

THE DUST FOLLOWS THE PLOW

Noelia Rodriguez Gómez

Text 1: poem

Upon the plains, where dreams did grow,
We plowed the land, a new world to sow.
But in our haste, we failed to see,
The land's true nature, its mystery.

“The land was ours before we were the land's,”
A truth ignored by greedy hands.
The dust, it followed, a relentless tide,
Unveiling the consequences of our pride.

Mismanagement of land and water's grace,
Led us down a perilous, destructive chase.
Short-term profit, the guiding star,
Left scars upon the land, near and far.

Degradation of soil, erosion's toll,
The dust revealed the price of our goal.
Land speculation, a game of chance,
Brought the dust, in a deadly dance.

Government incentives, empty promises made,
Only fueled the dust's relentless crusade.
The idea of an exhaustible frontier,
Led us astray, fueled by greed and fear.

Drought descended, a relentless plight,
As the dust obscured the day from night.
The Great Plains, once so vast and wide,
Now buried beneath the dust's cruel tide.

Long in the past, some truths remained,
The bison roamed free, untouched by the pain.
Indigenous nations, in harmony they stood,
Respecting the land, as good stewards should.

The Comanche Nation, proud and strong,
Knew the land's rhythms, its ebb and song.
The Conservation Ethic, a beacon of light,
Guided those who sought to make things right.

And though the dust may obscure the sun,
We must remember, the battle's not yet won.
For in the rain, there's hope anew,
To heal the land, to start anew.

The rain, it falls, a cleansing grace,
Washing away the dust's cruel embrace.
The land and people, hand in hand,
Can restore the plains, the precious land.

So, let us learn from our mistakes of old,
As the story of the dust and land unfolds.
With care and wisdom, we'll find a way,
To ensure the dust no longer holds sway.

Text 2: poetic prose

The dust followed the plow

The dust followed land and water mismanagement

The dust followed the short-term profit

The dust followed land degradation

The dust followed soil erosion

The dust followed land speculation

The dust followed government incentives

The dust followed empty promises

The dust followed the idea of an exhaustible frontier

The dust followed the drought

The dust followed the Great Plains

The dust did not follow the bison

The dust did not follow the Indigenous nations

The dust did not follow the Comanche Nation

The dust did not follow the Conservation Ethic

The dust did not follow the rain

The rain did not follow the plow