

A Brave and Startling Truth: Take off Poem By Sophie Kosiba

We learn that we are not devils nor divines  
We are not bad or good  
Perfect or ruined  
Complete or broken

We are a product of our lives  
Of the living  
Of the dead

We gather

To take our beautifully damaged pieces  
And pile them one on top of another  
To make the world better for whoever  
And whatever is to come

But only when we stop fighting  
Stop killing  
Stop breaking our own people in two  
Will we be able to put aside our damaged parts and  
Grow

Up  
Up  
Up

Until we reach for peace out of habit  
Instead of obligation  
Until the only remnants of violence and war are the  
Centuries old guns in glass cases  
Until the treaties are simply formalities

We will wait

Until the sun is not rising to the sound of  
Gunshots and landmines  
Until the calm before the storm is not filled with anticipation  
Fear that the waves will crash upon us

So that golden chains no longer bind us  
To the societal constructs eating away at our individuality



And rusted nails of hate and scorn don't drive their spikes through our faith in anything  
besides  
Pure blinding logic

So that instead of leaping from crumbling bridges  
And watching cityscapes burn to dust  
We can rise from the ashes  
And build skyscrapers taller than the snow-topped peak of Mount Fuji  
A human wonder to rival those of Mother Nature

We will let words of milk and honey drip off our tongues  
We will let the tears of lost tomorrows and forgotten yesterdays stain our cheeks  
Because they let us know one thing:  
We can still feel

There will be no more of taking another's love just to spill it on our own misfortune  
There will be no more bleeding of nights and days together  
No more scarlet rose red dripping a thick line between bliss and peace

We transform

Ourselves  
Each other  
The world  
But only when we realize:

We are everything and we are nothing  
We are rain and we are fire  
We are love and we are indifference

We are opposites

Two sides  
Warring against each other in torrents of laughter and tears

One mind  
One body  
One soul  
Lifted by peace

Up  
Up  
Up



















