New Mexico Summer

Karen Tallkat Conley

Blue, blue sky
mountain red rocks,
Bright sky with no end to it.
Soft breeze ignites bird
on a tall pine tree top
to sing
a solo love song,
calling her mate to join
the lofty position
she has chosen
near the sun.

We grew our own food—
berries, tomatoes and greens.
On our land
wind chimes, like church bells
called attention to the life within all things.

Now

I dream, as an elder with conscious imagination, deliberate intention applied to

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the great adventure which lies before me, the life between lives.

For the next generation

I project my imagination to their future dreaming.

Southwest memories

of our earth's high desert sanctuary

where we

once lived.

Of songbirds,

and blue cloudless mountain skies.

wild things

Bushy ten-foot sunflowers
that seeded and
sustained themselves.
They grew wild and tall,
declaring their independence
along dusty back roads,
or
in abandoned fields,
as far as the eye

This strange magical land where bright desert flowers

or imagination could see.

and

cactus fruits

purple, yellow, and blue

appear unannounced every

summer

just in time

for the

hummingbirds.

Fat lizards napped,

basking

on hot, ancient jagged rocks that transform

into

shadowy,

spooky

by night rock formation

creatures.

Silent, in an out of balance,

seemingly

artistic arrangement.

For the future, I hold a memory

of the uneven

private places

where we

lived.

Lavender blending
with peach tree
blossoms
on the hill.
Original desert perfume
released only after
summer rains,
combined warm earth,
piñon, pine and cedar.

This land
where mountain sage
rode the wind
and
grew freely, in between rocks
like a blessing.

Wild and untended