

EARTH PETITIONS HUMANKIND

Count how many open wounds I bear,
from which I bleed -
and there are worse inside -
which you inflicted there.

Stop laying loads on me,
and burning me;
stop fouling my aquifers,
and starving me of air.

Let me lie fallow when I will,
and other times run free,
or wild, replenishing my life,
without detriment, without care.

Have you eaten some strange drug
that has made you lose your mind?
Have you dreamed into being
some strange god that now you serve,
that makes you grow apart,
against our shared grain,
unkind?

Me being sick, you are sick too;
and if I die, where and how
can you remain alive?

Covenant with me anew,
even as we teeter on extinction's edge.
Do this, or else not one of us
survives.

Earth Day
22 April 2020

David Betteridge