

'Lament for Gaia', an excerpt from *The Gifts of the Furies*
Glenda Cloughley

Oh Earth! Oh Earth
Oh Mother! Oh Gaia!

Sorrow in the dry wind
Longing cries in the soil and the streets
No rain falls The land takes no seed
Where are the Songs of Life?

Our ancestors tell that when the Earth's child —
her beloved creation — is stolen and raped
the bountiful Earth withers with grief
so rain does not fall and the land takes no seed

When the laws of harmony are broken
and discord shouts down the Songs of Life
Hear the Earth the ancestors teach,
Her lament is the start of renewal

Waiting and wailing in the wells of grief
Dreaming of Gaia and the Songs returning