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# **Deep Gazes Into the World**

Haikus

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Haikus

Poetic Responses to the Global Pandemic 2020-2021

## Albrecht Classen

Tucson, Arizona



Scare is everywhere,  
blindness strikes, and so despair,  
but what have we lost?

Deserted desert,  
No one knows the direction,  
Woke up from a dream.

I thought of nothing,  
my books at home gave comfort,  
lonely in a cell.

My words and myself  
play and live in unison  
and create meaning.



Recycling weekly  
people take dogs for a walk  
what is going on?

I must keep writing  
otherwise I would despair  
my words console me

Wings of new virus  
quietly cover the land  
I do not give up

Evening setting  
the moon rises behind clouds  
spare me my dreaming



*Fernweh* I tell you

*Heimweh* I also feel much  
at home and abroad

Local pantry here  
a long line of hungry mouths  
all humanity

Give me all your love  
I'll take it with me yonder  
Together in flight,  
True, I do not fear  
my time is much too precious  
We are here to live



Finally, sunset  
what will tomorrow bring us?  
there is always hope



The past is with us,  
we cannot escape from it  
painful memories

The bell is tolling  
the morning is not waiting  
pack your stuff and go

Cacti blooming fresh  
none of the dying matters  
life keeps going on



Hunger knocks on doors  
needs no keys or my welcome  
human suffering

(I also compose in German)

*Oh haiku haiku*

*du musst wandern durch die Welt*

*gibst Trost und Segen*

Javelinas trot  
at night through the neighborhood  
they are not concerned

The first pistachio  
proudly displays its first leaves  
the others will follow



Medieval Black Death  
flight, no other remedy  
and now, any change?

Darkness awaits us  
daybreak arrives, rest assured  
it's all a rhythm

Do not trust the head  
he does not know anything

oh, bombastic fool

Day by day, we live

birds and sunshine remind us

let's get back to work



Sing a song with me

the chorus always sounds good

we will achieve much

Does the virus smell?

How do the Acacia smell?

You choose what you like

(Again, back to my mothertongue)

*Fern sind die Freunde*

*wir denken jetzt stark an sie*

*einsam ist keiner*

So much doom and gloom

virus, we are not your prey

let's fight, drink, and write

---

[ ]

Do not give up hope

there is so much more to do

life is way too short

It's tough, we all know

but we are tough as you know

let us win the war!

Moon and stars wonder

where have all the people

gone alone in hiding

City silhouette

morning sunshine fills the streets

there is no traffic

---

[ ]

Wild flowers now grow  
from every crack and hole  
no one there to weed

No stopping of time  
we all must grow and pass on  
one chance, one life, now

And the moon rises  
bright and clear above our heads  
what only has changed?

Countless viruses  
here on lonely Mother Earth  
nine billion people

---

[ ]

Why, if I may ask  
why has this happened to us  
life is contingent

Getting up at dawn  
working until evening  
routine and structure

St. Christopher  
pray for us in our need  
we hold on to straws

Quirky internet  
remains quiet, no e-mails  
a pause in the world



If the Jesuits  
had known of the pandemic  
they might have stayed home.

Some politicians  
failed to lead in this crisis  
no actions, our death

The cat on the roof  
has chased all the birds away  
gazing down to us

Counting weeks and days  
the world is changing quickly  
and we change along



Windswept treetops sway  
dusty breezes swirl us up  
Spring in the desert

Dusk, less and less light  
the filigree of the branches  
profiles the essence

Life has slowed us down  
times passes at a new pace  
fear and hope so close

Comfort stifles us

Corona enforces change

Evolution now



Moon so full and bright

the earth turns quickly and wanes

where does that leave us?

Fill your glass at night

befriend the red drink divine

and write a new verse

Cold space is empty

life on earth in abundance

look, listen, live, love

Some trees so naked

others burst forth in colors

we wait warily





Old death is passing  
all cacti bloom carelessly  
Spring is here to stay

Pick up the old book  
wisdom is never aging  
we learn from verses

Moon in the dark sky  
sun in sapphire clothing  
the flowers wake up

I just can't help it  
my words tumble forth in Spring  
verses in the air



Taking their pictures  
does not bother the cacti

quietly they bloom

Sonora, I'm back,  
I know, you waited for me  
take my flowers, smell

Celebrate Easter  
the earth has turned east again  
promise of new life

God's old clockwork  
stopped time unexpectedly paused  
we woke up again



The peacock appeared  
his royalty of all birds  
what are you proud of?

Old Portulan maps  
near useless for sea captains

Rhumb lines across space

After the last rain  
flowers and poppies burst forth  
cacti follow close



Some clouds stay behind  
April sun sweeps clear the sky  
breath sighs of relief

Let's shed our jackets  
let's bath in the sun and shout  
welcome, life is back

Oh friends, happy birds  
Oh colleagues, you ants and bees  
Oh pollen, we sneeze

Ocotillo blooms  
cereus greets the mild news

laurels smile in blue

( )

Stroll during the dusk

bats with echolocation

night life starting now

Moonshine calls again

Star constellations guide us

the night takes us in

Mountain ridges gaze

down upon us panicking

ants pursue their tasks.

Corona crisis

silver line: we all will learn:

*scito te ipsum*

( )

Palm fronds are falling