

The Fall

Written by Pedro Meyer



You must have thought that we closed for the summer or for the World Cup Football matches, as neither our cover nor the editorial page have changed in quite some time now. I only wish we

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had those good reasons to absent ourselves from you during this period.

We did watch some football matches however, that is, when I was not being operated on. At times when I was drugged to the eyeballs to avoid the pains from the two operations I had, I did manage to watch some games, for instance, between, Senegal and France, Brazil and England among others. The players were like flying instead of running. When looking at a TV, those painkillers at the hospital play some strange tricks on one's visuals. Were it not for the fact that I broke my spine in a fall, the whole thing would have been quite hilarious.

While visiting one of my favorite countries, Ecuador (it still is!), I had an accident and in that fall I broke a disc in my back. You want all the details? Well, that will appear here in ZoneZero, very soon, in a digital diary I kept during this entire period. It will even contain among others, a video of the operation on my back that probably most of you do not really want to see.

But let me not digress. This is in essence about photography, and in particular about an area of digital photography that possibly you have not stopped to consider much before when traveling.

After my accident, and a long winding adventure from Quito to the Galapagos Islands, and back to a hospital in Quito, Ecuador; I had at long last a diagnosis after being the better part of a week in the hospital. An MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) allowed me to understand what was the origin of all my pains. Pains that not even the morphine I was being administered at the hospital would reduce. The broken disc which was pressing on my nerves in the lumbar region

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of my back, in addition to the inflammation, had caused considerable nerve damage.

I called a cousin of mine who is the head of the Pain Institute at USC in Los Angeles, to consult what to do. He requested to see the MRI before giving me an answer. I asked the doctors at the hospital to send him the MRI to Los Angeles. Sadly they informed me they could not do so, as they lacked the equipment and know how to do this from the hospital.

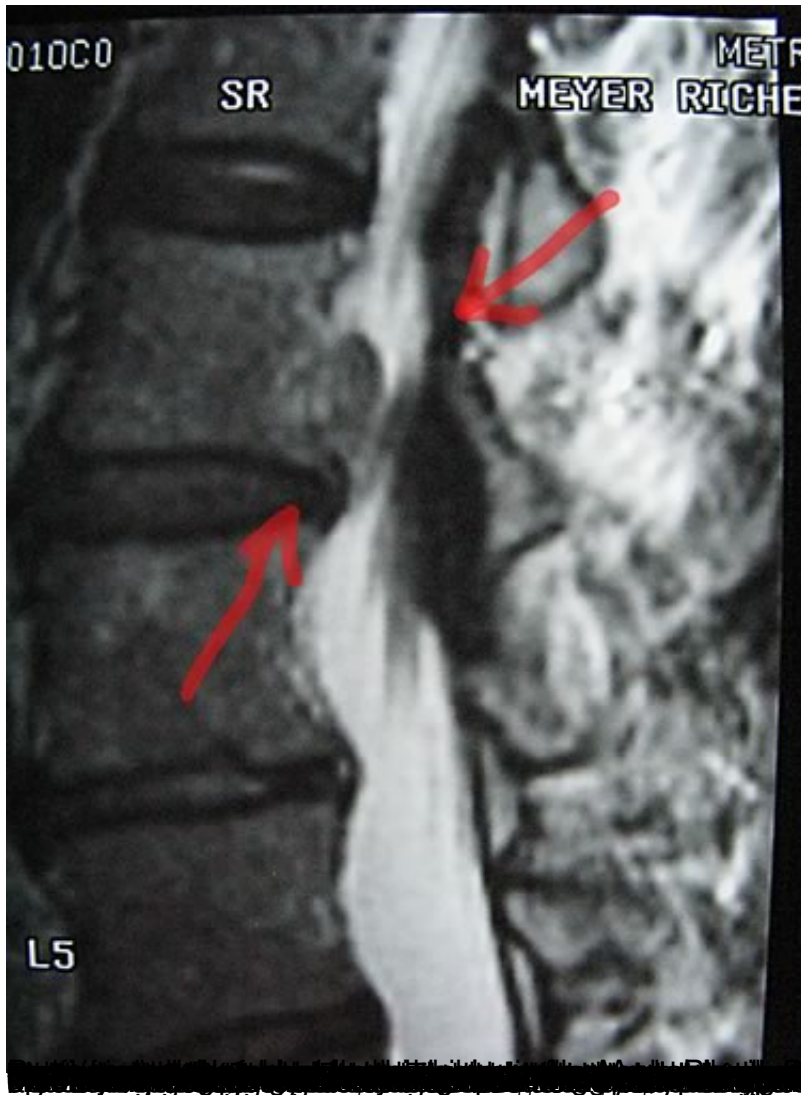
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Black and white photograph of a large commercial airplane, showing the underside of the fuselage, wing, and engine. The image is taken from a low angle, looking up at the aircraft. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text "Black and white photograph of a large commercial airplane, showing the underside of the fuselage, wing, and engine. The image is taken from a low angle, looking up at the aircraft. The sky is blue with some clouds." is overlaid on the image.

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Spain's leading newspaper, the 'El País', has been accused of being a 'tabloid' and of 'sensationalism' by its own readers. The paper's editor, José María Aznar, has been accused of 'sensationalism' and 'sensationalism' by its own readers. The paper's editor, José María Aznar, has been accused of 'sensationalism' and 'sensationalism' by its own readers.

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would be in the area. Los Angeles, and a few hours after our arrival I had the first of what

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