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Children of Gods

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## Children of Gods

Sophie McKeand

We greeted the children of gods with operatic in-  
difference.

Having already slaved to make the world right for  
some time we

promised the earth (as if she were ours to gift) &  
set them to work in  
call centres & factories & department stores & end-  
less cafe chains &

when they finally began to show promise we  
stacked

debt onto shoulders already bowed with over-  
wrought expectation

shackled their imagination to the sum total of our  
experience then branded them snowflakes.

We deconstructed the earth's soul — reduced her  
to economic growth & dollar signs

then set up focus groups to ascertain why the chil-  
dren just. didn't. get. the. bigger. picture.

Isolating the most compliant young gods, we modelled them in our own image

set them at giddy heights within the Milky Way as an example of what could be achieved through dedicated application then

medicated their suffocating anxiety; devised cognitive therapy to cope with the vomit & hysteria.

As the children of gods grew into our ways we peddled them stacks of blood bricks & stale

education at over-inflated prices & those who balked were fed into sink hole estates or prisons & we told them to consume less

urged them to buy more; graded the children of gods by skin colour or ancestral land-grabs then lectured them on being shallow & lacking in empathy

as we condemned their racism, bigotry, sexism & aggressive homophobia & wrung our white hands that they did not care for the environment we had systematically disconnected them from.

When they persisted in demonstrating no gratitude for the oceans of plastic & mountains of crap that made up their inheritance, we poisoned the air & their minds

blasted the old gods into gravel drives; stripped the world of the forest's stories ripped the language of magic from their mouths so that the

children of gods no longer recognised their reflection in cloud formations & lakes (only knew themselves in the echo-chamber of our online shops).

We complained when they denied the earth's beauty & wept genuine tears of frustration that they just did not seem to care about anything.

Finally, we surmised that their lack of interest in recycling our ideas & excrement was simple yet unexplainable laziness & when we had

moulded enough of the children of gods into almost, almost, what we envisaged

we died.