

Momentous Plagues Then and Now

March 18, 2020



VAN GOGH'S POTATO EATERS

I saw that painting in Amsterdam...
the Irish potato famine time of starvation...
a million died and scores fled to America...
not warmly welcomed but better than that plague.

My mother talked about the flu of 1918...
10's of millions died!
years of world-wide fear all over the world
no stopping such a plague.

I was born a Depression kid totally unaware
how it felt as the market crashed in '29...
or how my dad felt coming home unemployed in 1934
when they lost our Seattle house viewing Mt. Rainier...
like so many unable to pay mortgages...
just lucky to be alive and living on hope...
that Depression was called "The Clutch Plague."

Another virus was in our world during those years...
far worse than the Great Depression...
it grew slowly after Hitler's election in 1934...
taking a decade for the dictatorship to reveal its disease...
the worst human-made "plague" in history...
when 6 million died while the world was unaware.

We are in a numb time in our own history...
who imagined the double pandemics
---the worst flu epidemic since 1918
---and the worst Market Plunge since 1929
COMBINED IN 2020!

Hopefully we will not be blinded
to some more dangerous plague in our midst today.

Art Morgan March 18, 2020