

northwest kids don't mind

the perpetual drizzle of winter rain
they grow up with wet hair
dry humor

green vision
& damp shoulders

they bathe in grey days for weeks
seek cedar forest shelter
& wrap themselves
in blankets of season-change fog

they speak fluent raven
know where the mushrooms spawn
& naturally sense when orca pods
are coming to town
they make friends with coyote
gather plump berries on the path
chatter back at the squirrels
predict weather in the moss
& laugh at the loop of hurry

forest kids understand
the power of the land
before white men arrived
with their sharp-tooth religion
& crucified grandmother trees
yet northwest kids believe in
the wise ease of original lessons:
be kind & peaceful
be generous & grateful
let us see & hear
without judgement or fear
let us listen with ears to the ground
& hearts in our heads

northwest kids hear & see each tree
as a living work of art
each woodland a steadfast friend
each forest a family of perfect beauty
a quiet system for healing & expansion
a great teacher about community
generosity humility & mortality

northwest kids feel waves of symbiosis
how dead salmon fertilize forest
with nitrogen

how the fallen giants
create backwater nurseries
for more young salmon

*great wave of dissolve
watches over us watches over us*

northwest kids connect the dots
they see oil tankers come & go
smell refineries
when wind changes direction
they listen to elders speak
about the flowchart
of cash flow:
*“corporate man only teaches you
things they want you to know”*

but forest kids know the score
there is no Planet B
no other shore to escape to
they know war on nature is mental
not environmental
they know pollution kills more than war
pollution kills more than war

still the kids grow optimystic
& shAmanistic
they see ancestors in the mist
wait for new patches of blue
under canopy of dancing branches
they anticipate warmer winds
& watch magic e x p a n d

fires waves floods & quakes
northwest kids know
everything is interconnected
we're all in this together
especially in these amazing days
of transformation ascension
& weather domination
we must welcome people
from places of great devastation
offer a friendly landing field
blankets of kindness & hot meals

northwest kids know

this is just the beginning
 & more will be revealed
just the beginning
 of sharing & healing
 just the beginning
 of sharing & healing

great wave of dissolve
washes over us washes over us