

## To be what once was...

The water flows clean to quench our thirst,  
The tree bears fruit to satisfy our hunger,  
But with this in mind, we must let reality burst.  
Exploitation may have been our greatest blunder.  
You see, it is important to note that all things need balance,  
For the ecosystem to serve, nature must flourish,  
Yet, in this giving world, we can be an immense hindrance,  
Driving climate change and even leaving forests in anguish.  
This planet used to be booming with biodiversity,  
The plants, the animals, the fungi, the bacteria,  
Our world needs all the kinds to thrive in solidarity,  
For all these species intertwine like an intricate web,  
Working together to maintain balance and sustain life.  
This is the part where we come into the picture,  
Each time we take without giving, we stab the world in strife.  
Whenever we use without thinking, we form a puncture,  
Slowly pulling apart that intricate web that keeps us living in harmony.  
Even in places that are hotspots of biodiversity,  
In areas like the southern tip of South Africa, an area of fertility,  
We can look into the past and present and form a timeline,  
Where it is ever so clear that humans have caused a decline.  
Now we need to undo what we have done, to build our future,  
By mending the wounds of our intricate web ever so intently.  
Policies need to change, and targets must be set,  
To restore the biodiversity and maintain environmental stability.  
Every person can play a role in reducing our threat,  
By moving slowly and only taking what we need,  
Nurturing our lands and managing them devotedly,  
Restoring the diversity that once was and planting that seed,  
We can slowly revitalise our cultivating benevolent land.  
We must face the challenges and take different leads,  
And always work together hand in hand.  
We must practice prudence and understand,  
Sometimes, the past is the key to the future.  
Oh, to be what once was...

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