

Look into the future; Today

We were told to look into the future,
See the suffering the climate crisis causes,
See the pain the children waiting-to-be-born will feel,
But we don't have to look there to find it.

In that future there will be pain,
Pain we can avoid,
But the climate crisis causes pain today,
The suffering of millions today from the actions of the past.

We need to wake up, to stop us stealing futures,
Not just the future, but millions of peoples futures today,
Are cut off, are obscured, are stopped,
Because of the effects of our actions today.

The people gasp for breath to no avail, because the wildfire took their
air,
The homes underwater because the storm made the land sea,
The fish they eat have gone because the coral reefs are deadly white,
The food gone because the climate took our rain.

I heard voices scream,

Our lives have gone because this crisis took them today,
I hear, in the voices of old, young, and middle age,
The most vulnerable people in the world, I heard them today,
Speaking in the voice of today,
and speak of the suffering the climate causes now,
The suffering the climate crisis causes today.

So I say lets stop spewing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere,
Lets stop warming our one atmosphere, stop destroying our one world,
So we can protect our children, protect our future,
And stop them suffering.

But that won't work, it won't stop suffering,
It will stop suffering getting worse, but if people are suffering today,
And people are suffering today,
Then stopping making it worse won't make it better.

Storms will still be more common and more fierce,
Sea levels will still be higher, floods still more common,
Heatwaves, wildfires, extinctions, starvations, deaths,
Will carry on for hundreds and hundreds of years.

I look at the future, and I don't want to see the disasters as bad as today,
The suffering as bad as today,
I want to see a street paved with dreams,
Not one paved with suffering.

We have never been content by doing things by half,
By just stopping things getting worse, but not making them better,
So why would we be content to do it now,
When the stakes are this high?

What if we could change that?
What if we could make a path of hope, rather than despair?
What if we could reverse this crisis?
What if we could restore the climate?

I look into the future, i don't want to see it as bad as today,
See the same suffering just on different faces,
Because those that suffer today are dead, the future faces aren't yet,
I look into the future, I want to see hope.

Restoration, the dream,
Of removing that CO2 we have built up,
The dream, of a safe and stable climate for all,
The hope of a better future, where everyone can dream of a better life,

And that dream may be achieved.