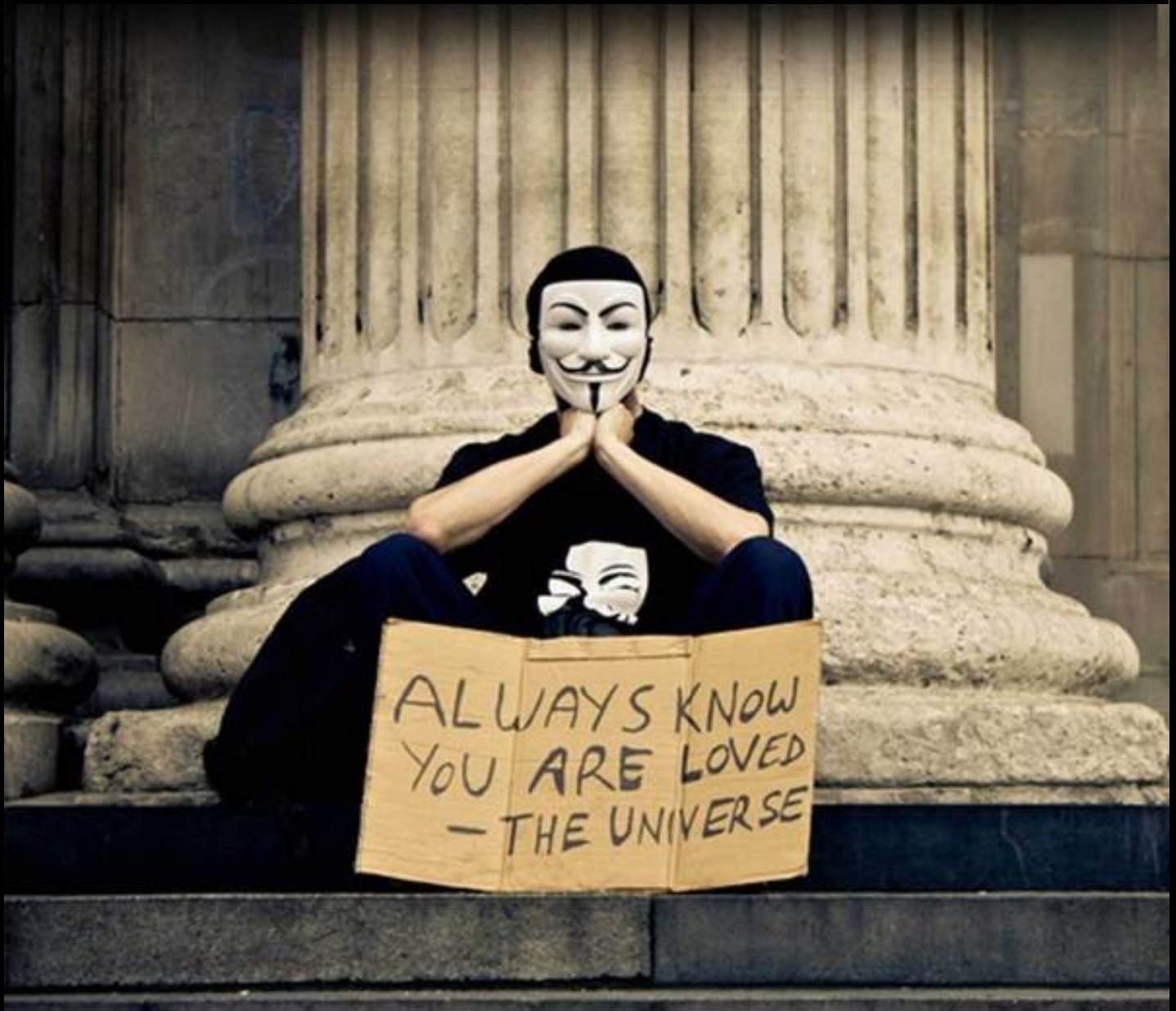


# Study Guide



## OCCUPY LOVE

REVOLUTION OF THE HEART

A FILM BY VELCROW RIPPER

PRODUCED BY NOVA AMI, VELCROW RIPPER  
& IAN MACKENZIE

[occupylove.com](http://occupylove.com)

# OCCUPY LOVE

FIERCE LOVE FILMS

P r e s e n t s

A COMMUNITY FUNDED FILM

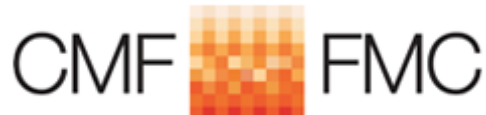
PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH

SUPER CHANNEL

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FIERCE LOVE FILMS



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## About The Film

Occupy Love is a moving, transformative feature documentary that asks the question: **how are the economic and ecological crises we are facing today a great love story?**

A profound shift is taking place all over the world. Humanity is waking up to the fact that the current system that dominates the planet is failing to provide us with health, happiness or meaning. The dominant paradigm is based on separation, as exemplified by the financial system, and the corporate emphasis of profits before people.

Our headlong rush towards infinite growth is destroying our communities, our ecology, and threatening our very existence. The climate crisis is hitting us with droughts, extreme weather, floods, sea level rise and more, yet corporate lobbyists block any attempts at mitigation. Unemployment is at an all time high, and the gap between the wealthiest 1% and the remaining 99% is growing alarmingly. People are losing their homes, and the quality of life for the many is plummeting, while the few are raking in absurd profits. Wall Street is making dangerous bets, greed is running rampant, and entire economies are collapsing. Governments have been bought by the corporations, and many of us had lost hope. Until now.

This crisis has become the catalyst for a profound transformation: millions of people are deciding that enough is enough - the time has come to create a new world, a world that works for all life. We have experienced an extraordinary year of change, from the Arab Spring, to the European Summer, and now, erupting into North America: the Occupy Movement.

This is a revolution rooted in compassion, direct democracy, and shared power, as opposed to the "power over" model of the corporate world view. The new story is one of Interdependence. Love is the movement. As the Occupy cry goes: "We are unstoppable. Another world is possible!"

We have been filming at Occupy Wall Street since the first day, and have filmed the historical General Strike at Occupy Oakland, and have filmed at Occupy Canada. Currently we are tracing the evolution of the movement in Europe. We explore the solutions to the problems we are facing, and zeroing in on the "heart" of this global evolution.

The film features an incredible cast of visionaries, both the well known, and the everyday heroes who are emerging in this fledgling movement. We have interviewed: Charles Eisenstein, Marina Sitrin, Judy Rebick, The Yes Men, Angaanaq, Clayton Thomas Muller, Tom Goldtooth, Bill McKibben, Malik from Occupy the Hood, Rebecca Solnit, Drew Dellinger, Don Tapscott, Jeremy Rifkin, Asmaa Mahfouz, Penny Livingston Stark, Rob Hopkins, and more.

More videos can be found at <http://www.occupylove.org>



## Our Story

I'm Velcrow Ripper, the director of OCCUPY LOVE. I've been making award winning documentaries for over twenty years. I consider myself a media activist, committed to making the world a better place through the power of cinema.

Our team includes co-producers Ian MacKenzie and Gregg Hill. We are bringing our hearts and minds together to create a film that can reflect and catalyze the heart of this global movement of movements. OCCUPY LOVE is the culmination of the Fierce Love Project, which began the award winning feature doc, Scared Sacred, about my journey to the Ground Zero's of the world, searching for stories of hope in the face of crisis, followed by the acclaimed Fierce Light: When Spirit Meets Action.

We are in love with this time of incredible possibility and hope, and are deeply committed to creating a film that can be of service.

## The Impact

OCCUPY LOVE is intended to both reflect and catalyze this global awakening to a world that works for all life, a world of economic and ecological justice. Anyone who has been following our blogs, our videos, and the previous films, will agree that this film will be of great service to the planet, and humanity.

We need to do everything we can to nurture this evolving movement, our ever evolving global society, and keep it moving always in the direction of love, in the direction of life. The film will be seen widely, in movie theatres, on television, on-line, and in grass roots community screenings around the world.



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# Quotes from Occupy Love

Use these quotes as discussion starters







## Cleo Reese

*“What is happening with our waters? What is happening with our land and the animals and the skies? We want to stop it. We don’t want it to get any worse than this.”*



## Violet Clarke

*“I had a nephew that worked for Syncrude. I said, ‘What do you do, Shane?’ He said, ‘I go around with this big garbage, and I pick all the ducks out from around that pond,’ he said, ‘and I put them in this garbage bag, and I throw them away in the garbage,’ he said.”*



## Clayton Thomas-Muller

*“We know that the system is broken. It was designed that way. It was designed to exploit, and we need a new economic paradigm, one that doesn’t sacrifice communities at the altar of irresponsible economic policies for the benefit of the privileged few.”*



## Tom Goldtooth

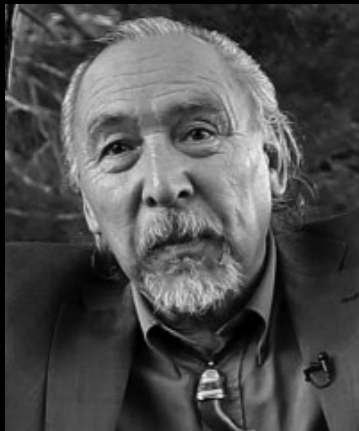
*“To love Mother Earth as if she is my real mother, as if she’s my real grandmother, you know? For me, to love her is to take care of her, even to cry for her sometimes.”*





## Kumu Raylene Kawaiaea

*"The essence of one being or one creation is love. It's not something outside of ourselves. It's not something outside of anyone or any thing. It's a part of who we are, always has been. It's part of our DNA, and it's part of all that cellular memory and all the stuff that scientists are figuring out about who we are."*



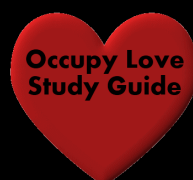
## Angaangaq Angakkorsuaq

*"Big ice where I come from is the clock on Mother Earth. It ticks and shows the changes. Whatever is happening on earth, that's where it shows up first. I live with the big ice, literally a few kilometres away from me, and I'm seeing the big ice vanishing into thin air."*



## Hart Traveller

*"I really like nature, because when you go out into nature, it doesn't yell things at you. It doesn't tell you what to do. It doesn't tell you that you're a stupid idiot. It just makes you feel peaceful, and it doesn't make you think of any bad things like hurting yourself or anything. It really helps you out."*





## Lauren Digioia

*"We are fighting for the rights of all humanity. We're coming together in the name of love, and in the name of having love for the future."*



## Noah Fischer

*"We've got to figure out how to build a country that's more equal, and where 100 percent of the people are looked after and have a good life, not just one percent."*

*We're connected. There is no 'I.' There's only 'we.'"*



## Anthony Robledo

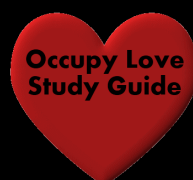
*"They can take the park. They can't take our hearts. They can't take that from us. You can't take our hearts, buddy. Remember that. We've still got our passion. We've still got our beliefs."*



## Hero Vincent

*"If anything, my family has been the epitome of struggle. Foreclosure, unemployment, tuition costs. My mother struggled to feed me and my little sister. Anything you can say, I can empathize with you, and I wanted to come out and empathize with all these people and stand in solidarity."*

Photo: [Jim Kiernan](#)







## Josh Broulet

*“The community is looking out for us, so come join the revolution. It’s all about love out here.”*



## Ted Actee

*“This is crazy. I mean, this is amazing. It went from 2 to 300 strong to global. If you look around, there’s thousands of people. You hear that?”*



## Natasha

*“All of us in the movement are answering the call of our conscience. That your particular problem, of your family, your sister, brother, friend are shared problems. They are collective, global problem*



## Rok

*“Governments are puppets of banks, but banks are not democratic. We cannot vote for banks.”*



## Judy Rebick

*“It’s sort of like when a wave comes in and leaves shells on the beach, you know? And then another wave comes in and leaves more on the beach, and that’s the way movements are. They change the landscape, like waves do, and each wave builds on the next wave. This is a big wave now that we’re in. Martin Luther King said we have to create a beloved community, and that’s happening now, right? It’s happening.”*





## Amr Adel

*“Standing in front of 10,000 saying ‘down to Mubarak’. This is one of the best moments of my life. At 11pm the guy that sells the state owned newspapers, lies and lies and lies and lies. We’re just looking at him. We don’t care about newspapers. We are the news! We are 10,000 occupying Tahrir Square.”*



## Reverend Billy

*“We’ll remember this moment as long as we live!”*



## Malik Rhassan

*“I’ve never felt so human in my life than coming out here. Watching the homeless get fed every day, watching people who would not normally have dialogue with each other talk every day.*

*You don’t have to die physically. We dying emotionally. We dying financially. You know what I’m saying?”*



## Marina Sitrin

*“All over the world, people are using the language of horizontalism to talk about how they’re organizing now, in assembly forums, and it implies attempts at breaking down power and upsetting hierarchy, having a form of direct democracy.”*





## Pancho Ramos

*"It's so important that we have a conscious mind. How are we going to restore our relationships? If we are advocating for harmonious community, and we would love to have a sense of justice and prosperity, we cannot be using the same methods and the same tactics. Ends and means for me are the same."*



## James O'Dea

*"Love can be the liberating force for humanity, because it's so primal and so simple, like light, that if it's allowed to move through us, its movement is*



## Drew Dellinger

*"The ecological crisis is deepening our love. It's deepening our love for the planet. We are called to love more fully, and to express our love in more powerful, visionary and effective ways. Lightning is continuously striking in 100 places every moment. The universe spills through our dreams. The future belongs to the most compelling story."*



## Colin Beavan

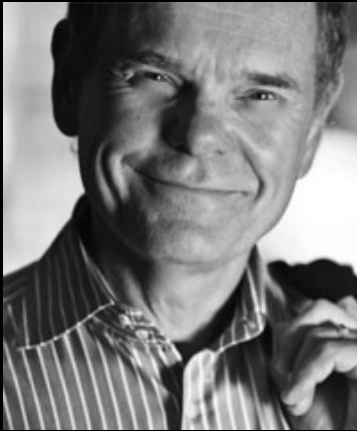
*"Our current cultural story tells us you get to work, you do your job, earn a lot of money, and that will help all of us, because that will grow the economy. People are up to their ears in credit card debt. They're losing their houses to mortgage foreclosures. They're working so much that they can't spend time with the people they love. Maybe we could find a way of life where we could make ourselves happy, be less acquisitive, and concentrate on the things that really make people happy, which happen to also use fewer environmental resources."*





## Charles Eisenstein

*“An economist says that essentially more for you is less for me, but the lover knows that more for you is more for me, too. If you love somebody, then their happiness is your happiness. Their pain is your pain. Your sense of self expands to include other beings. That’s love. Love is the expansion of the self to include the other, and that’s a different kind of revolution.”*



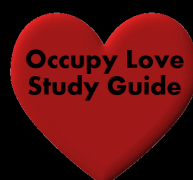
## Don Tapscott

*“During the winter nights, the starlings create one of the most spectacular things in nature. It’s called a murmuration, in reference to the murmuring of the wings of the birds. The murmuration functions on the basis of interdependence. Somehow the birds behave as if the interests of the individual bird is consistent with the interests of the murmuration as a whole, and there’s a huge integrity to this thing, such that they collectively do fight off a fearsome predator. What if we were able to connect ourselves on a global basis with this massive network, these pipes of glass and air? I think that humans are capable of great things. They’re capable of love.”*



## Jeremy Rifkin

*“The revolution here is from hierarchical to lateral power. That’s the power shift. This shift is going to change the way we live, the way we educate our children, and the way we govern the world.”*





## Naomi Klein

*"We aren't just facing an economic crisis. We are facing a profound ecological crisis that is intimately linked to the same greed-based, growth-based economic model, a model that can't ever say 'enough' or have enough, that has no brakes. This same mentality that trashes people trashes the planet."*

*"It isn't enough just to confront power. We have to have alternatives. We can't just be against. We also have to be for."*



## Barbara Marx Hubbard

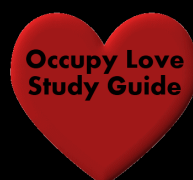
*"There's a love emerging now that's coming from our creativity, that's yearning for joining, because it can't fulfil itself alone. When it finds others, it starts to fall in love, but it's a love at the next level of creativity. It's excitement. It's vocational arousal. I see that the planet is going to be evolved by a massive uprising of creativity joined."*



## Roshi Joan Halifax

*"Being awake is love. That's what it is. It's certainly not hate. It's certainly not fear. But what it is, it's a sense of being not separate from all the suffering and all of the emptiness, all of the compassion, all of the wisdom, all of the liberation, and all of the enslavement, to understand we're all that."*

*"We're in a threshold experience right now. We're in this kind of situation where we don't have any time to waste. And I like the Zen evening verse that we chant that goes, 'Life and death are of supreme importance. Time passes swiftly, and the opportunity is lost. Let us awaken, awaken. Do not squander your life.'"*







## Rebecca Solnit

*"There's enough food in this world. There's enough housing in this world. There's enough shelter in this world. There's enough clothing in this world. There's enough teachers, there's enough universities for everybody's needs to be met, and the reasons they aren't is not because of lack of resources. It's because of distribution, and that's the politics of hate, which is why this is a movement against that. It's a politics of love. So of course this is a crisis whose answer is love."*



## Elisabet Sahtouris

*"A pioneer ecosystem is made of species that are feisty and competitive and bumping each other off, and a climax ecosystem is made up of species that are tightly interwoven and all feeding each other, like mature rain forests and coral reefs and prairies, with many, many species interdependent in a dance of love and interchange of all kinds."*



## bell hooks

*"What is justice? The heart of it is really longing for people to be able to grow and develop freely in a positive and constructive way. So what are the conditions that allow for that?"*

*Love comes in and says, 'There isn't any difference that can't be understood. There isn't any conflict that can't be reconciled.' So that love becomes a major, major threat to the formation of any kind of culture of dominator thinking and dominator society."*

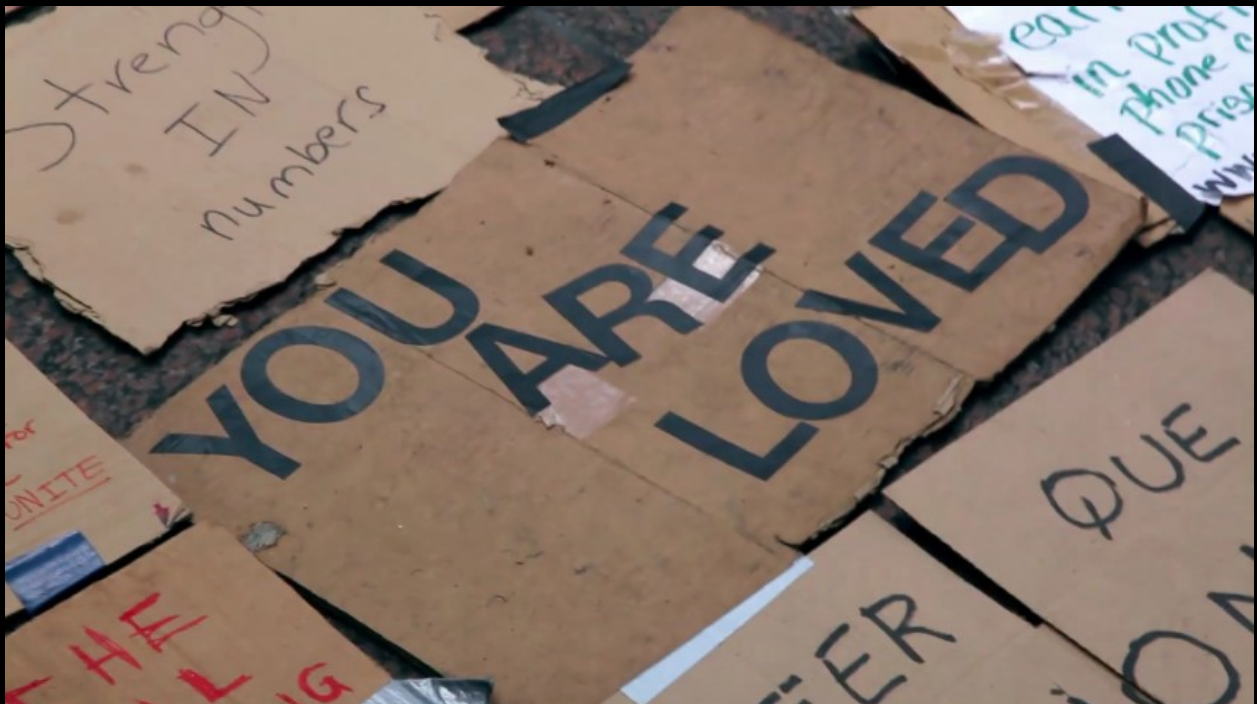


# Additional Reflection Questions



## The Nature of Love - South

1. How is love democratic?
2. What does it mean that “love is the nervous system of the universe?”
3. Why does great love entail great pain?
4. What does it mean to “be awake is to love?”
5. If “the essence of creation is love; it is not outside yourself but rather a part of our DNA and our cellular structure” then what implications does this have for the way we walk on this earth?
6. If the essence of creation is love and “a lover knows that the more there is for you, the more there is for me” then why is this economics that not the primary economics at work today in our world?
7. Explain how creativity and gifts create intimacy.
8. Why is nonviolent action so closely associated with the power of love?
9. If love is “messy, imperfect and human,” is there a perfect love?



## Understanding - North

1. Why is empathy important?
2. What parts of an archetypal love story are currently manifested in all the global crises?
3. Doctor Martin Luther King Junior is quoted as saying; “Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic.” Do you agree?
4. To what extent are we, as a human species, asleep and need to wake up?
5. How is helplessness a companion of fear?
6. What is our conscience and what is it calling us to do?
7. “Banks are not democratic.” Agree or disagree?
8. What is the difference between hierarchical and lateral power?
9. What are the dangers of drawing a line between the 1% and 99%? Are there dangers of NOT drawing a line between those percentages?
10. Describe system of neo-liberalism and why it called the “final colonial pillage.” List signs that this is happening.
11. What is justice?
12. What is the domination system and why is it that love cannot exist where there is domination?
13. What is the politics of hate and how is it visible?
14. Who is the enemy if there is no OTHER in this r/evolution?
15. Explain the quote that “climate change is not a technical issue but a power issue.”
16. Why does it matter that 70% of the species of life on earth might die off by the turn of the next century?



## Action - East

1. Can you imagine being so desperate as to set yourself on fire? How could that possibly inspire hope?
2. In what ways is love a methodology not an ideology?
3. How did Occupy Wall Street structure itself differently to develop a process not a product?
4. Can you describe why the Cree Nation/Indigenous Environmental Network is walking as a means of protest to the tar sands in Alberta?
5. What is the benefit of modeling alternative community as a method of protest?
6. Why are peaceful demonstrations so threatening to the status quo?
7. Explain how the ends and means are the same.





## Personal Reflective Questions - West

1. What is it that you do not want to be ignorant of anymore?
2. The future belongs to the most compelling story...which is the compelling story of your life?
3. Do you want a life of meaning and is your current path taking you there?
4. Can you say that you will like the new world, based on love, community and justice?
5. Can you see the expansion of empathetic awareness extending to persons other than your gender, ethnicity, enemies and to all life on earth?
6. How can I love if it breaks my heart?
7. Can you look in the mirror and honestly say to yourself; "I love you?"



