

**Hello World! HELP!**

I'm stuck on Earth! My name's Corona and my nickname is Covid-19 since I arrived in 2019. I started to emerge in Wuhan, China; and I'm currently travelling around the world; hence, humans also call me 'Pandemic'. I've been to at least 210 countries and have multiplied very quickly; thanks to the fertile environment around me.

When I first arrived, some people appeared to be nonchalant and some even chose to hide my existence. By the way, I'm actually too tiny to be seen with your naked eyes. Now, everyone is afraid of me, and even call me the show-stopper. I've to admit that I've caused pain and havoc, serious illnesses and deaths. Humans are terrified of me. Everyone's talking about me and I've become the headlines in daily news.

“Why are you here? When will you go away?” I hear you ask. Well, I'm not too sure how long I've to remain here. I can't seem to find my way out! Frankly, I still don't know how I came about in the first place and I do hope to find my way out of Earth soon. It's really not my home.

I'm sorry that I've caused so much pain, sadness and misery. At this point, I'm stuck on Earth and I truly can't control my destructive power.

Please help me find my way out!

Yours sincerely,  
Corona

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**Dear Corona,**

Ever since you came, you've caused so much misery. Trust me, we humans don't want to be near you and we're trying our best to get you out of Earth.

How has my life been affected because of you? I've heard and read so much about you. There are constant reminders about protecting ourselves to avoid an encounter with you. You've caused the government to impose Movement Control Order for weeks by restricting our outdoor movements. “Stay at home!” is now the buzz phrase. You've put a stop to our daily activities, work, play, and everything else in between.

My goodness, I can't believe that you've even stopped students and teachers from going to school! This means my life as a teacher has also changed in tandem with the landscape of education where school is no longer confined to the four walls. The only way forward is via online teaching and learning. ZOOM,

Google Hangouts Meet, Google Classroom and other online platforms for communication are now necessities and we scramble to learn how to use these tools with our students.

Despite all the brouhaha, panic, fear, worry and sadness that you bring, I've learnt to be still and know that there's still hope. Although we're all confined to our own homes this Easter, we can still celebrate hope because Christ lives.

Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). Though anxiety creeps in, I know that He who allows trials to come will bring us through it. Let us "...not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Corona, looks like you're part of the trials God has allowed as a lesson to humankind. Perhaps you're here to remind us to pause in life - to slow down amidst the hustle and bustle; to be grateful as well as to count our blessings while reflecting on what's truly important. It boils down to home and family. During this [PAUSE] season, we're also reminded that we can't control events in our life. We simply need to surrender the fears of the uncertain future into God's hand as He who has numbered our days, is in control of everything.

With the help of our brave and capable frontliners, I hope that you will make a hasty departure; but till then, I know that we humans have lots to learn during this season as we embrace changes and new norms ahead.

Sincerely,

Crystal 14 April 2020