

so many people go hungry



*TS'AI - "Vegetables, Dish, Food -
Reaching to Gather the Vegetables"*

top: growing plants

middle: arm and hand

bottom: tree - branches up, roots down

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*haiku and brush calligraphy by
mankh (walter e. harris iii)*

so many people go hungry

*

*so many plants at the farm,
it's a crime so many people
go hungry*

*haiku and brush calligraphy by
mankh (walter e. harris iii)*

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Original brush calligraphy renderings of ancient Chinese
(which pre-dates Japanese) pictographs/ideograms.

previous publications:

"rain doesn't stop" *Creations, April-May 2006*

"at first glance" "in the midnight wind" "daylight saving twilight—"

SimplyHaiku.com, Autumn 2007

"Zen Christmas" *SimplyHaiku.com, Winter 2007*

"clock sprung ahead" *Frogpond, vol 32:1, 2009*

"a pot of water" *Brownstone Poets anthology, 2009*

"unsung heroes" *AxisofLogic.com 11-6-2013*

& many of the haiku appeared in annual *Haiku Calendar*, Allbook Books.

(to order or submit, email: mankh@allbook-books.com)

\$2 of each sale of this book goes to:

Long Island Food Not Bombs

PO Box 208

Huntington, NY 11743

*All checks must be made out to "Community Solidarity, Inc".

<http://lifnb.com>

Printed in the United States of America section of Turtle Island

*for all the farmers and farm-workers
who typically do back-bending work*



plant growing from the layers of the Earth,
or,
to give birth to

~ 2014 is the International Year of Family Farming ~

*“Everyone has the right to a standard of living
adequate for the health and well-being of himself
and of his family, including food, clothing, housing,
. . . .”*

- from Article 25, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (or “of herself and of her family”).*

introduction

Part of why i write, read, and study haiku is that, in this very concrete roadway and plasticity high-tech world, the simple poetic form helps me stay connected with and further appreciate the energies of the Nature-Beings. Haiku also serve to remind us that every season has its simple treasures.

Words and their roots speak volumes. Much of the takeover of Indigenous Peoples' land in the so-called Americas and elsewhere (and much of the current attempts to control land worldwide) can be attributed to a mental disease called "domination." Words such as "colonize, colony, cultivate, settler, inhabit, till" are connected with the root "colere." Thus: colonization is based on land-grabs. Would you, in your so-called right mind, go into your neighbor's garden - without permission - and start tilling the soil?

Mother Earth cares about all her children; a farmer, a child, a criminal . . . can plant a seed and if the conditions are right, it will grow — assisted by water, wind, sunlight . . .

Sadly, colonizers have raped, and continue to rape, their Mother.

May these little poems, notes, and quotes help to improve conditions for Mother Earth and all those she feeds and caretakes. And some day . . . may the title of this book be outdated.

~mankh

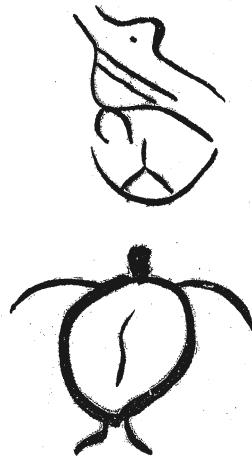
*sunrise songs
birds drinking
the light*

*frigid night—
the bowl of soup
becomes my universe*

*beats the winter cold
this filling the belly
at dinner*

*"Island" - a Bird resting on a
Mountain or a Rock in the Ocean
&
Sea Turtle*

*Turtle Island is a name for the
North American continent as well
as the Earth in numerous Native
Peoples' and worldwide mythologies
and creation-stories including
Hindu, Chinese, Australian
aborigines, Central American, and
Caribbean Peoples.*



*Zen Christmas
NOW
is the present*

*late December night
driving home alone
heart full with family & friends*

*all the guests gone
only the wind banging
the old storm door*

why had i felt so alone --
unseen bird singing,
we share winter morning sun

New Year's Eve day —
the golf course
overtaken with geese

above the traffic jam
flock of birds
any direction they choose

on the bridge to the city
foggy sunday
no skyline

city walk —
brownstoned
under traces of January blue sky

while clipping my fingernails
i realized how
to stop wanting you

grey winter sky
as far as
the eye can't see

The Doctrine of Christian Discovery and various Papal Bulls of the 15th century essentially declared, by 'law,' that any lands not inhabited by Christians were fair game (despite the reality that Indigenous Peoples had been living with the land for aeons). And the rest is a genocidal history . . . that is still in the process of healing . . .

*for an excellent in-depth look, read *Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery* by Steven T. Newcomb*

"Inter caetera ('Among other [works]') was a papal bull issued by Pope Alexander VI on 4 May 1493, which granted to Spain (the Crowns of Castile and Aragon) all lands to the 'west and south' of a pole-to-pole line 100 leagues west and south of any of the islands of the Azores or the Cape Verde islands." - Wikipedia

"Terra nullius," land belonging to no one or no man's land, was another Roman illegal legality so as to claim land for God, country, and corporation (and take away land from Aboriginal Peoples).

Sad, yet significant that: the destruction of Iraqi antiquities, a reported ~1 million Iraqis killed, a legacy of children born with deformities, increased rates of cancer and leukemia, loss of USE (United States Empire) soldiers' lives due to battle and suicide, ad nauseam, is essentially due to the brazen takeover of oil 'fields.'

"Depleted uranium used by US forces blamed for birth defects and cancer in Iraq" - <http://rt.com/news/iraq-depleted-uranium-health-394/>

who has not felt
the weight of this world?
winter moon

so small
moon in the big tree
but it moves the tides

in every room
i've ever been in
sunlight

(note: the above haiku came to me verbatim from a dream)

clock sprung ahead
lunch tastes
the same

*though expected
they startled me with joy,
all the maple's red buds*

*after the long winter . . .
stretched out face down
breathing in May's sweet grass*

*an abandoned lot,
so many dandelions
fenced in*

*(Urban, rooftop, and vertical gardening are becoming more popular and necessary. Check out the documentaries, *Urban Roots*, *The Garden*, *The Power of Community - How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*, and others.)*



*"Garden"
an "enclosure"
and a "long robe"
because long vines make
the trees look like
they are wearing robes.*

April morning
why turn on the radio . . .
mockingbird's song

beyond books --
what Mother Earth says
April soil running through my fingers

rain doesn't stop
the cardinal from April
singing

been a while old friend . . .
first Spring night with wind
making the leaves talk

rain on the windshield,
the wipers keeping time
to cool jazz

the space between us --
in the air
scent of wild roses

at the birdbath
a bee takes a tiny,
tiny sip

dust on the ladle . . .
July, and i haven't
made soup for months

- "* The vast majority of farms in the world today are small and getting smaller
- * Small farms are currently squeezed onto less than a quarter of the world's farmland
- * We're fast losing farms and farmers in many places, while big farms are getting bigger
- * Small farms continue to be the major food producers in the world
- * Small farms are overall more productive than big farms
- * Most small farmers are women"

<http://www.grain.org/article/entries/4929-hungry-for-land-small-farmers-feed-the-world-with-less-than-a-quarter-of-all-farmland#sd-footnote2sym>

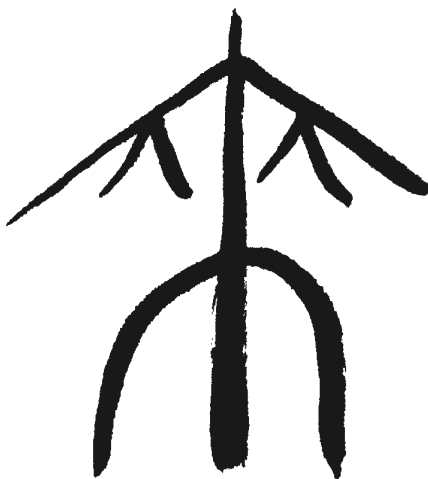
"Americans trash about 1/3 of their food, worth \$161bn - USDA"

"The USDA warned that developed countries like the United States - where 49 million people lived in food-insecure households out of a total population of over 305 million - should not take their current level of food security for granted."

<http://rt.com/usa/us-food-waste-usda-618/>

According to Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System by Raj Patel (2007), 800 million people are starving while 1 billion are overweight.

*a pot of water
boiling for corn --
cool breeze on my face*



“When they [llamas] are carrying corn from one community to another, they not only bring corn but they also bring the corn spirit, because the spirit is what nourishes.”

from “Dancing for the Apus: Andean Food and Farming” by Julio Valladolid Rivera in Original Instructions: Indigenous Teachings for a Sustainable Future edited by Melissa K. Nelson

Tomato Haibun

*If you rub your fingers on tomato plant
leaves they give a distinctly pungent,
earthy, pleasant scent. Since noticing
one year that cardinals enjoy the leaves,
instead of pulling up the plants after the
growing season, i let at least one plant be
· · · and pull it up in the spring-time.*

*steady rain
the scent of tomato leaves
drifts into the apartment*



"Autumn": a "Tree" (left) roots down, branches up with the extended and bowed middle-line, signifies "Grains, Cereals or Corn," the long middle-line being the literal "weight of the crop" as well as symbolizing humility and thankfulness for such abundance.

"Fire" (right) - flame with spark on both sides or stick with two flames, reflecting what is harvested after summer sun, or the remaining stubble after grains are cut or burned.

“Those Andean cultures created more than three thousand varieties of cultivated plants.”

from “Cultural Change, Climate Change and the Future of Civilization” by John Mohawk in Original Instructions: Indigenous Teachings for a Sustainable Future edited by Melissa K. Nelson



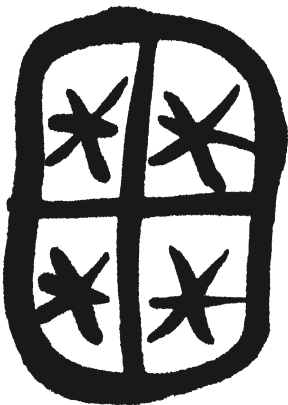
*“Millet or Plants”
with water/moisture underneath.
Also called “Sticky” Plants.*

"The crucial struggle of the Zapatistas, a true 'people's army' (composed of peasants hailing from the poorest state in Mexico) has been analyzed in a powerful book by the Midnight Notes collective, *Auroras of the Zapatistas*. The book highlights how 'the Zapatistas have had to remind us [that] the land is the source of tremendous revolutionary power and those who wield the sickle are often the instigators of revolutionary change -- even in the stratosphere of high-tech production—because they have the power to subsist without capitalist mediation...' Tell it to the collective leadership in Beijing, which is busy trying to prevent by all means that the next revolution in China be a peasant revolution."

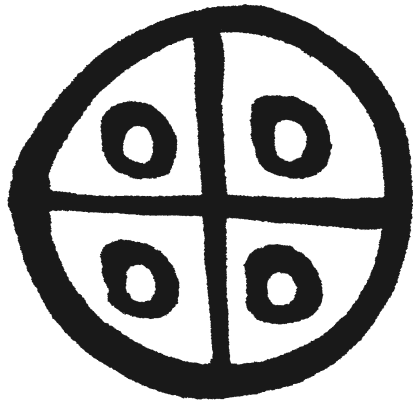
-Pepe Escobar, *Globalistan: How the Globalized World Is Dissolving Into Liquid War* (2006)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The battle is between the mind-set of exclusivity and the dollar-god (e.g. corporate mono-cropping which depletes the soil's nutrients) & cooperation and All My Relations (e.g. the Three Sisters - corn, beans, squash - which, according to Native Peoples, help each other grow, as well as nourish the soil aka Mother Earth.



The four sections of a "Field"
for crops.



Hopi "Shield" symbol, meaning:
Together with all nations
we protect both land and life,
and hold the world in balance.

must be good friends,
three sparrows gathering
on a lilac branch

is it ocean or sky
i see in your eyes?
blue horizon

bluer than sky

hydrangeas

at first glance
a distant porch light --
moon in the leafy trees

in the midnight wind
the sounds of ocean
miles away

unsung heroes

*silverware used and washed every day the same routine
metals from the Mother Earth up inside our mouths
feeding us, sustaining*

*the mums you brought me yellow and lavender
also from the Mother Earth
scent like the warm blanket from my childhood*

*the workers the human beings and
"remote-controlled crane"
that will remove the approximately "1300 radioactive
spent fuel rods"
at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant*

*Quotes from: "Japan Greenlights 'Perilous' Cleanup at Fukushima's
Reactor 4" 10-30-2013*

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2013/10/30-3>

Some significant bits:

*- ~40 years ago 680 million people went hungry though there
was 1-1/2 times enough food to feed everybody. 2014, 1 billion
go hungry and there is 1-1/2 times enough food to feed everybody.*

"Food Rebellions: Crisis and the Hunger for Justice"

*55min video talk by Eric Holt-Gimenez, the Executive Director of
Food First - foodfirst.org*

<http://www.commondreams.org/video/2014/06/02-0>

*- Agri-business is the driving force behind the recent wave of East
Indian farmer suicides.*

*"The Seeds Of Suicide: How Monsanto Destroys Farming" by
Vandana Shiva, <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-seeds-of-suicide-how-monsanto-destroys-farming/5329947>*

*(& anything by Vandana Shiva, including:
<http://www.navdanya.org/>.)*

*- Africa is an under the mainstream-media radar hotbed of cold-
hearted agri-businesses making land-grabs and exporting food . . .
while Indigenous Africans struggle to eat.*

August breakfast
cup of coffee,
chewing a string-bean from the garden

under the sky-blue morning-glories
cleaning itself
a rabbit

a leaf attached
to the car antenna,
tuning-in to Autumn

raking beneath the cherry tree
each day
a little more sky

waning crescent moon
lights the leafy trail
for trick-or-treaters

cold beach wind,
with head bowed
you could see the sand moving

Some of my most cherished life-experiences are from dream-visions and meditations in which i met a deva/guardian of the Cardinals, Sunflowers, Impatiens, and Morning-Glories (the center of whose flower is sorta like the inner ear) and 'it' taught me how to listen more deeply.

One of my introductions to the possibility of such experiences came from reading about the beginnings of the Findhorn community:

"'Now here was this Pea Deva offering to help us!' The deva told Peter everything, from how far apart various plants like to be to how they dislike getting transplanted. Soon the garden became incredibly productive. One huge vegetable weighed 42 lbs. A broccoli head was so big it fed the group of six for four months! . . . 'True cooperation begins when we realize that man, the devas and nature spirits are part of the same life-force creating together,' Peter said. . . . After the sweet pea deva broke the ice, everybody jumped in -- Tibetan blue-poppy deva, rose deva, rain deva and more expansive landscape and ocean devas. With every message, whether about pruning or 'attuning,' there came the sweetest brother/sister love."

<http://www.spirit-web.org/astral/joshua-david-stone/the-elementals>

"The resulting garden, which came to include even tropical varieties of plants, was so astonishing in its growth and vitality that visiting soil experts and horticulturists were unable to find any explanation for it, and eventually had to accept the unorthodox interpretation of angelic help."

<http://www.spiritofmaat.com/archive/aug3/findhorn.htm>

*from the book *To Hear the Angels Sing* by Dorothy Maclean*

Findhorn Foundation - www.findhorn.org

*fleeting October day
but your footsteps
approaching*

*(note: this was written about the Archangel Sandalphon who
caretakes pathwalking in both a physical and metaphysical sense.)*

*daylight saving twilight—
from the hedges
cricket's refrain slowing*

*the museum elevator
opens--
an ancient Greek's bare ass!*

*long after the rain . . .
the sounds of rainwater
dripping into the night . . .*

*build a home
that no one can take away
the pure heart*

*mankh (walter e. harris iii) is a writer, editor, small press publisher (he also helps writers self-publish), and Turtle Islander. His poems and essays are published online and in print. He is an essayist and resident poet on www.axisoflogic.com. Mankh teaches haiku, brush calligraphy, and balancing Eastern-Western traditions. He edits/publishes the annual *Haiku Calendar* and edited/authored a pocket-size book, *Haiku One Breaths: a voice through a tangle*, which is part how-to write haiku and part anthology. Mankh hosts an audio show "Between the Lines: listening to literature online" which can be accessed at:*

www.allbook-books.com

He also enjoys nature, listening to music, learning about various spiritual traditions, and keeping up with world news, cultural trends, and friends.

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**The name
honors Uncle Alan
who was a kind man and a lover of books**

thanks for reading!

*Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need,
but not every man's greed.*

-Gandhi

Peasant agriculture not only contributes positively to the carbon balance of the planet, it employs 2.8 billion people and remains the best way to combat malnutrition. Our message is that peasant agriculture can feed the world population and contribute to cooling down the planet. We small farmers and Indigenous Peoples are in grave danger. We will disappear if things continue like this. Who will feed people then? Industrial farming only leads to more hunger and climate change.

-Josie Riffaud, French farmer and Vía Campesina member

*You can't talk about God to someone who is hungry...
you have to feed them.*

-Neem Karoli Baba

*Land has always been the issue; whoever owns the land
controls the people.*

-Tom Goldtooth

Indigenous Environmental Network - www.ienearth.org

*so many plants at the farm,
it's a crime so many people
go hungry*

-mankh



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