

## HUMAN LIFE

### [HUMAN LIVES MATTER]

"People's lives are at stake!" I hear them say. Everyone says that:

"We have to save human lives!"

This argument beats all the others; what could counter it? It is the almighty justification for everything that is ordered, forbidden and persecuted: "It is about human lives!"

(Oh yeah? That's something completely new!)

Which people are actually meant? All people? Even those in Yemen and on Lesbos? "Human life is at stake!"

This sentence is recited with great pathos, as if there were a deeply thought-out, unshakable ethics behind it. One could almost assume that Albert SCHWEITZER's ethics are the basis of this argumentation. He called it the "ethics of reverence for life. The basis of his insights was the conscious experience: "I am life that wants to live, in the midst of life that wants to live." He saw this mysterious will to live in everything, not only in man. All animals and all plants have this will, which must be respected and encouraged. From this resulted for Albert SCHWEITZER "the thought-necessary basic principle of morality. "Good is to preserve life and promote life. Evil is to destroy life and to inhibit life." Albert SCHWEITZER probably recognized that a completely consistent

implementation of this maxim in human life practice is impossible; which does not mean that one should abandon this basic rule of moral behavior completely and for ever. One must not give up and one must - like Sisyphus - try again and again (But I try - but I try!).

In the centuries since Hippocrates, doctors in particular have felt bound by a very similar rule: "I will make medical prescriptions for the benefit of the sick according to my ability and judgment, but I will beware of applying them to the detriment and in an improper manner.

NIL NOCERE. Do not want to harm!

This is probably the most difficult recommendation of the wise Hippocrates. With everything one does, one must **first** consider whether this will not also cause harm, perhaps in a completely different place and with completely different people or living beings. Medical action (and, by the way, political action) is almost always a single real dilemma. Limiting the damage after weighing up **all** aspects of the respective life situation must be targeted as an attainable goal if the well-being of all has become a utopia.

Utopian is also the idea of being able to save and preserve human lives in the long run! MORS CERTA. Death is certain! This is perhaps the only thing we can know with certainty.

And yet we must not slacken in our tireless efforts to protect and preserve the lives of people all over the world for as long as possible.

In the current corona pandemic this seems to be a particularly difficult challenge. Approximately 2,500 people die every day in Germany (2,494 on 16.10.2020); the annual number of deaths will be around 940,000 (939,520 deaths in 2019). How many lives could be saved by this? How many years of life could one win in this battle against death?

Maybe a few of those who kill themselves? The suicide rate is about 9,396 per year (2018). "EXIT with CORONA!" Is suicid tourism also about human lives? Or is it something else? How many of those who die as a result of pharmacotherapy could be saved if only pharmaco-vigilance was practiced? You would not need money for this! It is estimated that there are about 25,000 pharmaco-vigilance victims in Germany, about 150,000 in the USA and at least 10,000 in England every year.

About 11,506 have died in Germany so far from the consequences of a corona infection, presumably (as of November 10, 2020). I have already written about the problem of counting corona deaths elsewhere. Nobody has yet calculated how many years of human life have been lost as a result.

Could human lives be saved in road traffic? For example, by setting a general speed limit of 120 or 130 km/h on all roads and freeways. It would be a challenge for society as a whole to

reduce the number of murder victims. It seems even more difficult to limit the number of victims of multi-resistant germs. Hygiene measures alone would not help here. A restriction of the senseless administration of antibiotics in factory farming and a change in the prescription habits of all doctors would have to be enforced! But how? With money alone? Through an appeal to reason? Would the hint that human life is at stake bring something? Probably not.

A kingdom for him who finds a way to save the victims of the art of medicine! The health insurance companies have determined that about 15,000 patients die as a result of a defective art of healing. Isn't this also a matter of human life?

Which people are actually meant? The Corona Task Force warns; they look very serious: "The situation is like this." They visibly and selflessly care about human lives. They feel like the knights of the round table.

Is the life of all people in the world meant? Or just the lives of the Bavarian people, or at least the lives of all Germans? Possibly even the lives of the Europeans! That would already be a lot.

In the Mediterranean Sea about ... people have drowned while fleeing. Are we seriously considering how we could have saved the lives of these people as well? It is rare that a picture from this tragedy frightens people for only a short time: the body of a child washed up on the beach by the sea. Or rows of coffins

and cemeteries on Lampedusa! There are also people living in the refugee camps on Lesbos!

At the moment the Corona Pandemic is holding us captive: Physically, mentally, psychologically. Like a wreath of fog SARS-CoV-2 surrounds our brains! Other worldwide infectious diseases are completely faded out at the moment: Almost 3 million adult people die of tuberculosis, the white plague, every year. Tuberculosis is curable! Not 5,000 people would have to die of it every day. Human lives are at stake!

SARS-CoV-2 is not a killer virus! The killers are called differently: Plasmodien. "Every year more than 200 million people are infected with Plasmodium: Malaria. 500,000 of the infected die, 75% of them children. 61% are under 5 years old. So 375,000 children die of malaria every year. This year there will be more: The corona-induced excess mortality for malaria is expected to amount to 270,000 additional deaths in 2020. 90% of these deaths will affect the African continent; about 180,000 additional children will die this year.

The lethality of the new corona virus is 40 times lower in Africa than in Europe and the USA. By the end of July 2020, approximately 18,000 patients had died of or with corona throughout Africa. There is still no effective therapy and no vaccination against corona. But malaria could be fought, successfully! With 5.8 billion euros! This is a fraction of the sum now being spent on containing the corona pandemic.

"Every life counts!" - we hear daily and "Human life before business! But they don't say which people they mean and they overlook the fact that the deliberate restriction of the manifold economic relations also costs human lives, many human lives worldwide.

Which is the greatest killer on earth? The most merciless reaper among the messengers of death? It is hunger! "Hunger costs more lives than malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS combined. Corona viruses originally played no role at all. There are very simple means against hunger: bread, rice, flour. "According to the WHO, eleven percent of humanity suffer from hunger on a permanent basis...that is 822 million; one in nine people. Every year, 9 million people die of the consequences of their hunger, including 5-6 million children. OXFAM, the international umbrella organization of various humanitarian aid organizations, pointed out that by July 2020 an additional 121 million people were forced into a famine because of the worldwide shutdown and lock-down measures. In April 2020, this collateral damage reached its peak so far with 10,000 starvation deaths daily in addition to "normal" starvation mortality. This figure could rise to 12,000 additional deaths per day. The relevant publication of OXFAM is called: The Hunger Virus! By the end of this year 2020, more than one million additional starvation deaths are to be expected, caused by the restrictive measures to contain COVID-19 alone.

*(I have taken the passages about malaria victims and about the starvation deaths etc. as a result of the corona restrictions from the book by Clemens G. ARVAY: "We can do it better").*

In the media, the **additional** 270,000 malaria deaths and the **additional** starvation deaths, more than a million, which the "containment" of the COVID-19 pandemic demands, are not even mentioned.

"Human lives matter" - human lives count! If our politicians who use these words in their mouths really and seriously meant it, they would have to act very differently. They would have to carefully weigh up the complex risks of their measures; they would also have to consider - in the face of a pandemic - the worldwide consequences in a globalizing world community and then look for the lesser evils. Instead, small hordes are once again separating themselves from one another behind fences of stupidity and hatred. Diverse madness systems - to the pleasure of all - prevent the perception of a global catastrophe by a permanent release of endorphins. Why are we so susceptible to delusional systems? How could we increase our resilience to a stable and comoden madness? In the past people believed in demons, evil spirits or devils. Were they easier to cast out? "That which afflicts us springs from thought." Where is the way "AD ASTRA", to the right thinking for the benefit of all sentient beings, for the benefit of our life community with Mother GAIA and for the benefit of all future living beings on this small fragile planet? Where does the milk of pious thinking flow? "Thought regulates destiny."

Is it really about human life? Of course it is! The lives of a few chosen people! It is about chosen human lives, not about 30 million starving deaths, mowed down by Gevatter Hein with a halo.

In the meantime I believe that in the whole history of mankind it has never been about human lives; it has always been about power and money (which is almost the same); it has been about greed and lust, about ignorance and hate, and above all about the desire for duration!

"But his higher striving, is a beautiful move." (B.BRECHT)