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Earth: "Un-human me"

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Earth: "Un-human me"

Abstract

He took a rib from your side and made others.

So you considered Others your children, forever.

He told you to go forth and produce and multiply so you made capitalism.

He told you to go forth and conquer and pillage and mark your name and plant your flag where-ever you wanted.

So now the moon is yours. Jupiter, beware! [*excerpt*]

Keywords

climate change, Gettysburg College, student protest, environmentalism, religion

Disciplines

Environmental Health and Protection | Environmental Studies | Ethics in Religion | Poetry | Religion | Sustainability

Comments

This poem was written and performed at the student-led Global Climate Crisis Strike. Students, faculty, and staff gathered at Gettysburg College campus to participate in the global walkout for climate change reform.

Title: Earth: "Un-human me"

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So now the moon is yours. Jupiter, beware!

And on the first day you did so, and on the 7th day you reflected and said it is good.

And so on the 8th day you stormed the throne and declared yourself King of the heavens.

You rained manna like Hurricanes Gilbert, Maria and Dorian so that we were literally drowning in your love.

Despite the abundance of manna, she said that she wanted her own.

She wanted to be unyoked.

You saw no yoke, but rather ungratefulness.

It is no wonder that you call it Mother Earth.

It is no wonder that you've made it into a person,
into a woman.

So that she could be subdued,

saved,

made 2nd class.

Jim Crow'ed.

Owned.

So that you could speak on her behalf.

We gather today in this place called Gettysburg where we re-enact a bloody civil war every summer. Why do we not re-enact peaceful vigils and revolutions?

Is it because we are so obsessed with death?

Is it because we know how to kill and stifle?

Speak for no one.

Speak not for the woman,

nor for the formerly enslaved,

not for the earth;

each has its own language to enunciate freedom on their own terms...

You are broken.

Go heal thyself.

Learn how to share and nurture and when you do,

when we all do,

may we re-enact that a thousand times over...

written by Dr. Hakim Mohandas Amani Williams

for the student-led Climate Crisis Strike at Gettysburg College on 9.20.19