

Conversation Card 4

Bhūmi Sūktam

यस्यां समुद्र उत सिन्धुरापो यस्यामन्नं कृष्टयः संबभूवुः।
यस्यामिदं जिन्वति प्राणदेजत्सा नो भूमिः पूर्वपेये दधातु॥

धरती माता को नमन! उसी में समुद्र और नदी का जल एक साथ बुना हुआ है; उसी में अन्न है, जो जोतने पर प्रकट होता है, उसी में जीवन भर जीवित रहता है; वह हमें वह जीवन प्रदान करे।

Salutations to Mother Earth! In her is woven together ocean and river waters; in her is contained food which she manifests when ploughed, in her indeed is alive all lives; may she bestow us with that life.

Prompt Questions For Teachers

I. Seeing and Naming

- What different living beings can you see in this image? Can you name them?
- What natural elements do you notice?
- What are the people in the image doing?
- What do you see happening above the ground?
- What do you see happening below the ground?

II. Feeling and Relating

- How does this image make you feel? Calm, curious, happy, something else?
- Which part of the picture do you feel most connected to?
- If you could go inside the image, where would you like to stand?
- How do you think animals or farmers might be feeling?

III. Cause and Effect

- What might happen to the river if the forest disappears?
- Will there be any forest if there is no water?
- What could happen to the animals if there is no water?

- What do the seeds need to grow deep into the soil?
- How are farming and rain connected?

IV. Self-World Connection

- How is your life connected to the soil in this picture?
- Where does the food you eat come from in this image?
- How are humans and animals dependent on the same Earth?
- What in this image reminds you of your own home or surroundings?

V. From Images to Actions

- What small action can you take to care for soil, water, or plants?
 - How can we protect animals and birds in our neighbourhood?
 - What can farmers teach us about caring for the land?
 - If this picture shows a balanced world, what should we avoid doing to disturb it?
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