

Stop the persecution

How many (Muslim) lives you need?
in Gujrat, you took 2000 souls
in Bosnia, it was over 11000
in Myanmar, you murdered at least 24000

Don't hesitate to kill Muslims
after all, they are being massacred by its own people
in Syria, over half a million is dead
in Yemen, over 100,000 are wiped out

Don't you see Muslims lives are a bargain these days?
so, kill as many you want
but once you're satisfied with a number
let your citizens breath and have a future

The time of everyone's death is predetermined
better you kill them, but end the persecution
there isn't tears anymore for Palestine, Kashmir and Uyghurs
humanity will quickly forget what you have done

But stop the persecution, and let's move on.

Dhaka, April 2020 © Syed Basher

Listen to the pandemic

The affluent worry about not getting the disease
the others worry about earning an income
the migrants worry about getting back home
the government weigh whether to command or consult

The rich got what they wanted – social distancing

The poor are concerned about jobs and income
as the inadequacy of income and impoverishment
lead to starvation and famines

So, listen to the public discussion
and understand what needs to be done
for famine victims are socially distant from the better-off

So, hear what the problems are
understand where exactly the pandemic has hit
rather than muzzling the media and threatening dissenters

Overcoming a pandemic may seem fighting a war
but the real need is far from that.

*Dhaka, April 2020 © Syed Basher
(Inspired by Amartya Sen's writing)*

We all die alone

We will emerge
weakened from the crisis
as technical discussion
eclipse common sense.

Today is more important than ever
to demand political leadership
but in a cruel irony of history
technocracy and mistrust
resurface as the greatest enemy.

Anger is growing at
the European response to the pandemic
anger against the failure to use
the strength of our political unity
to prevent the worst.

Amid the lack of
clarity and solidarity
Europe is negotiating itself
into its own irrelevance.

The battle is difficult
but it's a battle worth fighting
Europe must now take responsibility
anything else would be
a failure of historical proportion.

*Dhaka, April 2020 © Syed Basher
(Inspired by Henrik Enderlein's writing)*

Do whatever it takes

Rating agencies may complain
and retired economists will debate
as long as the growth of nominal GDP
exceeds the cost of debt service
listen only to the pandemic
and do whatever it takes.

Inflation is no longer a threat
and debt-GDP ratio is below target
what really matters is
the livelihoods of our precious people.

So listen only to the pandemic
and do whatever it takes.

*Dhaka, May 2020 © Syed Basher
(Inspired by Meghnad Desai's writing)*