

A poem for the Grey Whales of Baja
by Alice James

“To do the impossible and capture the feeling in words”

We have been so blessed
To be so captivated by your
Stunning grace and charm

The sweetness of your playful ways
Your soulful eyes

Just to anticipate an encounter
With you is to expect a miracle
Of trust - like no other

We are your friends for life and
Pledge to guard your fertile waters
Teach your generous gentle lessons

With the spray from your breath
Still drying on our clothes -

Your lingering might on our hands
Even as we wave good-bye -

We shall recall these encounters
When nothing else mattered
But awe -

We were the ones who splashed
And sang and celebrated with you

Who touched and were touched
As deeply as the ocean
You so easily navigate

Who will smile or weep with gratitude
To think of the sound of you scraping
The boats we rode in on, with your
Proud majestic bodies

Oh to be a barnacle on your back
For one fleeting day - together slurping secrets

From that mysterious ocean floor!

These humble human tears will have to suffice -
For now we are so indebted
By the exertions spent to make the impossible true

For Karla's indomitable spirit -
For Ofelia's nurturing ways -

For the drivers of busses, vans and boats
Cooks and hotel workers -
Who swept us away across desert and dust
To play in your lagoons -

What could be better than this?

Oh Great Grey Whale

It was us who waited with open arms
Who watched as you appeared
Below the surface
Only to surface - with repeated hellos

To have had these moments with you
Is to know beyond the shadow of a doubt
That we have lived -

We have witnessed your loving bonds
And wild ways

We have lived

We have breathed your breath...
- And now send you off
Tender leviathans of Baja...so...

As you go, we wish you
Safe journeys
Watch out for orcas...and...

Remember cherished creatures,
That we too were there

At the floating fiesta

On the sea of life