Individual Declaration of Interdependence: A Poem

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I find I have a row to hoe in the garden that’s our home,
I have a row to hoe to contribute to the whole,
A row to hoe that won’t be hoed if not by me,
A row to hoe that’s my responsibility.

This garden nurtures me and I nurture it in turn.
Although it freely nurtures me, its fruit I choose to earn.
I regard my role with awe, my vision increases in depth.
My role to tend this garden lasts till my final breath.

If I forget my role, then I just take up space;
If I neglect my part, I diminish the garden and the human race.
Some wondrous tools and talents belong only to me,
But until I use them they can never really be.

I depend on this garden, which in turn depends on me.
I declare myself committed to our “mutual survival society.”
The ledger seeks a balance, each for the other to care,
To leave future generations healthy water, earth and air.

Author’s Note: This poem was inspired by the Global Declaration of Interdependence. That document can be read and signed at www.wetheworld.org. Dr. Hunter serves on the board of We the World and can be contacted at junahli@yahoo.com.

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