

## TODO RELACIÓN (Everything's Connected)

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The close relationship of some indigenous peoples and minorities with their natural environments makes them especially sensitive to the effects of global warming.\*

*Rachel Baird, "Climate Change and Minorities",*

*State of the World's Minorities 2008. Events of 2007. ed. Ishbel Matheson*

I

When the rain finally came,  
nothing could stop her.  
Neither silence, nor heartbeat, nor weeping.  
We waited for the lake to stretch out her arms,  
to swallow the banks and fields,  
to swallow the daylight.

The waters dragged everything away with them:  
the celebrated seeds,  
the potato, the quinoa, the season.  
We searched for where we went wrong,  
we spoke to Pachamama,  
to the heavens, to the Titicaca,  
to our deceased;  
we asked how we had broken the pact  
that united us from the dawn of the earth.

We waited for the rain to stop,  
for the *lago vivo* to return from the fields and valleys.  
He who broke the pact repaired the damage.

We gathered in the fields to ask for mercy.  
*Todo es rito,*  
*todo es armonía,*  
with the sky,  
with the beasts,  
with Pachamama,  
between us, in our hearts – until another upset.

### **Todo Relación [Final Stanza – English]**

II

But tomorrow is a new day;  
next year, a new year.  
Puno is not afraid.  
“La Pachamama nos alimenta.”  
Until after the drought, the rain returns.

### **Todo Relación [Final Stanza – Maltese]**

II

Imma għada jum ġdid;  
is-sena d-diehla, sena ġdida.  
Puno mhix beżżiegħa.  
“La Pachamana nos alimenta.”  
Sakemm wara n-nixfa terġa’ tiġi x-xita.

*\* In June 2008, Maria Julia Ardita OP told me about the changes in the climate, the extremes, in Ilave, in the province of Puno, Peru. The Ayaviri people of Puno believe in the harmony among all creatures and creation, and that the rupture of this harmony, as is now occurring due to climate change, is the result of negative individual human behaviour. This*

*harmony can only return once those responsible are brought to justice and the victims redeemed. The Ayaviri people are well-known for their relentless.*