather a fight against the people than the virus. Inhuman there were, mostly in Nigeria were I m personally negatively impacted by the covid19 containment measures rolled out by the Nigerian authorities. From the federal to state government draconian protocols were issued purportedly to protect the population from present and clear danger but turned out to endanger them more.

From shutting close international borders to the more suffocating closure of interstate borders; the compulsory llockdowns, an unimaginable scenario were citizens were clamped in to their homes, a forced shelter-in-place without the most basic needs available to them. In an economy that is working like a failing spark plug and 70% of the population are self employed whose very survival depends on their leaving home on daily basis, Nigerians were to die from hunger than from the virus.

The anti virus measures, brought out the authoritarian personality of some Nigerian state governors who hid under the guise of covid19 fight to test their authority and degree of compliance from the already intimidated populace. In some states, Rivers State in particular, the governor took the fight upon himself, sidelining his health officials including his Deputy Governor, a certified medical doctor, breathing fire and brimstone on the rivers people and visitors alike. Daring the federal government to a fight, he sort to challenge federal might.

He actually went overboard, arrested and jailed defenseless citizens and had them paid through their noses in lieu of going to jail. Demolished private hotels and seized a trailer load of cows and threatened to auction off the size goods and vehicle. Ordered a forced and complete lockdown of the two most important local government areas in the state at his whims, gave the police and his rapidly created task force a carteblanche to molest, extort and fleece the rivers people and swirled around like a miffed emperor.

At the end, it all amounted to no good, nothing to point to with pride as cases of infections and death continue to rise both at state and federal levels as we grapple helplessly with the epiphany of a virus in Africa.

This virus not only exposed the nakedness of the entire world, it did also exposed man's inhumanity to man. It reveals the wickedness in the heart of man and the loveless streak breaking the world in pieces. Speculation are ripe on the real origin of the virus as China, on whose soil it emanated, trade accusations with America. Scientifically, it is said that viruses are not a natural occurance, but made-man. So who created it and to what purpose? No answers, only speculations.

ln Nigeria, it was a field's day for the Nigerian police as the pandemic caused sorrow in many lands, it turned out a bazaar for them. A period were their pockets were enriched from the toil of the masses. Stationed at various state borders to prevent and protect the spread of the virus, they made it their pay day and helped in no small way to spread faster the infections as they failed woefully to carry out their assigned duties, rather,much as in everything they do, they let the people in without a check as the people licked their pockets for them.

Come to talk of the aspect of palliatives, and you did witness the sham that is Nigeria. It began by wealthy citizens donating huge sums of money to the federal government, a first in itself, to help in fighting the insurgent virus. How such monies, amounting to billions, were disbursed is still a mystery. Then followed by wild, very wild speculation of a federal government grant to Nigerians, a paltry amount for those living below a certain income bracket to cushion the effect of the harsh measures taken in the fight against the virus.

 And some of us knew in a country that rather swindle her citizens than beautify them, whose economic philosophy has never come near welfarism, such were rumours and nothing more. It never did happened except for those already receiving financial incentives from the government, and are a minor minority compared to the large population of the helpless hungry without a source of livelihood.

At the state level, the issue of palliatives is one of pity for the people and one of unmitigated joy for the rulers. In Rivers State, seven cups (that is, standard deriguers used in measurements in our markets) of rice and two small noddles were distributed to only indigenes, for in Rivers, every other person, irrespective of how long you have lived there, you are considered a Stranger, inside Nigeria.

 In Cross River State, a bag of rice was given to each ward. A particular LGA, with thirteen wards received fifteen bags of rice. And each ward most likely consist of above four hundred households. You can imagine how Nigerians have been reduced to beggars but these same autocratic rulers will sooner dole out confounding statistics of the billions they spent on palliative to the good people they rule over. Saddening, but it is the epiphany of a virus.

Once in a life time, something novel, something unknown will come upon humanity, a blistering realization that always awe our senses and in man's resoluteness overcome it at the end no matter how rocky it appears. Covid19, however it came upon man, thus however it will go. Nothing has surpassed Man's ability to unreval whether it is natural or man-made, though it might be the epiphany of a deadly killer virus.