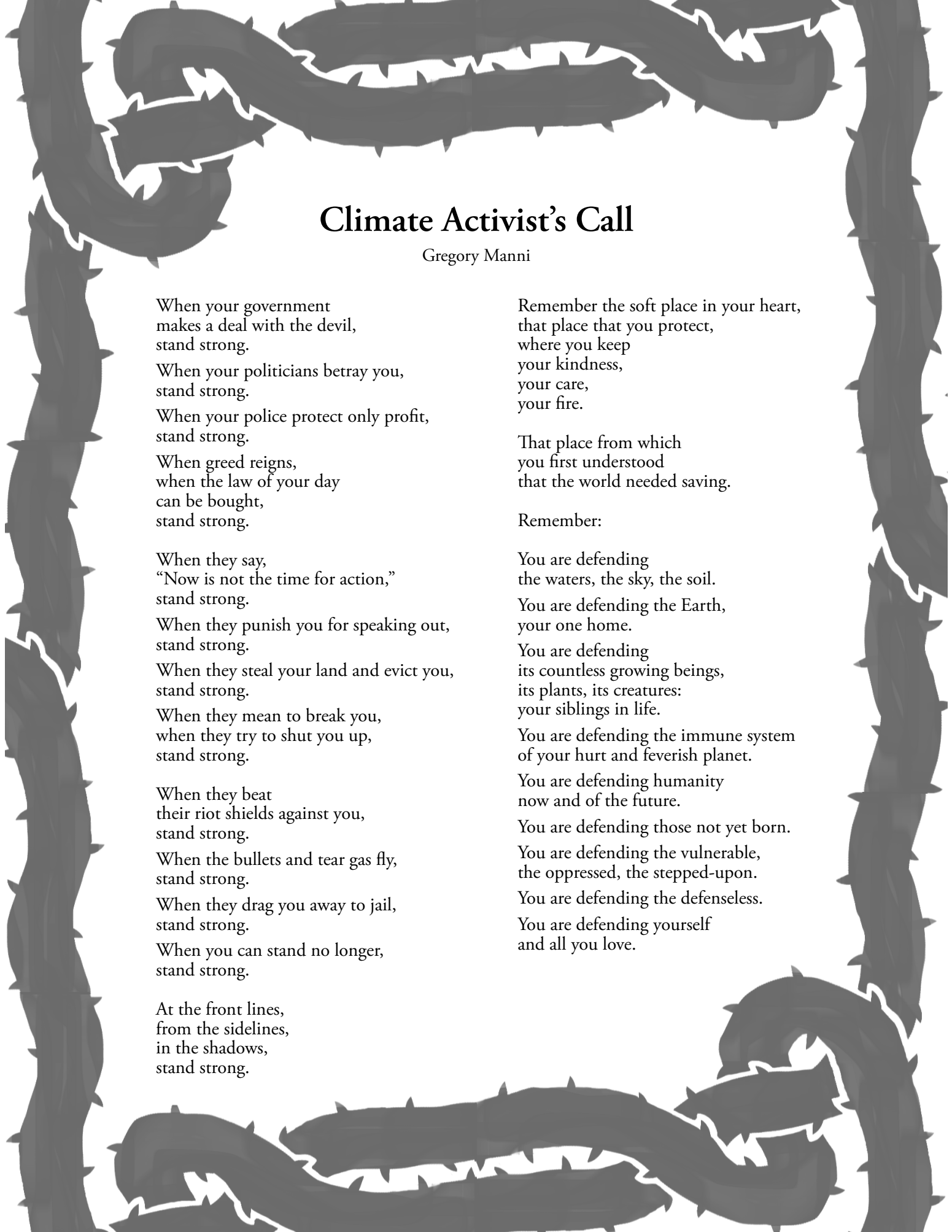




Climate Activist's Call

Gregory Manni

When your government
makes a deal with the devil,
stand strong.

When your politicians betray you,
stand strong.

When your police protect only profit,
stand strong.

When greed reigns,
when the law of your day
can be bought,
stand strong.

When they say,
“Now is not the time for action,”
stand strong.

When they punish you for speaking out,
stand strong.

When they steal your land and evict you,
stand strong.

When they mean to break you,
when they try to shut you up,
stand strong.

When they beat
their riot shields against you,
stand strong.

When the bullets and tear gas fly,
stand strong.

When they drag you away to jail,
stand strong.

When you can stand no longer,
stand strong.

At the front lines,
from the sidelines,
in the shadows,
stand strong.

Remember the soft place in your heart,
that place that you protect,
where you keep
your kindness,
your care,
your fire.

That place from which
you first understood
that the world needed saving.

Remember:

You are defending
the waters, the sky, the soil.

You are defending the Earth,
your one home.

You are defending
its countless growing beings,
its plants, its creatures:
your siblings in life.

You are defending the immune system
of your hurt and feverish planet.

You are defending humanity
now and of the future.

You are defending those not yet born.

You are defending the vulnerable,
the oppressed, the stepped-upon.

You are defending the defenseless.

You are defending yourself
and all you love.