

OUR EARTH

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO IT?

A speech originally presented to Chester Rotary Club in October 2008 as Mayor of Saltney Town, Flintshire, UK

Our Planet Earth is our only home floating through timeless Space. We have no other, so we must treasure it.

Earth is as a mother that gives us life, food and warmth. Without such we are NOT. We share this home with other species that Mother Earth succours also. We cannot exist without each other.

I will now read out a poem I wrote many years ago which I hope will simply highlight the problems that are besetting earth; the poem being O'Erin.

*O'Erin! O'Erin! Thou beautiest Isle
Whose body is covered in a mantle of green.
Thy bosom riseth above the plains
With wild golden hair, beauty to be seen.*

*The Chieftains of old have fought o'er thee
Killing thy sons, thy mantle turned red.
Until an 'ard ri on Tara's great hill
Brought a little peace to a son in his bed.*

*I cry for thee, O'Erin my love
For thou are now scarred by the works of mankind
Dying from poison and concrete grey
Thy thoughtless people do not seem to mind.*

*Rise up ye sons of the Chieftains of old.
Show pride in that Isle the fairest of all.
Take up your swords against plunders so vile
That again may her beauty be enjoyed by us all.*

Earth has only a finite capacity to support all life. If we all live within the capacity sustainably we and our future generations can exist on the Earth for ever. But we are over weening the earth's resources, more of greed than need, with its' consequences. Those who have WANT more and those who have not even less. The poor have no food and starve, no water and die of thirst: even the lands

are polluted.

Our countryside is diminishing dramatically due to human activity with the result that there is less land to grow food, less habitat for other species, and a denuded landscape.

Mother Earth is now writhing in pain from man's selfishness. She cries and the Earth floods; she has a fever and the earth dries up and burneth up. In her pain all life on Earth suffers also. We must change from our destructive ways if we want to give a good quality of life for us and our future generation. If not all are DOOMED.

I will read out a psalm that arose out of a dream I had during a terror struck night. This is called 'The Psalm of Fear and Destruction'.

Be warned:

Heed ye the Word of the Lord and ignore it not
For his patience will not last forever.
Man has seen the anger of the quakes and pempests
And the seas, floods and volcanoes showeth also their ire,
But their anger is nothing like the anger of the Lord

I have seen HIS ANGER in my dreams, the like of which defieth all description
My body shaketh and quivereth, as a dog cowering in a corner,
And my mind is in such turmoil that I knoweth not whether I am or I am not.
Take away from me the fear of Thy wrath, for I am weak and small.
I dream my dreams in the terror of darkness,
And my Lord is with me no more.

The Moon has arisen, and its light shineth over the darkness
A moon bigger than all the Earth.
Stabs of lighening striketh the moon from clouds of purest fleece,
And suddenly I know that man is overweening,
For he has meddled with that which is not of himself, but of God.

Now the wrath of God is unleashed, a wrath that knoweth no bounds;
The sky is rent assunder, and the Earth opens its bowels.
And all that God hath created is now no more than a thought.

Resist ye, therefore, the plunder of the Earth,
Over which God has given us dominion.
Let us use His gifts with wisdom and love.
That love which God has shown us in the birth of Christ our Lord.
But if we cannot love one another, how can we love his world?
So heed ye the Word of the Lord and love one another,
And his creatures one and all

Klaus Armstrong-Braun