

Words for Your World

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We came, we saw but have we conquered?

He arrived- an axe, bludgeoned to his hands, rested in his palms-sleeping with qualms.
Domineering- it stood on its one foot- singular- sailing- a ship on the sea.
Its sinecure very ready, awoke to cash and currency.

He raised the sword, long forgotten, to a zenith, just as the dove
Flies its convoluted wings freely in search for the joy it desired,
And down splashed the dagger, wave-like on a shore, set to its target-

A tree! - enamoured in gold. Its lustre of
Metallic brown patrolled the bark as the lion to its cub.
O how sweet the verdant leaves must have been
Waving- flakes of hair on a new-born child.

So, it came down, roaring. Nay, the hands froze with an ice cap of sorrow.
They must have reminisced the squirrels- delicate- dancing
Just as the humans. Or rather, the succulent apple that descended, or even
A nest that hoped. For killing one of your own is but morality.

To live in guilt or to die in sobriety.
To be a lone warrior or a conformist to society.
A relished war we live in –its consequences nebulous,
A problem we face, its solutions- endless.

This is about climate emergency.

I want to live in a world where I can breathe, not through greenhouse gases. I want to live in a world where I can drink not because of the heat waves. I want to live in a world where penguins and toucans do not fall a prey to us predators, where they survive without the fear of losing their home, our home, everyone's home. I want to live.

You do not go a week without ever hearing 'climate change' and its unswerving emergency. Everyone hates it- even me! But I do not hate those poor wildlife populations, which dropped by 60% in over 40 years. I hate the 1.05 degrees C we have added to global temperature. I hate the 3.6 mm of sea level rise which means Dhaka, Indonesia and Jakarta would be underwater by 2050. I despise these things, but I have hope, and so should all of us.

A plague that has murdered us for two years, with deaths, infection, illness; that plague of COVID-19 has proved bountiful to the environment we live in. While we hid in our homes from our seeker-lockdown, the wildest of the wild occurred: deer roaming around East London, sheep exploring the Preston city centre and dolphins rejoicing in Venice's clear waterways- a distinct impact caused by a reduction in demand for global energy, from a reduction in fossil fuel burning. In March 2020, satellite imagery from the European Space Agency detected a rapid decline in greenhouse emissions over cities in Asia and Europe during lockdown. Another report stated by Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) insinuates a 40% reduction in average level of NO₂ pollution over the past 30 days (from March 2020), leaving an inspirational 11,000 avoided deaths from air pollutions.

11,000.

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It is blatant COVID-19 and its effects have really provided exorbitant hope which we required but must appropriate of. Dr Michael Sweet, a respected Associate Professor in Aquatic Biology at the University of Derby states: "A reduction in water and air pollution looks good now (from coronavirus) but the long-lasting effects are probably minimal." Yes, the effects might be minimal, but this is a start; a foundation to build walls on. A disease that has killed millions, made ill even more, caused economic loss for businesses and what not- this virus has still revived the climate emergency campaign; and here rests my hope. Let us take advantage of the COVID dilemma we have been plunged in, let us unlock the secrets of lockdown to help aid us in the future as we, and I mean every single one of us, combat climate change.

That axe was our emergency, that tree was its victims, those squirrels- delicately dancing and the succulent apple and the nest that hoped- they were all humanity's voices which were heard and those palms that froze with an ice cap of sorrow- that is our hope. Hope that can turn into reality from the protest of your voices, our voices, everyone's voices. Hope that stemmed from one of the worst pandemics of history. We came, we saw, but have we conquered? Now it is time to conquer, and that will be climate change.