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EIS000297

OCT 21 1999

17 MS. CAROOLL: My name is Gwen Carroll, and I
18 represent GANE, Georgians Against Nuclear Energy.
19 I've been a volunteer for 11 years, and the thing
20 that woke me up was the accident at Chernobyl. I
21 want to tell everybody that when I first got
22 involved, this was a brand-new process. DOE had
23 operated in secrecy for 40 years, and we created
24 this. We put our energy out, we got heard, now we
25 are being invited to hearings. There is a huge

1

1 problem, but have no doubt how we can shape the
2 agenda and situation that we are in now. We are a
3 force for good, we have had an impact. Let's hang
4 in there. I hear less bitterness and anger than I
5 used to hear. We've bridged certain gaps, we're
6 talking to each other more.

7 The enemy gave me this magazine. It's got a
8 mummy on the cover. You know, I love horror
9 movies. And boy, are we working on the, you know,
10 horror story of the millennium. And I read this
11 thing about nuclear waste, and there's some common
12 ground. There is serious effort by industry that
13 we would appreciate. We have to keep talking to
14 each other so that they can hear us because we
15 have valid ideas. It doesn't take degrees to think
16 about how to remember. I'm going to read to you
17 something:

18 The stele of a stif staffe the sturne hit bigripte
19 That was wounden with iron to the wandes ende
20 And all bigraven with grene in gravios werkes.

21 That's English; it's 60 years old. It's
22 English; it's only 600 years old. I'm not even
23 going to tell you what it says; it's not that
24 interesting.

25 I want to reiterate what my peers have said

1 to say, "You know, I'm hip." [There's earthquakes,
1 2 there's water coming in at the site, there's water
3 coming up into the site. It's not a viable site.
4 I resent spending a million dollars a day on this
5 site that isn't viable.] There are people starving,
6 there are people going without education, there is
7 a nuclear waste problem that needs to be
8 addressed. That's a resource we need. We have
9 time. I loved that; I so appreciated hearing that
10 spoken about. We have time to do it right. We need
11 the will.

12 I'm going to read a short thing. It's really
13 sort of a prayer, and I think it's interesting
14 that luck has me ending this session. It's a
15 prayer that people 200 years in the future say as
16 an affirmation that what we're doing here, the
17 effort we're making here, is taking care of them.
18 It's remembering them, it's empowering them to
19 keep dealing with nuclear waste. It comes from
20 the Nuclear Guardianship Project; it's called "The
21 Standard Remembering of Our Ancestors in the Times
22 of Nuclear Peril."
23 I ask you to breathe and open as we do when we
24 remember times that are very far past.
25 Times that are very hard for us to imagine.
26 Hard for us to go back to the time when the poison
27 fire was made on the planet.

1
2 We in the 22nd century are accustomed to the
3 danger.
4 But the people of that time, mid-20th century were
5 so innocent, dangerously innocent.
6
7 And as we remember the old stories, we remember
8 how it began in the press of war.
9 Oh our ancestors in the press of war were seeking
10 new and larger ways to kill.
11
12 And they opened the nucleus of the atom.
13 And with great effort and with great acumen and
14 with great applications of their brains,
15 they made and exploded the first nuclear weapon,
16 and the project, God forgive them,
17 they called Trinity in the desert of Almagordo.
18
19 And the stories come down to us of a president
20 called True Man at a place called Pots Damn
21 receiving a telegram: "Baby safely delivered!"
22
23 And that baby was the Poison Fire.
24 And then in that very year, in that very month,
25 yes, the poison fire was first used as weapons.
26 Against great cities of a great people.
27 And we know the names and you can say them in your
28 heart,
29 -- we shall not forget them:
30 Hero Shimah, Nagah Saki.
31
32 A quarter million people burned at once,
33 then people sickening slowly,
34 for that is how it destroys, slowly, hidden.
35
36 And then our ancestors of that time, the stories
37 tell us
38 -- this is hard --
39 they took that poison fire to make electricity.
40
41 We know how easy it is to share power with the
42 sun,
43 and with the wind, and with the biomass,
44 but they took it from the poison fire,
45 and they used it to boil water.

46 Oh the lords of arrogance were riding high then.
47 It was a dark time, the time of nuclear peril.
48
49 And the signs of sickening grew.

5

1 For at every step along the way the poison fire
2 proliferated.
3
4 And there were epidemics of cancer
5 and there were epidemics of viruses
6 and immune deficiency and deformity
7 and still births and sterility.
8 Oh we know them well now.
9 But for those ancestors it was mysterious
10 whence came these sickenings of spirit and flesh.
11 And some, sensing how these were connected to the
12 poison fire,
13 with huge accumulations of its wastes,
14 wanted to wish it away.
15
16 And the Governments tried to bury it --
17 There were places called Carl's Bad, Yucca
18 Mountain -- deep holes half a mile down.
19 They wanted to bury it as if the Earth were not
20 alive. "Not in my backyard."
21 Their pain and their despair were so great,
22 they wanted it out of their sight,
23 out of their minds.
24
25 We remember that in the story.
26 Because it was in those dark times that our
27 ancestors began to meet and take council (sic),
28 groups coming together in where they lived.
29
30 They looked into their hearts and thought:
31 "We can guard the poison fire.
32 We can overcome our fear of guarding it and be
33 mindful.
34 Only in that way can the beings of the future be
35 protected."
36
37 They remembered us!
38
39 How clear it is to us today.
40 But it was new in that time.
41
42 What inspired them?
43 What did they draw on in those closing days of the
44 20th century to hit upon this idea and inspire

45 themselves, and indeed to carry it forward?

46

47 God bless us for working hard on this

48

terrible dilemma.

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