

FUSION CITIES 2 MEETING

9 October 2020

POEM CAPTURING THE
ESSENCE OF DISCUSSIONS
WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE
FUSION CITIES 2 MEETING BY
SPOKEN WORD POET....

FRANCESCA BEARD

POEM ONE

POEM

'Post Meridian'

How do we build skills?

How is it different from diving
for pearls?

How do we build Fusion Cities?

How is it different from before
Covid?

Here we are in our little rectangles,
Building blocks stacked up and shuffled out
of hierarchy

By a courteous question, a kind comment, a
cough,

Little honey combs of energy,
Lozenges of oblong light, beaming out
Into other lives.

What time is it in your window?

The daylight mode of a ring light

blues into a yellow lamp

A cool Nordic wall shimmers in Alberta

Pacific sun pastels a white wall
lilac

Emerald sheet flaps in Cornish field,

Magics us into the near past,
Summer of Covid.

Lockdown days blur into the flicker of a blank
diary

We saw, in the freefall car crash catastrophe
of those blinking cursor months

The important detach,

Rise free from the urgent,

POEM TWO

POEM

'AM'

We agree to be Gate-openers,
Curators of discovery, Daydream believers,
And together with the Block chain creators,
Digital hunter gatherers and Cultural innovators,
We hereby commit to look, listen, learn,
Align, connect and build Fusion cities.

Together, today, we stand against the four
horsemen of the post truth digital apocalypse -
Social Media Crises
(a fey youth with hearts' eyes and a dagger tongue
behind a pout that could suck all the oxygen from
the solar system)
Privacy Invasion
(sits in a dark basement surrounded by screens
showing your browsing history)
Data Leakage
(you, in a meeting, giving a presentation, in front of
a power point that is powerless to distract from the
fact that you have been unable to resist the
desperate need for the bathroom, sounds funny
but it's not, it's the worst, a nightmare but it's really
happening)
Online harassment
(every time you leave the house, a feral cat
appears from nowhere, ripping at your clothes,
drawing blood, giving you fleas and an infection for
which you need. It shits on your doorstep randomly
but frequently)

If we stand together, we can overcome,
We are the front line, where the buck stops,
Community change makers, Book shelf screen
sharers

POEM

Problem solving Deconstructors, Long haul Love
labourers
Bottom uppers, Skill sharers, Evolvers,
Lifelong learners.
We have a growth mind set, we are resilient,
flexible,
We excel in failure, the ability to fail and fail and fail
again better
Is our whole brand and so when
The National Careers Service advises 'Retrain –
You Ballet Dancers have a future in Cyber,
You Film-Makers could be Funeral Directors,
You Poets could be Plumbers',
We say 'Yes!'

We embrace, we demand
The power of our uncertain processes,
We walk into the chaos and freefall of change
Like riders of dragons, before knowing our flesh
inflammable,
Walking into fire.

Where will we be zoomed to next?

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