

Susan Blain

20th July 2020

A Plea for Survival

(From the Great Mother to Her Children)

I am the Great Mother

Pachamama to the Incas

Papatuanuku to the Maori

Tonantzin to the Aztecs

Hou Tu to the Chinese

Bhuma Devi to the People of India

You know me by other names as well

I have known you from the beginning

I have provided for your every need

I have given all I have to give

And you have taken more

You did not stop with what was in sight

freely offered

You tore my flesh away to get the “black diamonds” under the mountaintops

You were given the sun and the wind

You did not need to do this

You pierced my body deeply

over and over

To steal the fluid you call “black gold”

This is not clever

It is ignorant

You did not use it merely to meet your needs

But to increase your wealth

You heedlessly let the waste from the products you made cover the land and fill the oceans

while the toxins you created spilled forth to fill the air

And worse, instead of being grateful for the bounty that I gave you

and sharing peacefully with each other

You tried to hoard it, keep whatever you could for yourselves, and fight each other for more

Your own hands were not weapons enough for you, as you escalated your fights to wars

and bigger wars, and bigger . . .

You competed in the development of increasingly horrible weapons

to kill your relatives

Your inventions for war are not clever

They are hubris

Look around at what you have done

How have you let this happen?

Does it not hurt to see what you have done to my body and to your earth family?

If you cannot stop what you are doing, I will soon fade away

You cannot live without me

Turn back from the ways of greed and war before it is too late