

We Belong to the Earth

My perception of our earth and society is paradoxical. Beauty does not exist in the absence of crudeness. Harmony does not exist without the existence of disagreement. Our world is wonderful, but I cannot say that without experiencing the unpleasantness, I have grown to realize this, while watching the grass wilt and birds fall, the way I used to watch flowers bloom and water flow. There was a time in which our Earth was harmonious, but we could not grasp the near perfection because there were no flaws to show us why we should appreciate what we had the privilege of experiencing.

I have a dream of this harmonious Earth, one where humanity and our living land grow together as one.

As I sink into the Earth's soul I feel fully surrounded by the music of life. The birds calling to one another, the trees swaying toward each other then instantly away in a never-ending dance. I close my eyes and allow myself to be engulfed in the warmth of the golden rays casting upon my skin, hugging me with a light that makes me feel inner peace deep within me. This experience unique in its pure calm.

I am gently taken out of this trance from the quiet sound of rustling leaves, I open my eyes to observe a fawn taking tender steps towards me, I softly reach my hand toward her, warmly inviting her to into my space of peace, she takes my offer and lies down beside me on the cloud of grass below us. I do not touch her or invade her space I simply exist alongside the delicate creature, her beautiful chestnut eyes blinking slowly at me, as if they can look through my eyes and into my soul deep within. This moment is undisturbed in a way that keeps it purely ours.

As the golden rays begin to paint the sky with various shades of daffodil, rose and lilac I look to the sleeping fawn laying at my side and tell her,

“Goodbye beautiful, I will see you again soon”

I then tenderly stand to my full height and look as the gentle breeze blows the trees to show a glittering spring in the distance. I retreat from my haven of tranquility within the foliage and roam towards the water that is calling me with its enchanting spell. As I step through the clearing, I am taken aback by the waterfall that comes into view. The cascade of liquid life luring me in with its optimistic promise. The energy of its everlasting memory evident within the calming hush of the flowing water. As I gaze upon the water I see the gathering place of my people just off the edge of the spring. We have settled alongside the natural landscape blending to form a perfect picture that displays the commensual ways of life we decide to live.

As I approach the lived-in land, the various members of my community greet me. Alanna looks at me and smiles with a wave as she scatters food for the chickens, Donny nods his head at

me in familiarity then goes back to building the fire and Juli sets down the blanket she was knitting to walk over to me.

“Oh, Lizzy you’re back! I was wondering where you went off to” she says as she hugs me.

“I went to grab some berries and got sidetracked when a fawn came up to me” I say

“Was it the same one as last time?” She asks with a glimmer of interest in her eyes

“This one was younger, so I do not think so, but she laid with me for a while and it was really nice” I say as I begin to walk towards my makeshift treehouse

“That is wonderful, you really have a way to get those guys to trust you. I am going to go finish my blanket for mom though before it gets too dark, love you!” She says as we part ways.

As I climb onto my platform amongst the trees, I set down the flowers and berries I had in my satchel and take a deep breath. This breath brings a sense of belonging deep into my soul and allows me to truly process the beauty of the human experience, our Earth is so precious, and we have the gift to live in unanimity with all of the living things we share it with. I smile as I lay back on the platform and gaze up towards the sky. I am immediately swept away from myself as I drink in the star filled heavens. The universe’s freckles staring down at me, each one holding more energy than I could ever comprehend. I watch as an ivory light cuts across the sky and I make a wish:

“I wish that we never lose sight of the beauty in which we have the gift of living upon”

And with that moment I lay and watch the stars as I fall into a deep sleep excited for the adventures that tomorrow will bring.

Allow me to open your eyes, while my past reality may seem as if it is a dream, it very much can be a reality once again, our world is still as beautiful as it was, we have only changed the way we view it; we belong to the Earth, we do not own it. We have lived these past years as if the *Earth is a dead thing we can claim, but I know every rock and tree and creature, has a life, has a spirit, has a name.* Without respect for our planet, we have taken and stripped it of all that made it beautiful, but we can live alongside nature once again so let us decide to do so.