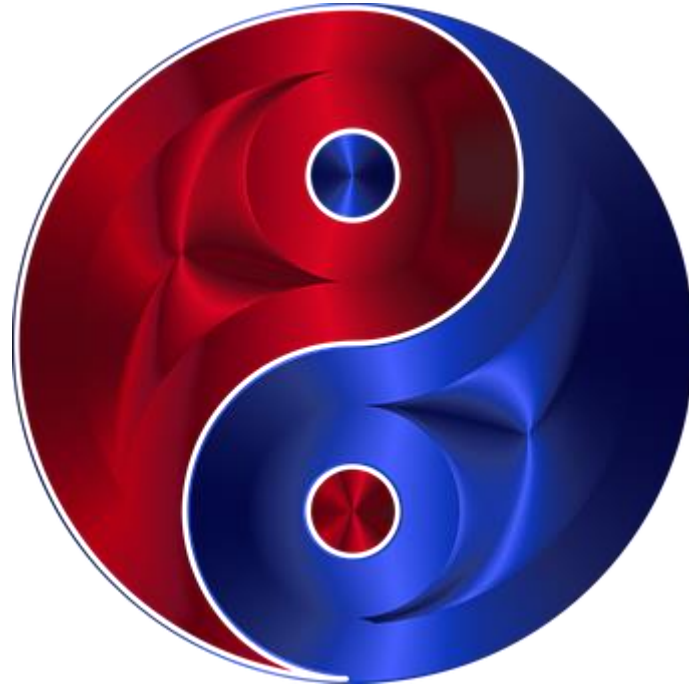


We Here Today

Speech at a wedding, autumn 2022



We here today bless this generation,
whose members were born in the 1990s.

In the 2020s, marriages, partnerships, joint households,
and they conceived, birthed, nursed, nurtured,
children of their own.

In the 2040s, 50s, 60s at the height of their powers,
recognition and respect, leading, guiding, organising,

pondering, challenging, resisting, protesting, replacing,
healing and mending cascades of trauma, inequality and othering,

making the planet safe or safer for their children,
and their grandchildren's grandchildren.

Supported, strengthened and sustained in all this
by listening constantly with changing and changed ears,
watching constantly with changing and changed eyes,
and playing, singing and picturing back
what they heard and saw, and what they did.

Stories, poetry, prayer,
installations, theatres, gardens, games,
and research, politics, policies, change.

From 2070 onwards, their lifetimes ended,
but not before most could and did say:

*'All my life I was a bride married to amazement,
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.'**

Oh, they weren't the only generation doing and saying all this,
and they didn't fix everything, no generation ever does.

But they worked on the issues of their personal and public worlds,
worked with courage, kindness, forgiveness and love,

being and becoming co-creators
of a newly unfolding and single earth,
and a new sky.

That is why we here today bless this generation.

* *When Death Comes* by Mary Oliver, 1992

Recited by Robin Richardson at the wedding of Rizwaan and Ania in Tower Hamlets,
London, 1 September 2022