

## **Common Ground**

I invite you with open arms  
To come into the friendly  
World of my heart  
I don't know your name  
I don't understand your tongue  
You may be from a nearby place  
Or a distant corner of the earth  
It doesn't matter.

There is no need to act like a stranger  
Nor any reason for you to hedge  
Or feel suspicious about my feelings  
Toward you  
Let's get to know  
And embrace one another  
Without any introduction  
As kids do when they play together  
Yet let's ponder  
Our fate guided by the best of our wisdom  
We have cultivated over the years.

The small details about  
Skin color  
The texture of hair  
Linguistic differences  
Ethnic or religious particularities  
Must not stand between us  
No matter how proudly we feel about them.  
For there are supreme challenges ahead of us  
Calling our attention to an unprecedented need  
For a global common ground.

In the immensity of the universe  
Our mother planet is pitifully  
No bigger than a speck  
Though sustaining billions of us  
It is like a boat  
In the vast expanse of an ocean  
Which can't afford to ignore  
A hole in any part of it  
Otherwise even a fool could tell  
It would go down  
With all its passengers sooner or later.

We only have one another  
In this small home we call earth  
We have no other choice  
No doubt we have so much to gain by standing together  
No matter what kind of ignorance clouds our vision  
One thing is simply clear  
We are inescapably bound together  
By our common humanity.

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