

French Proficiency Exam – July 2020

Acceptable translation:

How should we correctly name the turning point we are going through? The feeling that something major will emerge from the consequences of this pandemic does not, however, shed light on the world that is coming and on the influence we will have on it. And that worries us.

A disease does not have meaning in and of itself. Yet unsurprisingly, some will see in it a new curse announcing the end of the world, conspiracy theorists will see in it new evidence of the global conspiracy devised behind the backs of the people, others, the confirmation of the global collapse of human societies.

Still, if we had to risk an allegory, we could interpret it as the immune response of a planet hurt and tormented by human activity and capitalist hubris. But this is a risky parable, because nature does not take revenge. Nature is transformed under the yoke of an aberrant development model, which ignores the finitude of natural resources and the fragility of the living world.