

I Worry

"I worry." Said Greta, 16 years old.

"I worry not about "normal things" like I am told.

I worry not about what most others worry about.

Getting that new outfit for going out,

whether my mum will be proud

of the grades I achieve at school.

Whether others think I'm cool.

Whether my shoes are high enough,

whether my face is covered in spots,

or my pants are covered with condiment dots,

whether my delivery will make it on time.

I worry about what legacy we, mankind, are leaving behind,

on a planet dying

in front of us."

We tell children like Greta to calm down,

you'll be safe and sound, you're not bound by any obligation -

God, technology, or I don't know, aliens will save us,

this is nothing more than one of planet Earth's demonstrations.

Close your eyes... What do you see?

Darkness,

darkness is what will be.

A place none of us could ever be free,

I'd say that's a pretty big cause to worry.

As a messenger I will tell you what the children around the world are saying

if you'll keep your eyes closed a little bit longer for me.

"I worry" said Mucamutara, 13 years old.

"In Brazil, in the lungs of our world, wild fires still mold.

While our home is burning away,

you'd rather discuss random fuzz with a glass of fizz in your hands making holiday plans.

While the older generations sit comfortably in their chairs eating sweets
and politicians invest in fossil fuels or retreat,
we, the children, are taking to the streets demanding action now.

There is no "what if we somehow"
there is only immediate change now
or face apocalyptic climate breakdown
The Sixth Era of Mass Extinction.

Wait, let me rephrase that,
Mass Extermination,
because Extinction gives an insinuation
that its causes are natural and not something caused by our nations,
yet it is.

We, the nations, are exterminating ourselves
in our consumerism, economic growth and in our so called wealth.
There is only one sort of growth we need,
a growth in generosity and unselfishness to get rid of this greed.

"I worry" said Nanouk, 10 years old.

"I worry about the sea rising over the horizon of Greenland where my family's ancestors
stood bold."

The sea is coming for my ancestors' grandchildren, their history and home.

There is only one way to stop devastation and chaos from roaming.

Fix this,

stitch this,

this is the most important piece of business!

The IPCC report estimated 11 years,

but it bring me to tears

to tell you in 8.5 our CO2 allowance is up.

So maybe it is you, not us, that need to grow up
and stop thinking about money for a bit.

People and animals dying in front of our eyes,
but you'd rather make a little bit more profit.

"I worry" said Nia, 8 years old.

"I worry 2 degrees of warming is the end of my tribe, a story never to be retold.
If 2 degrees is good enough for you,
consequences are sure to follow through.
All around the world climate change will show its clue.
Get ready to face wars over resources on governments' cue,
natural disaster, mass extermination and immigration,
starvation,
extreme weather and temperature fluctuation,
lack of drinking water due to drought
and too heavy rainfall to filter out
algae fast enough
for there to be enough for all of us.
Let's go CO2 neutral by 2025,
or not even our species will be able to survive."

I know, it's much easier to dismiss this,
thousands dying in the darkness.
Ignorance is bliss.
But I'm asking you to open your eyes now.
See the light.
Channel that horrifying fright.
Stop your car, walk with those kids screaming at the top of your lungs,
"I will not let this go on
anymore!
I will walk 1000 miles even if it makes my feet sore,
if I have to swim across the sea to the other side of that shore,
even if it shakes and breaks me to my core.
I will not let these kids hold up the world alone on their shoulders like Atlas did so many
years before."

"I worry." Said Freja, 24 years old.
In any other case I would never have told
anyone to worry,

but by now I hope you are just as frightened as me

And that by opening your eyes here with me tonight has made you able to see.