

Damn you, Covid-19
by Don Weitz

you're so destructive so fucking smug
spreading breathless deathless plague
trauma that implants itself inside bodies minds souls
inside living lungs beating hearts high hopes
of everyday people street and health workers grocery store clerks our heroes
you've wormed your way into both healthy and demented brains
you've inflicted permanent physical and emotional trauma
on mistreated neglected elders warriors warehoused
in nursing homes and geriatric wards
where talking touching hugging are privileges
where tests to find you are ordered but undelivered
you're a mass killer of fragile lonely souls
brother and sister "terminally ill" waiting to die
from your contagious plague – Camus was right
probably more deaths than the 1918 flu pandemic
your death protocol targets the vulnerable
the weak
the lonely
the rejected and abandoned
fragile brother and sister elders
African brothers and sisters
Indigenous people
survivors of racist police
prisoners in solitary
psychiatric inmates in "seclusion"

you don't give a shit and never did
about the homeless the poor
about third world shelters in "free and democratic" countries
where disease suffering violence
are contagious
where your mass murders by mutation
are not random
because you target the most vulnerable
asylum seekers
immigrants
migrant workers
refugees
prisoners
psychiatric survivors
the nameless homeless
Indigenous women children warriors
inner city travellers

poor children
street workers
the working class
social justice activists
fighting for freedom and human rights
fighting for the right
to live and die with the dignity and respect
that you've stolen from us
we are not numbers
we are not statistics
we are not body counts on national news
someday our vaccines will destroy you
despite official delays and government lies
parroted by neoliberal neofascist political leaders
damn your indifference
damn your destructiveness
damn your cruelty
damn your global genocide
solidarity and resistance are growing underground
breaking out of deadly isolation rooms nursing homes ICUs
rising out of the ashes
like a phoenix

Toronto
April 2020