

The Dispute for Eternity

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We are reaching the longest life expectancy in the history of humanity, and this achievement is undoubtedly due to medicine. Thanks to the appearance of antibiotics, the combat to a large number of conditions that used to end lives was achieved, simple unicellular microbes capable of ending a complex being formed by organs and systems so well organized that they were able to eventually win many wars, despite many previously lost battles. Nevertheless, we have not managed to overcome death, let alone injustice. In spite of counting with antibiotics capable of beating tuberculosis, this disease continues to kill thousands in the world and wars that seemed already won turn out to be perpetuated in a stretching and loosening that seems to have no end.

Much of the problem is that the human being, despite creating artificial intelligences that are able to solve complex situations very quickly only by following problem solving in an algorithmic way and giving accurate information in seconds, has not been able to solve inequality. In countries with poverty, there are more infectious problems that make the morbidity and mortality rate much higher than that of countries with more economic resources. The most educated populations seem to have better survival. The white race continues to live more than the black one and this persists despite the fact having highly effective treatments to combat HIV, as this disease remains highly prevalent in this race and the health systems are not sufficient neither to prevent it, nor exterminate it.

The human being has created health machines that could potentially replace many doctors by offering more accurate diagnoses and possibly giving personalized treatments according to the genetic and environmental characteristics of the patient. However,

this will have a very high economic cost that will cause many to lose their job, but also, for many to not have the opportunity to access these increasingly sophisticated systems that are also economically less accessible.

This scenario would seem to be far away, but in reality it is what we are living today; in the developed countries with a large segregation for those who have the least and in developing countries with a large and obvious difference between those who can access private healthcare systems and those who must conform with public medicine where frequently what is accessible is limited to what is common and antibiotics are expensive. Treatments with monoclonal antibodies, human gammaglobulin, deep brain stimulation, epilepsy surgery, transplants, become really inaccessible because of the lack of resources rather than the lack of preparedness of health personnel.

It is here where the war for survival is lost, social injustice remains, and the rich survive while the poor die in societies of both right and left. Some because capitalism promotes inequality and in others because communism in the end affects the majority that firstly sought social balance.

New molecules, and new diagnostic and therapeutic technologies that could be a major change in survival remain highly selective and expensive. Personalized medicine that is already so close due to the possibility of accessing genetics and drugs that will work perfectly in the patient with less risk of adverse effects and rejection, seems to be inaccessible to most and possible only for those who can economically acquire it.

Death continues to triumph because children continue to die of Amibian dysentery, miliar tuberculosis, and malnutrition. Young people still die because sex education does not have as big of an impact as the promotion of promiscuity and although highly effective therapies exist against Human Immunodeficiency Virus, not only has it not been managed to control, but syphilis and gonorrhoea that already seemed under control have reappeared. Older adults continue to die because eventually, after a long and costly neurodegenerative process, a simple pneumonia or urinary infection will cause delirium, total decompensation, and eventually kill them.

Although research to prolong life continues, death will continue to triumph, because science, which is nothing but the search for truth, will continue to fall short against television, against the seduction of the transitory beauty of artists and the knowledge of their lapses, against the addiction to watch others play sports and to be passionate about a team, rather than to maintain a healthy body and a curious mind. Because addiction to drugs like heroin and cocaine are real epidemics and even more so for those who seem to have the most.

Death will continue to triumph, perhaps also because it is necessary for us to end for others to arrive and seek justice, a dream that seems unattainable when we see that the history of struggles between brothers persists because power is more important than fraternal love.

Science will fall short, because, even if the molecule that cures any infection, selfishness, envy and power is discovered, it will cause the stronger or the empowered to defeat the one who thought that respect for others, fraternity, sharing and growing together was better than feeling triumphant.

A short life awaits us, because the war against death for us is lost, so for what we have left, let us continue to fight for others to survive with the knowledge we have learned while a computer or

cell phone replaces us and while a smile that comforts us is more important than a molecular diagnosis.

The war is lost, let us prepare to be soon defeated.

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