

Before

a planet in crisis

no clean air to breathe

hurricanes, tsunamis, twisters claiming lives

human... animal... planet.

life

waking up finally

needing solutions

time is not on our side

hotter everyday

a chance of treachery in the forecast

losing life every moment

every second, one thousand last-breaths are gasped

suddenly denial is ludicrous

The earth was in a downward spiral. For decades... nearly a century, humans had denied the human impact on the earth, though it was clear as day. One day there was no denying possible. The heat was unbearable, the disasters constant, and the deaths... unprecedented. Humans had a hand in wiping out most animal species, besides those in which they fed off of or kept as pets. Plant life was dwindling, with rainforests dried up and pine forests burned to a crisp.

Humans were suddenly forced to take a good, hard look at their problems. They needed drastic change for rapid results if the human race was to continue on sans destruction of the world. The root problem was determined to be selfishness. Caught up in satisfying the self,

humans disregarded the earth which sustained them. The greatest sin of all was determined to be the constant need to find love, to make money at all costs, and reproduce. These habits led to people growing apathetic towards the destruction their selfish desires had caused. One thing was certain: priorities must change.

Solution

love

love is necessary

no, a necessity... essential

it is lack of love that led us here

grow now love for planet and nature

all living beings

community

we will nurture these forms of love

grow them like we will grow plants in fertile soil

we need this love for survival

and the world will once again love us back

love of things like

cars or big homes or jet-setting

television or computer

those will not be necessary

there will be no more consumerism

no more capitalism

no more greed and mass production

those jobs are no longer available

instead all people will do their part for the earth

all jobs will have a benefit

will be ethical

sustainable

romantic love has also clearly

been a downfall

a sweet and silly distraction

now socially unacceptable in a society

now which has bigger priorities

familial love

love of children

surely was once necessary for survival

for growing the human population

it shall now be limited

controlled.

we will reproduce

intentionally

choose those most maternal among us
most biologically fit
they will bear and rear the world's children
according to our morals and values

men sterilized after collection of their seed
women not chosen as mothers, too
clinical conception
strategic reproduction
there is no need for romance or sex in this process
careful population control

girls and boys will be brought up to nurture the earth and those who roam it
boys and girls will be loved and cared for the same
we cannot let another generation of toxic masculinity taint any progress

for those who are not our mothers
shall exhaust their energy to the needs of the earth and
the life that is left on it.
in this system
our only option is to thrive

we are all one now.

as we always have been.

recognizing it again as humanity did long ago.

no countries

no states or districts

we are humans of the world and together we move forward

It was drastic, but that is what we needed. Those who objected couldn't for long... refusing to change was complacency, which was no longer an accepted reaction to the world's issues. City by city, the new ways were adopted across the globe. A decade went by, and then another. Slowly plants inhabited the areas that were once covered in concrete, previously imprisoned animals roamed freely, and those once dangerously endangered were making a comeback. The efforts of the people were paying off, and people were happy. They lived off the land and did important, meaningful work. Children were loved and cared for by mothers who wanted them, with the resources and information to raise well-adjusted children and future world citizens.

Mothers

my body deemed ideal for reproduction

my willingness and desire to care for children

the future generation

I was chosen as a mother, aged fourteen

taken out of humanitarian studies

no more horticulture

no more being prepared to preserve wild spaces

transforming concrete into jungle

joining other mothers in classes about physiological childbirth

learning to care for my body in preparation

to eat healthy, get sunlight and exercise

we have to understand the procedure

which will make us pregnant

we have to give consent

if we do not, we can change our minds

we learn infant care

how to nurture children

and most importantly, how to instill in them

our values

tell them stories of the earth's troubled past

tell them how our ancestors forgot to love

how they chose selfish love which allowed the earth

to become ill

teach them what they could be

gardener

teacher

wildlife preservationist

animal caregiver

vegan chef (the only kind- we no longer consume animals)

community planner

herbalist

midwife

teach them to sit and breathe on soft soil

connecting to the earth

feeling its vibrations

developing love for the living earth

we mothers love these children we grow

because they will go from us one day

as beacons of light

we are privileged

to know the love of children

only we know that joy

few are selected

the population is too high

it is a vital job

the procedure uncomfortable

childbirth grueling

raising future citizens

so much pressure

yet

letting them go is the most devastating pain

there are rumors

mothers who resent their chosen position

one mother, lilly

perhaps destined to be a healer of animals

chosen to be a mother

still longed for a different life

but knew she would make a good mother

could instill the proper values

when she laid her eyes upon the infant

named willow

she felt deep love

pure and always flowing
willow raised by lilly to be the healer she dreamed of being
she gave her a love that was rare to find
flowing between two humans in this new world
who would willow grow to be with lilly's love?

willow

my mother taught me the essentials
compassion and empathy
love
love for life... earthly... animal... nature
but the love she showed me was human
and it was like no other

I am grateful and indebted
I'd never give it back, not for anything

my job is to care for animals on their sanctuary
cows, goats, pigs, chickens, horses
these animals were once caged and even eaten
knowing them intimately I cannot imagine it
they now roam freely
as we work to control their population

which our ancestors forced out of control

I pat pig bellies

throw balls for cows

assist in sterilization

essentially make sure they live as they should

sometimes I imagine they are my children

I care for them as mother did for me

I am passionate about this work

all who are here with me feel the same

but I can feel how I am different from them

I see how my mother's influence altered my perception

I often desire to be close to those around me

to reach for a hand

to embrace

enjoying the warmth of a human body

often I work beside jonathan

we get along well

everytime I see him

my face flushes

my heart beats fast

I wake from vivid dreams where he is holding me

they flash into my mind when we work the grounds together

I try to hide it in my gaze

but one day

I notice something in his

a burst of light I swear I see in his eyes

as if he forgot to shut a gate

forgot to lock the door

and whatever was inside

came to show itself after long captivity

In a society where romantic love, even deep friendship is considered self-indulging, many go their entire lives without human companionship. Those who desire are often never able to find someone who also wants to take the risk. However, there were rumors of people who found others to love. In an underground market of sorts, people engaged in deep human connection and intimacy. Willow deeply desired this for herself, but would Jonathan or anyone else in her life want her enough to risk it all?