

A CELTIC OATH

*If I break faith,
May the sky fall upon my head,
May the seas rise up and engulf me, and
May the earth open up and swallow me
If I break faith.*

We have broken faith.

We have polluted the earth.

Syringes lie in the parks; plastic litters the beaches.
Dust-bowls & deserts spread ever wide, evermore.
Famine stalks once-profitable lands. Farms are re-possessed.
Wastelands are not restored – for lack of profit. Minerals and
Oil are mined deep and the ravages left gaping. Tarmac, roads,
Houses and factories sprawl endlessly, swallowing green fields.
Crops grow - ever more productively, yet tended only by machines,
So that there is never any contact with the earth.

We are also contaminating the oceans.

Fish stocks are low, yet we fight for the right to fish for more.
Oil spills and toxic wastes are dumped irresponsibly –
A frightening legacy for our children. They paddle in floating
Excreta & condoms on our summer beaches. Sulphur blooms and
Floating seas of algae distort the food chain. Seals get ill & die.
Whales disappear. Dolphins are caught in tuna nets.
The Gulf Stream will change soon triggering another Ice Age.

We despoil the beauty and magnificence of the seas.

We are even polluting the air.

Traffic fumes choke our streets. Oxygen's for sale in some cities.
Ozone holes appear and the warm life-giving sun's rays
Now irradiate our skin and cause cataracts in the eyes of children.
The dust and fumes from industrial accidents drift in toxic clouds,
Wandering with the fickle winds and impotent we watch as
Norwegian reindeer & the people of Bophal die in their hundreds.
The weather changes remorselessly – ever warmer.

Friendly skies no longer: dark glasses must shield our eyes.

We have broken faith.

The skies are opening. Radiation falls upon our heads.
The seas rise with global warming: swallowing the land.
The earth gapes – unproductive. There will soon be nothing to eat.

Our oath returns to us – full circle.