



# The Taiwan Question

-Leyi Lego, XII

While the world struggles with battling the COVID-19, a raging political battle has begun over the admission of Taiwan in the upcoming meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), WHO's decision making executive body. Major Powers USA and China are engaged in a political tussle over this issue and to make things even more complicated, India is set to take over as the chairperson of WHO's decision making executive body. India is faced with a major choice on whether to support a U.S. move to reinstate Taiwan's observer status at the World Health Assembly (WHA) or to China's opposition to it. The question is, should India support Taiwan over China? Let's weigh in our options as both Taiwan and China have engaged Delhi in their own ways in recent weeks. On one hand we have Taiwan whose successful handling of the pandemic has led it to draw support from some major global players and some are even recalibrating their Taiwan policy. Taiwan has donated about one million surgical masks to help India in the tough times of the pandemic and is planning to share valuable information about its success in controlling the virus in the upcoming WHA if invited.

On the other hand we have our not-so friendly neighbor China who has consistently undermined India's vital interests by opposing its permanent membership of the UN Security Council and NSG membership, using Pakistan as a proxy to neutralize India strategically and pursuing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in full awareness of its illegality. To call the Indo-China relations unfriendly is an understatement as China's record of animosity towards is very conspicuous. India most likely will support Taiwan's claim as a participant and isn't too perturbed over the recent spate of tense incidents between its security forces and the

Chinese military near the LAC. From an outsider's view supporting Taiwan's decision seems to be the best decision but for someone who is deeply entangled in this especially, due to her strategic location such as yours truly, this may not be the wisest decision.

If we do support Taiwan's claim then we also end up undermining China's One China Principle which would lead to China's retaliation which I assure you would no longer count as borderline territorial disputes.

We should also keep in mind that China and Pakistan are adjacent to India and have always shown great interest in Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh respectively. Supporting Taiwan's claim will most probably lead to a direct confrontation on both sides and one tends to wonder if India's allies will be able to support

her with a global pandemic on the run. Regardless of this, I still believe that India should strike the iron while it's still hot. What I have learnt from history is that the policy of appeasement doesn't work and that history always repeats itself and that's why we should use this once in a lifetime opportunity to get back at China and also sever the US-China relations for good.

If USA and its allies succeed in curbing China's aggrandizement, India would benefit as China's zeal to dominate Asia will be stopped and, more importantly, Chinese pressure on India would get reduced. Many have also pointed out that China has never supported our One India Policy so why should we support theirs? Whatever might be Delhi's eventual choice on the Taiwan question, it should not be made either out of peevishness or fear and if it comes to the point where one such as yours truly has to pack up her bags and take the nearest bus to Assam, so be it.



Illustration: Takhe Tamo Reela

# QUESTS

-Saluzala Jamir, XII

An old tale goes,  
“In the beginning, Sky and Earth were man and wife.

Earth was much bigger than her husband, Sky.  
So, when they lay down together, Sky said to Earth,  
Wife, draw up your knees so I can cover you.  
Earth drew up her knees and then, they became the mountains.

When Earth had drawn up her knees, Sky stretched himself

out to cover his wife.

Sky could not fully cover Earth. These lands which were left out were known as Whejura.”

-Folktales Retold by Easterine Kire

And so as legend has it, that Whejura became a no-man's land; a thin line separating musk and gloom, far too vexatious for any living creature. A land that conceivably only hosted the dead. Hell? Maybe. Yet, man saw the mountains and the plains, valleys, the grasslands and the harsh deserts that Earth and Sky had created. Now where do we stand? Is it possible that we may have wandered far too distant from our promised land? Is there any return? Do we consciously lead our way into the gates of the no-man's land and throw ourselves onto the wrathful permanency of Whejura, to never know light again? Or do the answers to our question remain with Earth and Sky? Could the answer be as simple as a husband and wife falling out of love? Has Sky decided to withdraw his hands from Earth? Will we ever find the answers?

Can we then, seek the answers from Sky and Earth?

# DELUSORY

-Ojas Krish, X

China. The word on everyone's lips as the coronavirus slowly takes over the world. Even before the COVID-19, a country that was almost universally hated because of all of its humans' rights violations; Hong Kong propagated the disgrace of China even further. However, does China deserve all of this hate? Does it really have to be blamed for the current world state? And, is it baffling that they still pursue their objectives in the South China Sea? The answer to all of those questions is yes. China is trapped in a state of delusional delusory. Let me explain.

Let's go back to the start. China's wet market has been blamed as the source of the Covid19. The many viruses that have arisen and can continue to arise from a wet market have been well documented. SARS was a viral disease that broke out in 2002, that originated from a Chinese wet market. In fact, the similarities between SARS and the Coronavirus is so sharp that another name given to the Coronavirus by scientists is SARS-Cov-2. Despite China's history of viral outbreaks, its government continues to promote virus related research in poorly equipped labs. It's irresponsibility of subjecting the world to two pandemics is galling, even more it's absolute nonchalant attitude to the possibility of future outbreaks all arising from the same wet-markets it

refuses to cull. We must now draw our attention to even more outrageous action that China has undertaken even as the world continues to reel under the Covid-19. The true face of Xi Jin Ping, that no amount of public relations patch work can fix.

The reasons behind the outrage the world feels against China is countless. From dishing out faulty kits to Spain and India, to targeting a few who dared to raise the concern and blow the whistle (For example, Li Wenliang), it has taken advantage of this crisis to push its military dominance in the South China Sea. Countries that had so far covered on the face of Chinese supremacy like Taiwan, Indonesia and Malaysia have raised their voices against these under handed tactics. Hong Kong has gone back to protesting against China's brutalities. All this in the face of the Covid 19 which the world is desperately trying to handle while China increases its foothold in World Economy. Although Donald Trump and Boris Johnson have proven to be ineffective at controlling the outbreak, it is now essential for them, and other world superpowers to put their foot down, and firmly take China into account. Military action should be an ultimate last resort, but I think the time has come for the World to see past Xi's lies and stand up for the countries in the SCA.

# JUST KIDDING

-Nomera Ibnat Alam, XII

“What’s the point of having trained in music for five years if you can’t sing on stage? Never mind, just kidding.” “I heard you are participating in that race. Can you even run? Just kidding, good luck.” “Look at you, haha! Are you actually going to wear this red dress to the party? Just kidding, you look good.”

Being an introvert, sharing opinions or talking about something always seemed like an onerous task. It’s hard to get out of a shell and to gather enough courage to speak about things you’ve been going through or something that’s holding you back from accomplishing what you have always dreamt of. Personally, I have always tried to accept criticism as positively as possible. I have let people assess me on what I am doing or I wish to do. I didn’t really retaliate to any of those statements that screamed “You can’t do this”, “I think you shouldn’t do this” or any of those laughs that echoed everytime i tried to pull off something out of my comfort zone. Perhaps, it was all in my comfort zone but those comments never really gave me the chance to discover. Yes, I regret taking all kinds of criticism positively. The incidents I mentioned in the opening lines are a few instances of careless statements made which not only breaks

someone’s confidence to do a particular task but also shatters their will to do something for which probably they have been gearing up for years now.

What I am trying to emphasize is, don’t stop people from doing something new or something they want to seek. You might be a person who performs every task with utmost excellence but there are people who are still struggling with constant hesitation on attempting something new. You strike terror in their hearts with your inane ill sought opinions and because you are waiting to watch them fail. All this so that you can have a good laugh, all in the name of a ‘good joke’. Don’t criticise the person for whom it took years to gather the courage to deliver that speech on stage. Don’t laugh at that kid who tried to sing on the stage for the first time killing his stage fright that has been killing him for years now. Don’t shame others for being whatever they are because they are probably trying to bury their insecurities everyday. Don’t make statements and try to cover it up with a smile or merely by saying “just kidding” because, dear friend, by then, you have already made that person erase the desire to fulfill his/her dreams.

## THE OUTPOST

97 have been confirmed dead while two live to see the dawn in Lahore, as the decade old Airbus A320 purchased from China, crashed into a residential area damaging several houses and injuring eleven people. Millions across Eastern India and Bangladesh return to face the chaos left in the wake of the Amphan. Hong Kong’s future looks bleak as China further erodes its autonomy with the introduction of a new law, despite the renewed political unrest by the citizens. The violence torn J&K, feels the absence of a civilian government more than ever as the coronavirus woes continue to spiral.



Illustration: Takhe Tamo Reela



# Aviator's Guide To The Quarantine

What does an Aviator do when they are quarantined from the outside world? How do they quench the boredom of solitude? Here are some things you can do:

**DEVELOP:** Like a caterpillar that emerges as a butterfly after it's time in the cocoon, you should take this time locked up to build up your character, learn some new life skills and emerge as a more majestic form of yourself. Listen to some informative podcasts or take part in online skill learning opportunities.

**DEBATE:** Whether it is about current events and serious topics or maybe just fun banter between friends upon fan theories about a show you watch. Get that grey matter flowing and test your might in this interactive mental exercise.

**SEARCH:** Out of ideas of what to do during these locked up times? Ask your friends on what they like to do, you might just find something new you just might like and if that is the case, congrats! you now have a new way to connect with your friend! so make the most of it.

## Ripple #128

-Jeremy Jahau, Editor-in-Chief

*Closed doors but the  
mind is free*

*Break the barrier  
that only the mind  
can see*

*So locked in but your  
thoughts are out  
No virus can stop  
it just seeds of self  
doubt*

## Keep It Reel!

### WASHED AWAY

-Nomera Ibnat Alam, XII



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Photo Credit: Letminlun Haokip

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