

## The Brightest Side of Resignation

When I was a kid, I was annoyed when I heard people at a funeral saying to others: “You may soon have resignation”. Some of my secret reactions were: “Why can’t they use more sensitive words? Why can’t they allude to more optimistic sentiments in this moment of grief? Even if this resignation concept is suitable for the occasion, why do they put such a difficult task on others’ shoulders?”

It was just time or life which taught me the implications of this concept: Although I had lost beloved people throughout my life, I came to appreciate the profundity of the word *resignation* only after the unexpected loss of my sister because of Covid-19 symptoms. “Why her, my best friend, being so young? Why so rapidly? Where was God? Where was science? Where was the government”? In this scenario, dealing with an unexpected death of a beloved one during an unprecedented pandemic is a level of grief that requires a counter-sentiment that matches the former. In this vein, open my heart to resignation helped me to stop fighting against what had occurred.

Therefore, as the above-described “intrusive” people suggested, only a categorical sentiment like resignation could help relieve the endless pain of a soul. After balancing all this, those people from my childhood memories were not insensible anymore, not pessimistic anymore, and not intrusive anymore.

Socialist novelist Maxim Gorky, in the accurately entitled book *My Universities*, stated that all life lessons are learned from the human being in the end —some written in books and some others written on people’s actions: “What people teach you comes more painfully than book learning. Their teaching is harsh. But what you learn that way takes deeper root.” In my case, my desperation diminished with the reminiscence of mature people consoling each other by verbally realizing this healing. “I need to be one of them, one that understands resignation, my lifeboat.” Concepts, theories, ideologies, and even traditional faith, no longer seemed useful to me as experience... And what an experience.

The Covid-19 pandemic is a collective tragedy from which we conclude that there are things beyond our control whether as rational people or as believers. Not for nothing an extreme faith shift is well-documented in massive tragedies like the Holocaust, after which many believers turned into more rational people and many secular people became religious. Whatever the case is for an individual, some commit the mistake of embracing the dark shape of reality, as affirms an inmate of Holocaust survivor Elie

Wiesel in the book *Night*: “«I have more faith in Hitler than in anyone else. He alone has kept his promises, all his promises, to the Jewish people.»”

This process of healing implied renouncing the physical life of those who departed to keep my own life; this is, beating the dark shape of reality by accepting a partial defeat. In Biblical paradigms that are closer to Job's suffering than to Abraham's shame, an elevated state of the soul comes after understanding, from God's cyclical perspective, the deaths in this world.

Regardless the tradition, resignation stands as the turning point of our life when facing grief. It is the cornerstone for a religious or secular process of personal salvation.