

# The Source

by Rena Priest

We are in a beautiful, dynamic natural world  
walking in the sweetness of cedar forests  
and sea salt laden mists, nature and souls  
touching—We are all interconnected.

I love the rain, lands, and beautiful waters,  
orcas and salmon so close to home,  
the rich Coast Salish culture, native caretakers  
of the wild, flowing integrity of living waters.

Nature is all around me and we are all  
trying to protect it, to enjoy it,  
to be renewed, to share it.  
Abundance—lush life abounds.

There is beauty all around.  
Lummi traditions, roots,  
Indigenous protectors... Intersection  
of earth allies for all living things.

I was born here, to so much beauty  
and vitality, Ecotopia, connection, community,  
the breeze, trees, mountains, streams,  
the ocean—love thy nature.

Lush life: where saltwater meets  
the mountains. Soul peace:  
salmon streams, salt water and that  
west coast vibe.

Mountains. Rivers. Oceans. Salmon.  
Community. Hope. From rainforest to  
sagebrush prairies, our Salish Sea home  
nourishes mind, body and spirit.

I love the crackling of arbutus bark  
as the underside of its leaves  
catch the play of light  
reflected off the water.

I love the landscape  
Its' majesty, mystery and magical quality  
inspiring us to become a restorer species,  
rather than a consumer species.

Lush life, friendliness and greenness,  
bountiful natural inspiration,  
into the forest I go to renew my soul...  
beauty in every direction.

Nettles, thimbleberries, salmonberries,  
alders, community of people and trees. Peace  
and tranquility of nature,

it's my homeland. This is home.  
Clouds, sunsets, otters chasing cutthroat  
while herons stalk whatever they stalk  
and the eagle watches it all from above—  
the natural beauty.

It is peaceful and I love  
the scenery, sensibility, sensitivity, sanity.  
I love the air, the water, the people  
of this beautiful region.

Exploring beaches as the tide rises  
and falls, we can watch the stars  
in the sea, where moon jellies  
launch in a wet galaxy.

The mountains and sea all within reach,  
sea stars and madrona trees,  
salmon fighting their way upstream  
to complete the circle of life.

Breathing the air, mountain air,  
fresh air amid the breathtaking beauty  
of tall trees, old growth forests,  
moss-covered limbs,

snow-covered mountains  
10,000-foot glacier-covered volcanos  
It's all about snowy mountains,  
beautiful rain and sailing seas!

Gifts of rain and snow, clean air,  
colors out my window, the grasses,  
brush and understory, trees small and large,  
distant lush foothills, blue and white sky—

natures brilliance, numerous lichens,  
camas and wildflowers, hands in the dirt,  
the possibility of regenerative,  
sustainable agriculture,

I cherish living among human, plant,  
and animal people,  
the Salish Sea and all  
its wondrous inhabitants,

close and connected—received  
by spirit of place and all residing beings.  
This is home—the beauty,  
a homecoming,

Hy'shqe \-/