



Margaret J. Wheatley

After visiting the new high-end section of the V&A Mall, CapeTown

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The strong waves of Antarctica
gnaw at the shores of Cape Town
breaking apart the granite boulders that
spilled into the sea long before
this "Destination Mall" took form.

(so Robben Island shadows the horizon.)

The sorrow of this continent
cannot reach this shore.
Wealth does.
White wealth. Arab wealth. New wealth.
The wealth of those who spend it on possession
even as the world breaks apart.

The sorrow of this continent
is too great to know.
It pours into my coffee cup this sunny morning
so that I may slowly sip its bitterness.

What to feel. What to do.
This empty cup is all I have
to hold the grief of this morning
while sun turns the waves to glitter.

Oh Mama Africa
Let us weep together
crying for your beautiful breasts
that once fed the Cradle of Mankind.

Oh Mama Africa
Let us mourn together
Keening Into the glittering waves
that will drown us in their excess.



ABOUT MARGARET (MEG) WHEATLEY, Ed.D.

Margaret Wheatley writes, speaks, and teaches how we can accomplish our work, sustain our relationships, and willingly step forward to serve in this troubled time. She is co-founder and President emerita of The Berkana Institute, an organizational consultant since 1973, a global citizen since her youth, and a prolific writer. She has authored eight books. Her numerous articles may be downloaded free at her web site: margaretwheatley.com. For more biographical information, see margaretwheatley.com/bio