

the population, perpetuating a cycle of conflict. Women's appeals to those in positions of responsibility to embrace the virtues of accountability, and to plan for effective redress mechanisms that will ensure sustainable peace, have been largely ignored.

Women in the sub-region have nevertheless achieved a lot in terms of initiating peace-building due to their good knowledge of local affairs. These women have been known for their resourceful communication skills as well as effective mediation skills among local communities. It is only logical that governments grasp this opportunity and work with women peacemakers in building peace and conflict resolution in the region. This is the only critical step towards ensuring sustainable peace, prosperity and development for all humanity.

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LE PLUME DU PHÉNIX

À ma sœur Afghane

Le monde s'ouvre devant toi, fille de femme,
née du même ventre que ton frère.
On t'annonce que tu peux maintenant partager
avec le monde entier
ton expérience ancestrale.
La montagne se dresse devant toi?
Tu sais que tu n'as qu'à tendre la main pour la
toucher.
Enfin, tu laisses tomber le voile.

Tu étais seule à posséder le pouvoir de briser
les frontières qui t'empêchaient d'évoluer.
Un pas, un seul pas séparait ton rêve de la
réalité
et tu viens de le faire
car depuis peu, tu sais que ces barrières
érigées par l'homme
n'étaient que du vent.
Il soufflait si fort qu'il transformait les oasis en
d'infranchissables raz-de-marée,
le croyais-tu.

Ce matin, comme tous les matins de ta vie, le
soleil s'est à nouveau levé.
Comme une révélation tu apprends qu'il brille
aussi pour toi,
femme de savoir.
Tu récoltes enfin le fruit de ton évolution.