

## *Earth Day Emergency*

Earth Day should be Thanksgiving, not Mother  
Earth's Good Friday, when *Extinction's* spectre—  
Those ghosts of the *Endangered* or those *Dead*  
Creatures haunt us—souls polluted by lead,  
Mercury, arsenic, acids, and seeds  
“Frankensteined” genetically. Live meat bleeds  
As it conveyor-belts from plains to plates—  
Shrink-wrapped, sporting “Best Before”-stamp, stale dates—  
While dolphins and whales, having gulped down our  
Plastic garbage and water bottles, lour,  
Thrash, and beach themselves, their bellies starving,  
And tides turn as red as blood spilled, carving  
And serving mad cows or sick swine, all ill  
From ingesting strange flesh and/or feces,  
Contracted in ponds, scum-green with algae.  
Earth Day should be Eden Revival Day,  
Not a “Mayday! Mayday!” Emergency,  
When the Apocalypse sounds factual—  
Angels strike, and precious seem wine and oil,  
And the seas belch up blood, and all fish die,  
And sun scorches like fire, so wetlands dry,  
And locusts chew roots, leaves, fruits, and *Famine*

Eats every human down to skeleton,  
And skies shine with poison *Radiation*  
Or go dark with choking smog. No nation  
Is immune from *terra firma* that shakes!  
One must ask: Does fracking trigger earthquakes?  
Ebola, SARS, Swine Flu, Bird Flu,  
And other pestilential plagues renew,  
Plus West Nile Virus, and other disease—  
Infections without treatment, deaths *sans* cease.  
Lethal's now the baffling kiss of sunlight—  
Intricately broken down is skin, white  
With pus, putrid with boils, palpably raw,  
While tornadoes whirl and swirl, clout and claw,  
Oceans go soapy as a laundromat,  
Foaming; skyscrapers totter; homes go splat;  
A *tsunami* of trash washes away  
Hospitals, leaving unsanitary  
Cadavers. Each toxic anatomy—  
In obscene inundation—heaps awry.  
Oil spills, clear-cut forests, firestorms, sink-holes  
Swallowing suburbs whole, are routine tolls  
Now, for "*Progress*." Condemned seas and damned winds,  
Waste lands, Rust Belts, vast contaminations,  
Thorns and rubbish, smashed glass, cracked ceramics,

Charred remains, scorched-earth, war-zone *Economics*,  
Bomb-blast disasters ever more drastic,  
Atomic threats, arms races elastic,  
Ever expanding, is just a short list  
Of unpalatable residues unjust,  
The catastrophes now making us sick—  
Unsustainable—*and* uneconomic.  
Is *Capital* the acceptable  
Villain, or are our choices culpable?  
If Mother Earth now faces assassins,  
Who are the culprits if not we humans?  
This Earth Day demands deliberate turns  
Back to *Nature*: Balance: What each *child* learns.

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