

And the Whole World Changed

by Alison Brantley

*Somewhere on the other side of the world
a teeny tiny thing,
barely alive,
took a different path
to exist.*

And the whole world changed.

*That thing, invisible to the eye, made its way through a strange new territory
and learned to survive in a world it didn't recognize,
but found what it needed
and kept on going.*

And the whole world changed.

*As it learned to survive,
it grew.
And the human world
on which it found its way to survive began to suffer
because of it.*

*The human world,
which had grown to dominate the plant and animal world for thousands of years,
began to fall to its knees.*

*First slowly, in one country and then,
steadily,
continent to continent.*

And the whole world changed.

*Then humans became aware
(very slowly I might add)
that something profound was happening to them -
that the many societies they had created which had dominated life on earth for so long
were crumbling.*

The animals knew because they began to feel freer.

*They began to venture out,
to reclaim old habitats lost so many years ago to humans.*

*They began to sing and croak and howl and slither and run and gather and connect even more to
each other,
in a way like they had before,
the balance shifting back a little.*

And the whole world changed.

*And by so doing the animals sent a message to the humans.
They said:*

*“We understand the ways of this tiny little thing that has changed your world so much.
Let us teach you,
like we did before you decided that you were more important than the rest of us.
Even more important than the tiny little things that are changing your whole world right now.*

*In your brilliance
and your ability
to decide how you think the world should work,
you forgot the most important
thing –
the thing we knew all along when we watched you
killing us for pleasure or destroying whole forests for money –*

You forgot the most important thing.

*We are You.
And
You are Us.
And that tiny little thing
is all of Us too.*

*And if we are ever going to live together in harmony,
you,
with your brightest mind
and unwitting power
must understand
and respect
Nature.*

*Or, Nature – as it does –
will change You.*

*And societies will crumble, and the streets will empty, and the cars will stop.
And your people will hide for safety.
You will go underground with your internet,
like the roots of trees talking to each other.*

And the whole world changes.

*This tiny little thing that has changed the world
has come from the same place
that created You.*

*It is not a foreign object to vilify.
It is surviving the best way it knows how.
Just like us.
It has succeeded this time where you undeniably have failed.
And in its march to survive
it has declared
with every death –
with every closed office, bar, restaurant, store, museum, beach, park, airport, church –
that Nature is more powerful.*

*It has awakened all the animals with our voices,
our beauty, our grace, our ability to stop you
and show you how to observe us,
how to listen with your heart,
how to be still, and watch,
and feel connected
somewhere deep down
(where the tiny thing lives)
to hear us say:*

You are not the only thing living on this earth.

*Live with us,
not against us.”*

And the whole world will change.