

Lebende Samen -
Living Seeds e.V.

**Celebrating the Carnation revolution in Portugal under the shadow
of COVID -19**

Written by our president Stefan Doeblin who lived in Portugal in Idanha-a-Nova in the last years. This text is an expression of the pandemic's impacts in every aspect of our daily life from the way we think to the way we praise important days which remind us who we are. It reflects the feelings and thoughts generated by an invisible 'enemy' but also the inspiration for an internal exploration to our values and the perception of 'health' in our century. We hope to enjoy the reading.

25-04-2020/1974: Day of the **Carnation Revolution**, the team in Idanha celebrates already a day before with songs of Zé Alfonso, but it is chilling due to the Corona dictatorship. Today I read a post by Giorgio Agamben (Neue Züricher Zeitung-NZZ), who brings it to the point again. Here I describe his words adding own words:

How could we accept, in the name of a *risk* that we could not determine, that in most cases the people we love and all people in general not only had to die lonely, but that their bodies were cremated without being buried?

We accepted without hesitation, again only in the name of an indefinite *risk*, that our freedom of movement was restricted to an extent never before seen in European countries, not even during the two world wars.

This could happen because we split the unity of our life experience, which is always physical and mental at the same time, into a mere biological unity on the one hand and into an affective and cultural life on the other. Life degenerates into vegetative life through breathing machines.

How can we persuade social distancing as a permanent condition based on a *risk* that cannot be determined? We are sacrificing millions of people in poorer countries who will die of hunger in order to save tens of thousands in our rich countries, because the rich industrialized countries determine the world economy (see UN statement and the Swiss Science Council last week)? Billions of euros are invested in the production of a vaccine based on a risk that cannot be determined in more detail, and who will be richer in compulsory vaccinations and who will be poorer and who will be even more ill?

Above all, the Church, which - by making itself the handmaid of science, which has now become the new religion of our time - radically denies its essential principles. Pope Francis has forgotten that his namesake hugged the lepers. The Church has forgotten that one of the works of mercy is to visit the sick. Unfortunately, the Church has always ruled with the other world rulers to amassed material wealth.

The lawyers are no longer doing their job. We have been accustomed to the careless use of emergency decrees for some time now, which effectively puts executive power in the place of legislative power, thereby undermining the principle of separation of powers that defines democracy. With what legal grounds and means? It is the job of the lawyers to ensure that the rules of the democratic constitution are observed, but the lawyers are silent.

Alone, a norm that says that one has to do without the good in order to save the good is just as wrong as the one that requires one to do without the freedom in order to save the freedom.

Isn't it time to rethink and change our way of doing business without a soul, just looking for material advantages and generating power, wasting resources arbitrarily for the sake of growth, using animals and plants as material for the enrichment of people, as to look at it soullessly, to exploit it brutally, either by industrial mass farming, medical bestial experiments or manipulating genes, to produce mass of waste without knowing what we can do with it in the long term, where to store it and how does that affect the environment? Man has said goodbye to the environment and ecology in the belief that he can take over and control nature. Growth and speed count, patience and waiting are forgotten or ignored. This is also shown by "modern" medicine, which wants to show results immediately, which focuses on diseases and not on health or healthy living. Results must be identifiable, even if life is to be viewed in a complex and holistic way. Our life should become septic, distant and isolated, freedom plays a subordinate role. We concentrate on the exploitation of the material world and we forget the spiritual world, the energy of light, the belief in harmony of the universe.

Not much is required to be happy: All we need is good food and 0.3ha would nourish one person on averages. We love to be part of community. We enjoy work which fulfills our soul. We want to live in freedom and peace. All the world's money does not create bliss but creates power for a few people over many.

The compulsory lockdown, imposed by the current executives, give us the opportunity to rethink our life and our economy. Let us unite, to fight for democratic rules and to create new maxims for action and life. A paradigm shift in our society is welcome if it is based on

- collaboration instead of competition,
- recycling and
- focus on food, agriculture and nature instead of technologies which we do not fully understand its consequences.

Let us start today on the day of the Carnation Revolution.