

## **In the Time of Pandemic, Part II**

by Kitty O'Meara

And some illusions slipped away.

And some men saw their power vanish, but reached, and grasped,  
and struggled.

Return to work, they commanded.

Build walls, they ordered.

Spend money on things you do not need.

Blame the other.

Fear strangers.

Respect my power.

And the people said no.

They said: You do not own our gifts.

They are ours alone to share.

The earth and her people are out of balance.

The medicine is another way.

We must be still.

The illness is our teacher.

We will listen to the lessons.

The earth is home to all.

And we will heal ourselves.

And balance will be restored.

The earth is home to all.

And we will nurse the stranger.  
And we will feed the stranger.  
And we will shelter the stranger.  
And we will love the stranger,  
within and without.  
The earth is home to all.