

Who will speak for jewed ka:cim, Mother Earth?

When our Mother was a child,
she was not ready for children,
as a young woman,
she protected other forms of life.

As our mother,
she protected our "First Ones",
now she protects us,
she provides us with life.

But some of us are hurting her,
they are scraping her skin,
for man-valued ores and tar sand oil,
With no remorse.

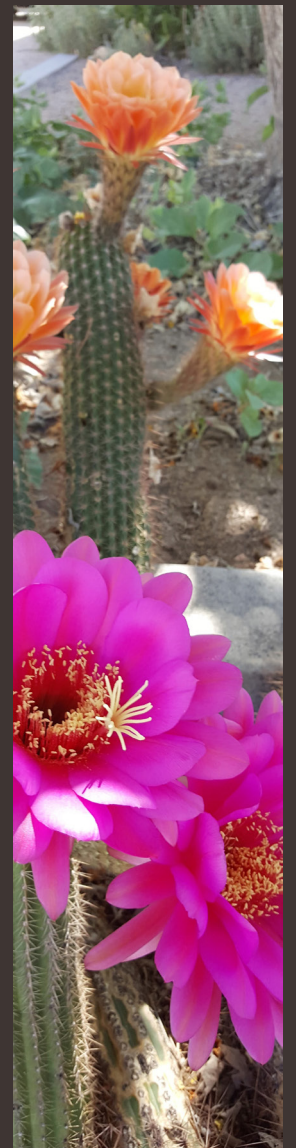
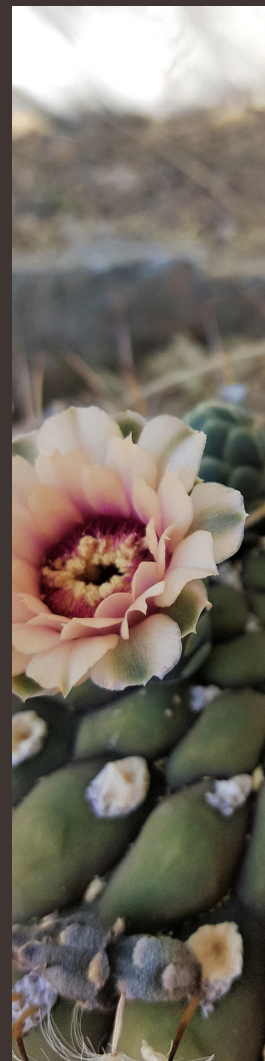
Some of her children,
have made non-natural chemicals,
killing her plants and animals,
poisoning the water, polluting us.

All this time,
she has watched,
provided, and protected,
without a word.

It is time for us to speak,
against those who are to blame,
or are we so scared of the corporate bullies,
that we have no words.

"Will you speak for Mother Earth?"

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Poem by Selso Villegas Ph.D., Tohono O'odham

*Left photo: Discussing ideas behind policy development with youth
Photos by IngriQue Salt*