

Where Else But Here

Azure, deep, calm, vast
Breadth so humbling, beauty alluring
So far what's your inkling?

Castles that bring memories back
Sunrise, fiery eyes, deep connection
Crashing echoes that dreams were born

Undulations that calm the ears
Even stir our hearts to peace
That salty breeze primal to the skin
Have you wondered why it's akin?

Our day to day living
Designed to keep us going
Working, eating, dreaming
What keeps us all breathing?

It's the ocean, the sounds gave it away!
Our life support, our lungs, not hearsay
Drives the weather every single day
Bears bounty down our plates
Without it, life's far from possible
The epitome of life in the absence of all

The cold, refreshing grains so puny
But a miraculous refuge for many
Open waters seem so quiet
But a revolution's down there, I bet!

Remember what it feels like
As water shapes your body
Familiar, cellular, engulfing
Fearful but then enticing

Dive deeper into uncertainty
Unearthing gems unknowingly
Ancient, strange, awe-inspiring
Diversity unfolds as one gets daring

We thought we knew the deepest
Only to discover another secret
We thought the puzzle was complete
'Til another creature unfurls in a bit

Pulsating, swerving, meandering, basking
Wonder expands beyond charming
Critters are no critters 'til we see
'Til we understand intimately
The roles they don indefinitely

Sun shines upon phytoplankton to give us
food
Energizes the food chain, passes the goods
Nourishes humans day by day
So we'll keep living come what may

It's grandeur we came to understand
Gratitude we can genuinely extend
Not merely for sustenance but livelihood
For mangroves that shield us from storms
Antibiotics, discoveries that take our woes

Until we meet them we'll never know
Let's meet some, here goes!
Sea turtles traverse the ocean furtively
Decades pass of striking mystery
Worry not, they smell home like it's destiny!

Charismatic they are but beyond
They keep seagrass meadows in control
Canopies provide food and home for many
They graze on sponges to make corals healthy

Who knew whales are tremendous givers
Huge plumes of iron in poop they deliver
Fertilizes the ocean, make phytoplankton grow
Absorbs tons of carbon, such a great role!

We seem to think the water's empty
Wait for magic closer beneath
Gastrotrichs, kinorhynch, priapulids
Who knew they're wriggling down our feet?

Who cares if they're down there?
Have we even heard of them somewhere?
But the thing is our lives are worthwhile
Because of these creatures, we're alive

Now imagine dumping million tons of plastic
Sharks, turtles, seabirds get sick
Washed ashore necropsies reveal
Seamless junk, how bleak!

While turquoise waters seem endearing
Patches of gyre brim with suffering
Rubbish for decades, I'd never guess
Who knew it pollutes even the deepest?

Ice caps melt by multitudes
Sea level rise makes it no good
Penguins, bears, walruses, narwhals
Vanishing ice, their beautiful paradise

We fish more than what we say
Million tons more, our ocean's at stake
If we aim truly for sustainability
Accurate measures we must do diligently

Optimistic to see what good is happening
People work hard to share what's thriving
A nudge though never a bad thing
We're attuned to oceans as vast, thus mighty
But never invincible to abuse too hefty

Reefs aren't mere adorned displays
Of vivid colors, forms intricate, lovely arrays
We haven't seen the magnificent, not yet
'Til we leave them be for years to rest

Every angle, doom escalates
There's no going back it's late
We reached the fringe, we're going down
What if we press on, not frown?

Pristine our oceans might never be
But huge promise our actions speak
If there's courage to conserve them all
Neither selfish agendas nor pointing brows
What if we listen, act on one call?

Profound changes there are
Pollution, acidification, extinction
Bleaching, spillage, suffocation
But future ain't black and white
If we understand, we shift, we fight on

Grand things we aspire to do
Changes lie on what one decides to do
If one has a vision, small it might be
What forces brew in a community?

There's a movement called minimalism
Where we love people and use things
If we stop the madness for excess
If we stop wanting what we don't need
If we realize we're more than enough
What kind of world will there be?

Carbon, as we are the culprit
We add bursts by the minute
Zero as agreed may be far from now
But we matter by slowing down

Take long walks, work from home
Commute, carpool, ride a bicycle
Sort our garbage, freecycle
Eat them all our freezer holds
Eat them all lovely vegetables
Such simple acts are incredible

We can write that piece or make that art
Make our voices heard loud and sharp
Not to make a huge dent as one dreams
But to change one's heart, I believe

Sentient beings we are, how lucky!
To experience treasures of stark beauty
While our comrades need not plenty
But food, space, respect, if only

What marvels will there be?
For our own children to see
If we share a cause so important
That we take small leaps not grand

That we wake up to a world of genuine
beauty
That we spend time outside because it's
free
That we see gaping, wild eyes with glee
Where else would we rather be?