

Pig and the Overseer Poem, by Beth Shepherd

Indigenous peoples are the custodians
Protectors of biological diversity and traditional knowledge of benefit to humankind.
Dispossessed of their ancestral lands and their livelihoods
Challenged by dominant culture, conflict, corporations, climate change
Deprived of resources for survival
Robbed of their way of life and very right to life.
Indigenous peoples deterritorialized to be dematerialized.

Imperialists and colonial powers conquered territories took treasures.
Post-colonial neo-colonial oppressors are the transnational corporations
Exploiting expropriating extracting damming deforesting destroying eco-systems.
Ancestral lands in the hands of a few agri-corporations and landlords.
Histories of resistance and a determination to survive.
The neo-liberalist and transnational corporate thieves and killers
criminalize indigenous protesters.
Will survivance be enough this time?

Sustainable subsistence farming biodiversity harmony natural local collective
cooperative sharing.
Replaced by resource-intensive toxic monoculture plantations engineered efficiency
commodity chemical eutrophication acidification scarce-water extraction.
Who profits from industrialized agriculture?
The chemical companies and agro-businesses!
Maybe more food but for whom and at what cost?
Farmers, pastoralists, fishers, hunters, gatherers expropriated, evicted, excluded,
restricted, dispossessed, marginalized.
What's left but to become day or bonded labourers ending up in city slums or suicide.

Rapacious extraction of wealth from global south by global north.
Unsustainable unconscionable but undeniable.
Neo-liberalism makes indigenous people poorer - Don't believe otherwise!
Exploitation expropriation extraction expulsion extinction,
Indigenous peoples are the harbinger canaries of the earth.
Soon there will be no forests, no clean water, no open space with free roaming beings.
We are all the poorer.
Apologies don't make amends for extinction.