

## Mother Earth Is Screaming

Mother Earth, so beautiful, so fragile, is finally sick  
Sick of the abuse she has had to endure for so long  
Why are we surprised?  
She has given to us, the humans who thrive  
Because of her generosity  
So many warnings  
Drought. Fires. Smoke. Floods.  
But we merely stayed asleep  
Silent through it all

She is finally screaming  
STOP. NO MORE ABUSE.  
RESPECT ME. I AM YOUR MOTHER.  
LISTEN TO ME. HEAR ME. SEE ME.  
LISTEN TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.  
THEY HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE WILL  
TO TAKE CARE OF ME.

We have infected our Mother with toxic fumes  
We have clogged her waterways with plastic and poisons  
We have dug unsightly holes in her skin  
To plunder her treasures  
We have drained her sweet underground waters  
Leaving her barren  
We have subjected her precious animals  
To cruelty and neglect  
We have done all these things in our sleep  
With no thought for the future

Well. We are awake now.  
It has taken a deadly global virus  
Gallop across the Earth

Like the White Rider of the Apocalypse  
Flinging his infected arrows far and wide  
To finally cause humans to  
Stop taking their Mother for granted  
To wake up

We are beginning to come together  
By keeping our distance  
We are slowing down  
But speeding up our creativity  
We are opening our eyes and our ears and our hearts  
As we close our shops, our front doors and our borders  
We are becoming aware of what is really important  
Food. Shelter. Family. Connection.  
Love. Music. Art. Health.

We are scared  
But we are learning to value each other again  
To look for answers deep within ourselves  
To connect to a higher state of consciousness  
That is not ruled by fear  
We must use this time wisely  
To remember we are all connected  
Our health depends on the health of our Mother Earth  
We cannot keep destroying her natural habitats  
And changing her climate  
Driving wildlife to move closer to people  
Spreading pathogens and disease

Will we hear her scream?  
Will we restore the balance?  
Will we be prepared to replace greed with  
Love. Kindness. Justice. Awareness.  
Now is our chance  
Now is our chance

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