

“Water Boy” –Hear My Roar!

By Julia McKnight - April 13, 2019

Dear Water Boy,

As our oceans decay, so do we.

We insult mother nature, putting our needs; our self-serving arrogance, our greed and indifference ahead of our earth's.

Somewhere, in our collective unconscious, we know to survive and prosper, we need **healthy oceans** –

The **ocean is** the largest ecosystem on Earth.

it is the planet's **life** support system.

Living oceans absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and reduce climate change impacts.

The diversity and productivity of the world's **oceans** is **vital** to the future of humankind.

Yet, we continue to irresponsibly discard plastics, invite oil spills, abandon tangled nets, and allow water pollution through run-off that chokes the lifeblood of marine life. We know the oceans are dying but still turn a blind eye to nature's call for reform.

“Water Boy,” I will call you “Triton,” son of Poseidon and Amphitrite, King and Goddess Queen of the Sea. You are the Greek Sea God of Waves and Calm Seas, the herald or messenger of all waterways.

You came to warn us, right?

I hear you loud and clear! Your pain is my pain. I am water girl to your water boy.

Free of land and all its constraints, the sea is my meditative mirror, providing reflections on life. Your look of despair, silently resonating in your hunched posture, your sagging shoulders; your splayed feet, disquiets me. Your transparent soul, revealing the deepest patterns of your psyche, illuminates helplessness, as does mine.

Your artistic creator Stephen Pon says he is transformed by nature, experienced as a commercial diver and sail boat captain.

Did he create you in his own image? Is he sad too?

Oceans, because of their scope to our earth, often represent abysses that mortals must cross chaotically to reach a safe destination.

Was he recalling his hero's journey as he sculpted you?

Was "Water Boy's" genesis hatched and fired by the insensitivity of man to our planet's health?

You must know...

Plastic ocean pollution, a component of marine litter, injures or kills marine life, spreads toxins and poses a potential threat to human life.

Ocean currents carry floating debris into all 5 of the world's major oceans.

More than 4.8-metric tons of plastic litter enters the oceans each year. That equals more than 5,800 pounds of lightweight plastic annually! (1)

Researchers forecast the cumulative impact to the oceans could be as high as 55-million metric tons by 2025. One year's collection would cover an area 34 times the size of Manhattan, ankle deep in plastic waste. (2)

More than 1-million seabirds and 100,000 sea mammals die by pollution every year. (2)

Three-hundred-thousand dolphins and porpoises die annually as a result of becoming entangled in discarded fishing nets, or other plastics. (2)

There are more microplastics in the ocean than there are stars in the Milky Way. (2)

Water Boy, as Triton, this is the message you must send to Poseidon. Earth needs all the fury of your sea gods. Tell them the oceans play an essential role for life on our continents. They provide more than 70 percent of the oxygen we breathe and more than 97 percent of the world's water supply. Every second breath we take comes from the ocean. (3)

How can we convert environmental awareness into environmental action? We seem apathetic to this growing crisis, perhaps because there are so many world needs. Are we forced to make compromises, because we cannot deal with the many natural disasters we have collectively created?

We hardly stop to enjoy our oceans, much less revere them and their vital role in our survival.

We are destroying the very thing that early-on brought so much joy to us as children.

Our oceans as a combo platter of magical and spiritual goodness, sacred spots where all four of the elements converge. The water of the oceans converges upon the shores. The sand is warm beneath our feet. The wind blows in and soothes our tired bodies, and the fire of the sun warms our tattered souls (Water, earth, air and fire). (4)

On the flip side, oceans can be treacherous; unrelenting in their wrath. Is this nature's way of saying, "ENOUGH ALREADY!"?

We have our flip side too! When we dream of being underwater, we feel overwhelmed or in over our heads. We need to listen to those messages and ask, "Why?"

We must never underestimate that water represents power. It can free us, as well as claim us.

Free us, Triton and merge your power with ours to heal our dying seas.

Calm these waves of destruction.

Take your twisted conch shell, blow it like a blaring trumpet to calm the waves of ocean and marine life destruction.

Sound your horn so loud it puts giants (of polluting industries) to flight, terrified of the roar of the dark beast.

Let earth hear your roar and mine!

Sincerely,

Julia McKnight, Your Water Girl

References

The journal, "Science."

The Ocean Conservancy

Greenpeace

Based on the writings of Greek Philosopher Empedocles (fifth century BCE who believed the physical material world was made up of four elements – water, earth, air and fire)