

Message 431

Paris 27 Sept. 2021

Three cuttings from the latest issue of 'Time' magazine. are pasted below, for deep contemplation, consideration and meditation

<p>From the beginning of the pandemic, Adar Poonawalla sought to meet the moment. His company, the Serum Institute of India, was already the world's largest vaccine maker when he promised 1.1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines for the developing world by the end of 2021. That assurance was the backbone of the plan for global vaccine access mounted by a coalition of Institutions including the World Health Organization. Poonawalla told me in March he didn't want to “have regrets when history judges my actions.” But over the course of this year a series of issues—a fire at his plant in Pune, India; trouble securing necessary raw materials; and a vaccine export ban amid India's second wave of Covid-19 slowed his ambitions, and left many countries scrambling to find other sources of the vaccines. The pandemic is not over yet, and Poonawalla could still help end it. Vaccine inequality is stark, and delayed immunization in one part of the world can have global consequences — including the risk of more dangerous variants emerging. Meanwhile, the Serum institute has almost doubled production of COVID.19 vaccines since May and is adding newer vaccines — including Novavax and Russia's Sputnik V — to its portfolio in the coming months. Whether Poonawalla can right the ship this time will determine which side of history he falls on — and, more importantly, how quickly the world emerges from the pandemic.</p>	<p>In a world increasingly focused on self-interest and self-preservation. Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny did the unimaginable this year he was selfless and brave. In January. after recovering In Germany from a nearly fatal poisoning, Navalny returned to Russia. Despite—or potentially because of—the considerable domestic and global attention on his attempted assassination and return, he was arrested upon landing. The subsequent protests supporting him were brutally suppressed, and this summer a Russia court banned his political and anticorruption organizations, calling them extremist. Many of his allies have been detained or forced to flee the country. Navalny now sits in one of Russia's worst prisons, his life in the hands of a dictator who all evidence says already tried to kill him once for exposing the grotesque corruption of his regime. Navalny saw no alternative to risking everything to make a difference in his country. Even the all-powerful Vladimir Putin recognizes the power of a single man without fear.</p>	<p>There's a famous TV interview of Harry, the Duke of Sussex, when he was an Apache helicopter gunner a few years ago. He's sitting close to an airfield In Afghanistan. commenting on some royal news, when there's a bang and a group of soldiers scramble behind him. In one swift motion, he stands up, rips off his microphone and runs toward the action. That same sense of urgency drives Meghan now the Duchess of Sussex, who has long been an active humanitarian and a powerful advocate for women and girls around the world. “This type of work is what feeds my soul” she wrote in a 2016 essay. Springing into action is not the easy choice for a young duke and duchess who have been blessed through birth and talent, and burned by fame. It would be much safer to enjoy their good fortune and stay silent. That's not what Harry and Meghan do, or who they are. They turn compassion into boots on the ground through their Archewell Foundation. They give voice to the voiceless through media production. Hand in hand with nonprofit partners, they take risks to help communities in need —offering mental-health support to Black women and girls in the U.S., and feeding those affected by natural disasters in India and the Caribbean. In a world where everyone has an opinion about people they don't know, the duke and duchess have compassion for the people they don't know. They don't just opine. They run toward the struggle.</p>
--	---	--