

A Brave and Startling Truth by Maya Angelou

- Eric Adan** We, this people, on a small and lonely planet
Traveling through casual space
Past aloof stars, across the way of indifferent suns
- Stefania Bell** To a destination where all signs tell us
It is possible and imperative that we learn
A brave and startling truth
- Roberto Angulo** And when we come to it
To the day of peacemaking
When we release our fingers
- Alexsander Barrera** From fists of hostility
And allow the pure air to cool our palms
When we come to it
- O Quan Brown** When the curtain falls on the minstrel show of hate
And faces sooted with scorn are scrubbed clean
When battlefields and coliseum
- Alexander Zavala** No longer rake our unique and particular sons and daughters
Up with the bruised and bloody grass
To lie in identical plots in foreign soil
- Brian Cornelio** When the rapacious storming of the churches
The screaming racket in the temples have ceased
When the pennants are waving gaily
- Manuel Garcia** When the banners of the world tremble
Stoutly in the good, clean breeze
When we come to it
- Sully Gutierrez** When we let the rifles fall from our shoulders
And children dress their dolls in flags of truce
When land mines of death have been removed
- Jonathan Hernandez** And the aged can walk into evenings of peace
When religious ritual is not perfumed
By the incense of burning flesh
- Kelly Jex** And childhood dreams are not kicked awake
By nightmares of abuse
When we come to it
- Bryant Luna** Then we will confess that not the Pyramids
With their stones set in mysterious perfection
Nor the Gardens of Babylon
- Roger Luque** Hanging as eternal beauty
In our collective memory
Not the Grand Canyon
- Rocio Marcelo** Kindled into delicious color
By Western sunsets
Nor the Danube, flowing its blue soul into Europe
- Azael Martinez** Not the sacred peak of Mount Fuji
Stretching to the Rising Sun
Neither Father Amazon nor Mother Mississippi who, without favor,
- Nataly Martinez** Nurture all creatures in the depths and on the shores
These are not the only wonders of the world
When we come to it