

NATURE & CULTURE
INTERNATIONAL
POETRY FILM FESTIVAL 2021



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INTERNATIONAL POETRY FILM FESTIVAL
2021**

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Rikke Winkler Nilsson

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Leonardo Flores and Rita Howis

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www.poeticphonotheque.com
poetiskefonotek@gmail.com

How to live with the responsibility of an ecocide and the misery of your children

Being part of a civilization that kills off whole species, life paths that were part of a story that goes back billions of years on this rock covered in a thin layer of dirt, water and air, puts a certain weight on my mind. Albatrosses, Orangutans, the Hawksbill Turtle and the Humphead Wrasse are just some of the 37,400 species known to be threatened with extinction as I write these words.

Being part of a culture that is undermining the ecological foundation of its own existence through excessive consumption despite dire warnings being shouted from the hilltops for more than 50 years cannot help but make my steps a bit wobbly however lightly I seek to step on the ground.

Being a father who has not done everything to change things and knowing that this is part of the reason why my children will live in a poorer, sadder and more uncertain world cannot but leave me with guilt. My children will grow up in the shadow of my moral

Mickey Gjerris
Bioethicist
Denmark



shortcomings. Behind the façade of the academic activist lives a being who sometimes finds it hard to live by the words, to align actions with values. A human that did not always do the best that he was capable of.

Is there comfort in the thought that this is what human existence is? That we are creatures of habit and desire that fail in living by our ideals?... or is it just an excuse, an attempt to generalize the personal responsibility? It certainly feels that way.

'So I try to face the chorus of snorting, yapping, hooting, hissing animals whose life paths are being destroyed and the images of the hardships in the future of my children. Accept the guilt, but refuse to let it cripple me. As the world is beginning to burn beneath our feet, I will let it burn as a constant reminder to do the best I can in the time left. In the end, it is not fair to ask more from a human. It is, however, fair to ask exactly that.

About: Mickey Gjerris is 51 years old, lives in Denmark, works as a bioethicist in academia and hugs trees.

Find him on FB, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram as [@mickeygjerris](#)

