

## When the World as We Knew It Ended

We<sup>ii</sup> were dreaming<sup>iii</sup> on a occupied island<sup>iv</sup> at the farthest edge  
of a **trembling nation**<sup>v</sup> when it<sup>vi</sup> went down.

Two towers<sup>vii</sup> rose up from the east island of commerce and touched  
the sky. Men walked on the moon. Oil was sucked dry  
by two brothers<sup>viii</sup>. Then it went down. Swallowed<sup>ix</sup>  
by a fire dragón, by oil and fear.  
Eaten whole.

It was coming.  
We had been watching since the eve of the missionaries in their  
long and solemn clothes, to see what would happen.  
We saw it  
from the kitchen window over the sink<sup>xi</sup>  
as we made coffee, cooked rice and  
potatoes, enough for an army.

We saw it all, as we changed diapers and fed  
the babies. We saw it,  
through the branches  
of the knowledgeable tree  
through the snags of stars, through  
the sun and storms from our knees  
as we bathed and washed  
the floors.<sup>xii</sup>

The conference of the birds<sup>xiii</sup> warned us, as they flew over  
destroyers in the harbor, parked<sup>xiv</sup> there since the first takeover<sup>xv</sup>.  
It was by their song and talk we knew when to rise  
when to look out the window  
to the commotion going on—  
the magnetic field thrown off by grief<sup>xvi</sup>.

We<sup>xvii</sup> heard it.  
The racket in every corner of the world. As  
the hunger for war rose up in those who would steal to be president  
to be king or emperor, to own the trees, stones, and everything  
else that moved about the earth, inside the earth  
and above it.

We knew it was coming, tasted the winds who gathered intelligence  
from each leaf and flower, from every mountain, sea  
and desert, from every prayer and song all over this tiny universe  
floating in the skies of infinite  
being.

And then it was over, this world we had grown to love  
for its sweet grasses, for the many-colored horses  
and fishes, for the shimmering possibilities  
while dreaming.

But then there were the seeds to plant and the babies  
who needed milk and comforting, and someone  
picked up a guitar or ukulele from the rubble  
and began to sing about the light flutter  
the kick beneath the skin of the earth  
we felt there, beneath us<sup>xviii</sup>

a warm animal  
a song being born between the legs of her;  
a poem.<sup>xix</sup>

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- <sup>i</sup> After plane crashes and bombing the 9/11/2001
- <sup>ii</sup> Native American people/General population. The poem can be read at least from two perspectives. Ambiguity. The narrator is an observer of both worlds and suffers the consequences in both cases.
- <sup>iii</sup> Innocence, living in an idyllic world which ended with the 2001 attack or even before with the European colonization (White pilgrims, imperialist, missionaries)
- <sup>iv</sup> An occupied island: Manhattan
- <sup>v</sup> United States of America
- <sup>vi</sup> The Nation greed? The confidence in progress and values of modern life? The Native way of living? The American way of living? Innocence? Self-confidence? International influence and power of the US? Consequences of the arrogant behaviour of the United States.
- <sup>vii</sup> World Trade Center. Twin Towers. Symbol of capitalism, the nation's greed hunger for money, machism, modern Civilization and progress founded in monetary earnings.
- <sup>viii</sup> Allusion to the exploitation of natural resources by the greed of the modern world. Lehman Brothers Inc, an American global financial services firm founded in 1850 with offices in three floors of the World Trade Center.
- <sup>ix</sup> Swallowed: engullido
- <sup>x</sup> The destruction of the Nation? The end of security? The pretended supremacy of the White US people (prophetic, visionary) the end of US imperialism, egotism, ambition? The world as We Knew It. Sorrow?
- <sup>xi</sup> Binaries: domestic life, peaceful, homeloving people opposed to violence (army); hospitality, no resentment.
- <sup>xii</sup> Everyday domestic life and life in communion with nature.
- <sup>xiii</sup> The planes. Present time. Linked to earth. Native sensibility.
- <sup>xiv</sup> A modern Word to refer to the past.
- <sup>xv</sup> The first takeover: ocupación, adquisición, apropiación. Past time.
- <sup>xvi</sup> The planes.
- <sup>xvii</sup> Native American People/Everyone who was not egotist or greedy. The opposed are They who appropriate of the land, natural resources and people, who are ambitious and hungry of money, egotist, excessive and boundless, imperialist and avid of power and influence.
- <sup>xviii</sup> Life goes on.
- <sup>xix</sup> Metaphore. Rebirth, life and beauty.