

Dear Tacoma,

Is this happening now or has it already happened? My life lives within a box. When I see other people they're stuck within the 4 walls of a window pane. They no longer have legs. We've all lost our legs.

When we see each other in Zoom how do I know the person on the other end is real? How do I know if it's now or maybe they're in the past? Where are they? Do they know where I am?

Like Billy Pilgrim my mind is skipping back and forth across time. From present to future to past to future to present to... But how do I know what the present is?

Can I ever see the future when every moment I spend is only the present?

We are still in the middle of a Stay Home, Stay Healthy order from the Governor. To be honest, I have no idea how many days we've been sequestered to our own homes. Weeks? Months? Or has it only been days? It's all been the same day so what does it matter how many days it's been?

Our seclusion has been working. The curve has been flattening. We can see an end to the tunnel. We certainly hope that we see an end to the tunnel. But what if this becomes the new norm? What if my new reality is something that has no concept of time as a linear form?

What if that's been my reality the entire time, that there is no past, present or future? That all of it is happening to us right now. Right now I'm being born in a hospital in Elizabeth and right now I'm climbing Mount Rainier and right now crying in my dorm room in the dark and right now, I'm Zooming with the same people I've always Zoomed with and will always Zoom with.

What frightens me is that seclusion will be my new reality. That I'll never leave the 4 walls of this house or the 4 walls of a Zoom pane. We've all known that house on the block when we were kids. The one where the doors or windows were never opened. Where sometimes you see lights on inside but never any people.

"That's the Old Man's house. I heard he's a 102 years old and keeps wild animals in the basement. I heard he's as tiny as a mouse. Well I've heard that he has a thousand cats. I heard..."

That's going to be me one day. Or is that already me?

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