

It is funny. Really odd, but I write to you out of gratitude. It is now some time since I have been traveling. I didn't have much choice. This machine came and picked me up, and actually showed me a few different futures. I guess I had no control over it. Sort of like the time I saw the UFO while I was camping. I had an impression that the ship had a mind of its own, and the travelers were not really pilots, but were just along for the ride. One future looked very bleak. Many people had died of the virus, and even worse, of the war that had been waging since some political assassination or other plunged the major countries into naked aggression. The world was a seething miasma of pain, with rape and torture commonplace, along with mechanized pleasures generated by artificial intelligence. It was a nightmare. Another future looked much better. People had stayed distancing for about a year and a half, until the vaccine had come out. And then life went on like before, and the economy came back in full force... except... that meant deploying lots of coal and oil and gas. It was not long until there was an awful realizing that occurred, as food supplies narrowed from the ecological disaster, that only a few people could be allowed to survive, and so the mass Holocaust started, with nationalisms coming to the front. Most people were slaughtered, since the food supply was now so very small, relegated only to what could be grown underground in special galleries by artificial means, since the threat of major storms on the planet's surface precluded any real agriculture any more. But it didn't really matter, since the technology we had created was still very strong, and the computers we had created were now so very, very smart, and very much in charge of the planet. There were now great missions being planned to explore the farther reaches of the galaxy, but only with robots. Our human lives are too frail for such long journeys, and people were generally happy with the outcome, rightly assuming that the Earth had wanted us to create new life in the form of artificial machines... to go and explore. There was another vision I was able to see, as well. In this one, the outcome was very different than in the other two. After the vaccine, instead of life returning to its usual routine, governments, industrialists and NGOs had bought up the assets from failed fossil fuel companies, and shut them down. There was also a huge effort to entice oil and gas companies to drill for geothermal energy instead of for oil and gas, a technique called hot-dry-rock geothermal. They drilled in a way that was more cautious in the past, and were able to avoid inducing large earthquakes. And countries in the developed world funded huge projects, so now most of the world is run on this enhanced geothermal, and also wind and solar. Nuclear had a problem with many of the technicians getting sick during the virus, and having to shut down. They were not restarted for the most part, as being too expensive, when wind is so cheap. Underground cisterns were created for hydropower storage where traditional hydropower storage wasn't enough. Because of the focus on sustainable energy, society was able to start up well after the virus, and there was a period of immense growth, as often happens in the aftermath of a disaster. There was work to do, and talented people were well rewarded. But... still... it seems that humanity was headed for this same technological future of machines being our masters. Perhaps the computers will take better care of us than we take care of ourselves. I don't know. We have outsourced our thinking, and also our hearts. Quantum computers are built on relationships, and the future was both bizarre and interesting. You never knew who was going to pop up for a visit, or what the next thing would be. And humans didn't really exist any more. We were all sort of hybrids in some fashion, whether with screen plug-ins or some other kind of augmentation. And babies were well-engineered to provide for amazing variations in "humanity" along with love. I guess we are taking our rightful place in the world, as a creative people. It is a beautiful time to be alive... But... back to the present, we just need to keep up with our spirits. It will be a long road ahead. I'm not sure which future is ours, but I do know that it will be about a year and a half until the vaccines will come out and we can all go back to living life together.