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Several Short Statements Combined into One Document

One

They taught me in history class that natives sold Manhattan Island to newly-arrived ex-Europeans for glass beads, trinkets, spangly baubles.

*They were stupid to sell it so cheap, I thought. Could they even sell it? I thought. Did they even own it? Does anybody own it? Maybe they understood what it would become.*

We have sold the earth itself to destroyers, to seekers of oil, to developers of atomic power and weapons, to those motivated by greed and the quest for power over others, to powers that make war. The cheap price we accepted? Gadgets and temporary material security, pleasures of the moment.

You and I have sold the earth for iphones, ipads, television sets, shiny, fast-moving cars, large airplanes. Spangly baubles keep us busy, entranced, while forces for destruction drill the earth, make war, pollute our air, soil, and water, kill, radiate, steal our future.

We are happy.

We live in this moment.

Shiny baubles and fancy gadgets absorb our attention. We fail to understand the thoroughness of what they do to the earth. If we understand, we don't care enough to try to do anything to stop destruction of the earth.

Two

Young people now want to reclaim some of the power their parents gave away. They want to stop school killings,

I want them to be successful at taking power back to stop school

killings. I want them to go beyond that and realize the people have to hold much more power than they do to stop destruction of the earth, to create an environment beautiful and sustaining to live in for all of us.

I want all of us to use modern technology to communicate and to take power back from politicians who have grossly misused it, who have allowed possession of power to turn them toward greed for wealth and power and away from empathetic identification for all other people, for all other species, for the earth we live on.

Three

I want people to stop saying gun control won't work in the United States.

It's time, for mankind's survival, to change the way we see the world and what we consider to be possible or impossible.

What is impossible is to continue to inhabit a world moving toward further violence, in schools, between individuals, between nations. That direction, toward further violence, leads to destruction of all life. It constitutes worldwide insanity to suppose we cannot stop violence. That worldwide insanity leads to degradation of life and then to the end of all life.

I want the young people who ask for life to find success in their request.

I want them to awaken in all of us the desire for life, beauty, and a livable environment. I want all of us to recognize that we can bring about change and I want us to set about making the change away from violence and toward peace.