OUR OCEANS, OUR FUTURE WORLD

By Nakeeyat Dramani Sam

My great people of the World
My Sisters and Brothers
Humankind
Look yonder
See the beautiful handiwork of the Creator
The beautiful foamy waves of the sea
The beautiful blue expanse of the sea.
With its roaring waves
And great pulsing heart to behold
It is awesome and breath-taking.
Yet the susurration of the waves
Supplants the heat and heaves a sigh of relief for the grieving heart.
The mighty ships plying thereon for a catch
To tame the pangs of hunger.
Our Ocean,
How beautiful and expansive you are.
You are not a mere body of water.
You are the source of life on Earth.
You are the lungs of our planet,
Providing most of the oxygen we breathe
(Healing our bodies and our minds as you rejuvenate yours.)
Our health is intimately tied to your health.
More than three billion people depend on you
For you are their primary source of protein.
Your marine and coastal biodiversity
Serves as livelihood for so many people.

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You help soak up the carbon dioxide produced
Thus reducing the impacts of global warming.
You make up most of our planet
And sometimes I wonder why
We do not call our Earth the Ocean planet

But where cometh thee
You – you, human, you, with your plastics and your filth
Why do you dump these into the sea, choking it to death?
Why do you use unconventional ways to ransack the seas?
You – you, human, you scour and scrape our Mother
And beneath the wounds are scars
As you dynamite and dig to wound our Mother
Our Mother, who you mine, just so a few can wine and dine
Leaving nothing but open wounds and empty seas
For the rest of us.

My people, you see the wealth, the beauty and promise of the oceans.
Why are we strangling our Mother, our Friend, our Sister, and our Daughter?
For our elders say, 'Where you have your daily sustenance you don't ruin it.'
Infuse the Ocean with joy instead of poison, cruelty, and disdain.
Treat our Ocean with decorum and embrace it with love.
So, people of the world, it's time we all come together, mobilise, and unite.
For the sustenance and stewardship of the oceans.
Our Ocean,
Our Mother,
Our Sister,
Our Daughter,
Our Loyal Friend.

Nakeeyat Dramani Sam is a Ghanaian poet and climate activist. At the age of 10, she addressed the Plenary Session of COP27 in Sharm El-Sheik,

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Egypt, as a Youth Ambassador for the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), where she highlighted the urgent issues of loss and damage from climate change and called for immediate action. She continued her advocacy by speaking at the V20 Ministerial Dialogue X in Washington, DC, where she emphasised that 'It is not too late' to respond to climate-vulnerable countries' call to action.

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