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Ode to the Young

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Ode To The Young

For Oscar Brown, Jr.

Donel Arrington

I'm sorry, that we've killed the earth
for all the extinct plants and birds
for all the oil we had to burn
yes, I apologize

I'm sorry, for the trail we leave
of hunger, misogyny, and greed
for all the shit we think we need
yes, I apologize

I'm sorry, for the drones and bombs
for every country we done wronged
for every Bush, Clinton, and Trump
yes, I apologize

I'm sorry, for the apartheid
for all who suffer in Palestine
for all the poems I didn't write
yes, I apologize

I'm sorry because I am black
for not being able to stop the attack
on our bodies from way back
yes, I apologize

I'm sorry to all those locked down
in a cell because they're brown
political prisoners not broke out
yes, I apologize

I'm sorry to all of the poor
for letting the rich make you their whores
for keeping us sick without the cure
yes, I apologize

I'm sorry for Standing Rock
for the pipeline we tried to stop
for every battle that we lost
yes, I apologize

I'm sorry to the unborn kids
for the world in which you'll live
for what religious fanatics did
yes, I apologize.