

Applaud the Thunder

You already kept your distance
Before the pandemic

Because you couldn't accommodate
My colour in your scheme of things

(Or you came too close
To ask me where I was from

And when I was leaving

Or I kept my distance
Since I sensed your hostility)

But now you seem to be
Busy remembering -
While bored alone in lock down-

The once-bustling streets
The hubbub of everybody
About their business

You find now you're missing
Human proximity
Vibes given off from minds and bodies -

Even me...?

We thought there was no '*us*'
Until this virus...

(In cities the cars have fallen silent,
We hear the birds sing
In the eerie spring silence,
And laudatory thunders
Of applause in the distance

And soon it will be raining

And we'll all be under
Transparent visors -
Watching the droplets spatter
On plastic as we did as children
Through those see-through umbrellas)

And what do we do
When there's no more applause

And the thunder roars..?

(Applaud the thunder...).

Alan Morrison