Dear Reader,

Welcome to the fifth edition of Horizons’ Quarantine Digest! We hope that you are doing well as we are drawing into another month of quarantine. Let’s take time today to look out the window and chase the sun. Summer is lingering on the edge, it’s June already! Please don’t forget the importance of holding onto hope, of discovering, of moving, and of wondering. It will be nice to set aside some time every day to challenge yourself a bit, learn about something new, and of course, to create within your vision of the world.

We are pleased to present another edition of the Quarantine Digest. We always look forward to more of your work, the excitement of observing our community's creativity grows greater day-by-day. With continuous joy and pride, we are directing you to the following pages, hoping that you will see something that makes this day a little brighter for you.
Please take a look at this magnificent drawing, “Battle,” by Wesley Kwok.
Check out this fascinating poem, *the boy and the sun*, by Benjamin Daughtry.

A boy steps out of the shower. His skin is cool to the touch, his body is completely dry.

His eyes are gold and he is beautiful. His arms look strengthened by work, but (of course) he has never worked.

He is actually quite fragile like a glass statue, or a vase. If he stays very still, he becomes a statue.

He walks from the bathroom through the kitchen and then out onto the sidewalk in front of the house.

The sun is warm after the cool of the house and he stands naked on the street.

He can see the sun through the red of his closed eyes. The sun has been waiting for him and is now too eager for subtlety--

reaching out tenderly at first caressing the boy.

Who suddenly opens his eyes the sun shivers and is held uncertain and uneasy in the boy’s golden gaze.

This has never happened before. The sun is not used to being looked at directly, at first it does not know what to think

After a while, the boy is burnt. The sun attempts to make conversation, but is met only with his stare.

The sun will not rise or set. It has stopped, directly in front of the boy, whose golden eyes are now completely blind.

Days go by and his skin peels unevenly away, away into thin translucent sheets revealing fresh darker skin.

Which is then also burnt by the sun who refuses to leave his side, sweating and smiling to passersby.

Time is difficult to gauge without the rising and setting of the sun. They make up a system to count the days.
After a thousand years, the boy’s skin is thick and dark and mostly made of cancer.

The sun has told him all its secrets.

One day after a particularly chilly night, the sun realizes that it has caught a cold. It shivers and explains to the boy, who is now a man,

that it needs hot soup and strong tea and some time in bed to recover.

To make sure the man is following and ask if he needs help keeping up.

But oh no! What is this? The man has gone. He has gone and left the outer layer of his skin slipped out the back.

The sun asks the man if he would like to come with to see where the sun goes during the night.

He seems to agree.

Delighted, the sun gets up and laughs when it realizes that it can’t remember whether it had been rising or setting when they had first met. It hovers for a moment in indecision and then begins to rise.

At some point, the sun turns back. The space the sun never saw his golden eyes left in their sockets. When had he gone? Just now or long before? How long had the sun been alone like a fool?

The sun sinks slowly golden at the edge of the earth.
Take a look at this beautiful photograph, “Look Up,” by Nivrita Haque.

And a huge thanks to Dayna Chen for this stunning border!
Below you will find this week’s art and writing prompts for inspiration.

➔ **Writing Prompts Week 5:**

◆ Write a poem, short story, or essay about a time you’ve felt silenced, misheard, or subdued. Then write a piece about a time you were heard, encouraged, or had your voice shared.

◆ Write a poem about your future. What is it like? What things will change? What things will remain the same?

◆ “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world,” wrote Anne Frank, a little girl who left such a beautiful legacy and influenced the generations and generations to come. Think of all the possibilities you have to make your dreams come true. Imagine them in detail and persuade your reader into believing in the power of your dreams to change the world.

◆ *The Tragedy of Hamlet, The Prince of Denmark* is William Shakespeare’s longest play where the contradictory ideologies of life and death, forgiveness and revenge, courage and cowardice in human nature are heavily explored. Hamlet’s famous “To Be, or Not To Be” speech/soliloquy is still a subject of philosophical discussions. Everyone has a *to be or not to be* moment, a moment that can exist in many different forms, including to do or not to do, to have or not to have, to go or not to go moments. These decisions shape an individual and who they become. Think of such a moment in your life. Write about how this decision influenced who you are today.
◆ From *Poets & Writers* — “The journey runs right through the eye of desolation. The murdered albatross is a bottomless symbol: It stands for everything you greedily grabbed at, everything you squandered or spurned, every ornament of the ego, every plastic water bottle, every corrosive pleasure, every idle meanness,” writes James Parker in “The 1798 Poem That Was Made for 2020,” his essay at the *Atlantic* about the “Ancient Mariner” Big Read, a collective online reading of Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s epic curated and produced by the University of Plymouth. Write a poem that revolves around a bottomless symbol—perhaps an animal, a plant, or everyday object—inspired by the ancient mariner who “is condemned to tell his tale, to recite his rhyme, over and over again.”

◆ From *Poets & Writers* — “Each of my pilgrimages aims at some other pilgrim,” writes Olga Tokarczuk in her novel *Flights* (Riverhead Books, 2018), translated from the Polish by Jennifer Croft. This sentence is repeated throughout the book, which unfolds as a series of scenes, vignettes, and stories told and relayed by a traveling narrator, stories both expansive and intimate which span and hop back and forth between different eras, continents, and a vast array of histories and disciplines. This week, conceive of a pilgrimage for a main character who is in search of an answer to a big life question. How might your character find guidance on this journey by turning toward other pilgrims from the past?

➔ Art Prompts Week 5:

◆ Sketch a portrait of a loved one. Then use watercolor to paint over your sketch using a minute for each minute that person has lived. *(The
editor’s personal favorite. This might help us depict those lost to police brutality in an impactful way.)

◆ Create an art piece depicting “home.” What does home mean to you? How do you define home?

◆ Use any medium to express your emotions in a color, or a mixture of colors. Then use the same medium to represent the color(s) you want to represent you.

◆ “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past,” wrote F. Scott Fitzgerald in his magnificent novel The Great Gatsby and explored the inability of humans to leave the past behind. Think of the event of the past you cannot forget about. Depict in detail the way you see the event and the way you remember it.

◆ The “Art At Home” Kindness Rocks Challenge — It’s warming up, we’re starting to venture out into nature a little more but, social distancing is still in full effect and it’s hard sometimes… Why not leave a little piece of art to brighten someone's day where they would least expect it?? This week we’re asking you to leave a little kindness, a little beauty, a little color, or even a little humor for your fellow humans to find by painting rocks! Pick a rock, paint it however you like, and then hide it in plain sight for someone to find and really “rock” their day!

Dear Reader, we are continuously accepting submissions for our online magazine. Please submit your quarantined creative works to horizonspeople@gmail.com. We’re accepting any theme for our online publication.
And the most exciting news for this week: the physical edition of this year's magazine was published last week!

Check out the wonderful yearly magazine on our website where you can find previous editions of the Quarantine Digest as well. [https://bthshorizonspeople.wordpress.com](https://bthshorizonspeople.wordpress.com)

We want to tell you that we are with you. Please do reach out if you need any support and/or help. In times like these, we should stand the closest we have ever stood. It is time to show one another compassion and love. Please don’t forget to stay safe, healthy and positive. Take some time to appreciate all the little things in life, sometimes they matter the most. And most importantly, stay strong, there is nothing more powerful than that.

With most loving regards,

The Editors of Horizons