



Urban Vista

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I hear Asia singing¹
of growing urban cities
during this millennial era
in times of surging consumerism
throughout the developing southeast asians.
I notice digital techno era²
swarming every breath
of humans in this mundane world.
I notice natural ambience
being digitized in every segment,
one's existence lingers in finger's click.³
I notice city's life being bureaucratized
every policy on urban plan being mechanized
by one's desire for corporeal things,
mainstreaming daily life from coast to coast—
Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Metro Manila, Phnom Penh,
New Yangon City to Bangkok are writhing in
restless dystopian world to strive for eco-harmony.
Congested traffic, very dense air pollution
are actants chanting in citiscape narratives,
clad in smog of carbon dioxide miasma.⁴
It seems there's no clear path to go these southeast asians,
when they care only material inundation,
since this engrossment only estranges life
from the inborn natural bounty
Let's turn away urban cities,

from this phantasmagoric daydream,
from the material excess
as the agent of global warming
in order that all living beings
ensconce in a sustainable planet
the only one world existing
the ancestral Mother Earth
the green home for any living being.

Notes

1. *I Hear Asia Singing* is inspired by Walt Whitman's line "I Hear America Singing" in his poem.
2. The repetition "I notice" here is inspired by Allen Ginsberg's poem, "On Cremation of Chögyam Trungpa, Vidyadhara." But here I use the present "notice" since the scenes I describe are in the present.
3. This line is inspired by a book written in Indonesian entitled "Aku *Klik*, maka Aku Ada" ("I *Click*, Therefore I Exist") by F. Budi Hardiman (2021).
4. The word *miasma* came from "Metro Manila Miasma," a poem by a contemporary Filipino poet, Karlo Sevilla in his collection, *Metro Manila Mammal*.