

Standing Rock re-Membered



Remembering and honoring the most courageously noble stand that was made (most notably from the spring 2016 through the spring of 2017) by the Water Protectors of Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline

via Scaughdt
an (i)am publication

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“We met with the Army Corps of Engineers a number of times, and none of the meetings went particularly well. I was present at all of them, and each time Colonel Henderson spoke I realized that he fully intended to approve the permits for the pipeline no matter what ... Everyone sensed it ... Everyone knew ... So on April 1, Ladonna, Joye, Joe White Eyes, and some others established the Sacred Stone Camp. It was established with peaceful ceremony and peaceful prayer, and it was built with the hope that things would be different this time; that the rights of the Native American would finally be respected -- that Peace and Justice would finally prevail. Somehow it became apparent to many that we, as native people, were not willing to see 500 years of genocide -- the pain, the anguish, the trauma, the frustration, the anger -- continue, and word of Sacred Stone Camp spread, and the Camp itself grew.

We have always fought, of course ... We have always protested ... We have always spoken up. We have always stepped up. We have always stood tall ... Alcatraz, Wounded Knee 1973, Laframboise Island, Camp Justice, Yellow Thunder, and so many others -- all of them exemplified the just cause of the many Noble Warriors who had gone before us. And yet this time was somehow different ... This time, tens of thousands of people -- from hundreds of tribes and dozens of countries joined with us; joined together to fight the Black Snake. They came from everywhere for so many different reasons, and yet at the heart of it all was one central Truth: *Mni Wiconi -- Water is Life.*” ~ Linda Black Elk



“A group of headmen from the Lakota/Dakota/Nakota met to pray and talk about what our people are facing [at Standing Rock]. We talked about what we witnessed Thursday. The veterans who came talked about how helpless we felt that we weren't able to protect the people. Our elders shed tears talking about seeing women and young people getting hurt. We also talked about the many brave deeds we witnessed in the face of great violence ... And in the end, we chose to have compassion for the wasicu, because we knew they were going to have to answer for their bad deeds. We also agreed that when they throw their anger and hatred at us it only makes us stronger, and that when they point their weapons at us it puts courage into our hearts ... Courage isn't the absence of fear, it's the ability to overcome the same. Now they have given us no choice but to be brave because we are Lakota/Dakota, and they are taking what is not theirs to own. Their ignorance and their cowardice and their greed have lit that fire within us, and now we have no fear in our Hearts ... Since the time of our ancestors they have tried to destroy us – and yet we are still here, and here we will remain.” ~ via John Eagle

An Introduction: re-Membering the Rock ...

What happened at Standing Rock should have come as no surprise – at least not to me; someone who had sound knowledge of the real aims & workings of the U.S. government; someone who had read the works of Howard Zinn and other courageous historians who have had the decency to document & share the actual history of the United States – how that country truly came to be; all the millions of innocent lives that were oppressed, abused, and ultimately extinguished to make way for the birth and growth of that “great nation” ... And yet even though I was fully aware of the violence and the greed that lay thickly shrouded still around the Heart of America, I must admit that what happened at Standing Rock shocked me to my core and re-ignited my Soul.

Yes, I knew full well that the U.S. government had been fully corrupted; with every single one of its political “leaders” already bought out and in effect directly controlled by corporate entities fully intent upon maximizing their own wealth at the expense of anyone who stood in their way. And yet even though I knew this intellectually, I was still stunned to witness that raw wickedness set so brazenly in motion in North Dakota – still-valid treaties openly ignored, constitutional rights shamelessly dismembered, sacred burial grounds destroyed, peaceful (and ever unarmed) protestors repeatedly assaulted – with police officers causing immense harm & suffering to those they had sworn to protect & serve, with attorneys & judges prosecuting the innocent and letting the guilty roam free, with politicians (all the way to the Presidency itself) turning blind eyes and hardened Hearts upon the victims of outright oppression while privately reaping enormous financial profits therefrom ... In essence, what I was witnessing was the American police state in full bloom; no longer needing to hide behind the hollow pretenses of patriotism or safety. What I was witnessing was not the fall of America, but rather the fact that she had already long since fallen.

And yet I also witnessed something else at Standing Rock – something as magnificent as the Dakota Access Pipeline was vile. I witnessed Native Americans willing to stand with great courage in the face of that great evil, and I witnessed thousands upon thousands of others come and join them, in their righteous cause; others from all walks of humanity – all creeds, all races, all genders, and indeed all nations. They all came together to stand with the Sioux at Standing Rock – they all came together to bring Good to the doorstep of evil; to bring Light into the depths of the shadows ... And while it is true that the Pipeline did proceed as planned and was indeed completed – while it is true that the forces of darkness temporarily prevailed, the actions of the Water Protectors at Standing Rock won the far greater battle. For they reminded us all that we are more than “only human” – they reminded us all that we are HUMAN(e), and that we are free to act accordingly, even in the face of seemingly impossible odds and seemingly indestructible foes. They reminded us that victory comes never from might, but rather solely from Mercy; that the cunning will always ultimately give way to the Compassionate, and that the greed-tainted will always ultimately succumb to the Just & the Kind.

And so this collection of words and images is a heartfelt tribute to those who fought the Good Fight at Standing Rock; to those who stood for what was Right & True; to those who stood for Peace & Justice; to those who stood for our planet and our children; and to those who stand for them still ... *Peace* to all.

Scaughdt
(November 2017)



**Funny how everybody
likes the "Indian"
that talks about
the earth, the water,
harmony, feathers
and spirit animals.
But nobody likes
the "Indian"
that talks about
the invasion,
terrorism, murder,
genocide, plundering
and rapes by
the settlers.**





“In heartfelt prayer and active nonviolence all things become possible, because that’s where we begin to enliven another Way ... And the enlivening of that other Way is the cultural transformation that’s happening at Standing Rock.” ~ via Karen Van Fossan

Standing Rock vs. DAPL ... The FACTS

- mid September 2014 DAPL project re-routed through Standing Rock Sioux land
- September 30, 2014 Standing Rock Sioux officially oppose new pipeline route
- December 22, 2014 Dakota Access LLC submits application for new pipeline route
- February 17, 2015 US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) sends letter to Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) ... THPO requests full archaeological investigation
- February 18+, 2015 THPO sends numerous follow-up letters to ACOE – all go unanswered
- March 25, 2015 Public Service Commission (PSC) considers project application complete
- September 15, 2015 THPO expresses concerns over “significant unevaluated properties”
- September 2, 2015 Standing Rock Sioux Resolution 406-15 openly denounces DAPL pipeline:
 - *citing Article 2 of the Fort Laramie Treaty of April 29, 1868 (which guarantees Native Americans “undisturbed use & occupation” of tribal lands)
 - *citing Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice (which notes that original route north of Bismarck abandoned to “avoid adverse impact”)
 - *citing Pipeline Safety Act & Clean Water Act (which notes per 49CFR§195.452(h) that project plan must estimate maximum possible spill)
 - *citing National Environmental Policy Act (which notes per 40CFR§1502.16 that a detailed EIS has not been completed)
 - *citing Executive Order 13007 on Protection of Sacred Sites (which states “In managing federal lands, each executive branch agency shall avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of sacred sites.”)
- December 9, 2015 ACOE posts announcement of pending review of DAPL project
- January 20, 2016 Dakota Access LLC announces PSC approves permit for project
- early April 2016
 - *ACOE determines that no historic properties will be affected
 - *Standing Rock Sioux request additional archaeological surveying
 - *Sacred Stone resistance camp founded ... 1st protests reported
- April 29, 2016
 - *Public hearing held in Mobridge (ND) ... All those present opposed project
 - *Standing Rock Sioux demand a more thorough EIS of project route
- May 2016 DAPL workers continue clearing land for construction
- June 2016 US Advisory Council on Historic Preservation disputes Corps findings
- July 25, 2016 ACOE submits finding of “No Significant Impact” and approves project
- July 26, 2016 Easements granted to drill under Miss. River, Lake Sakakawea & Lake Oahe
- July 27, 2016 Standing Rock Sioux again legally challenge pipeline project
- August 4, 2016 Standing Rock Sioux sues ACOE for violation of NHPA (at this point the pipeline is already under construction)
- August 10, 2016 Demonstrators halt Dakota Access LLC construction of pipeline (1st arrest of protestors made)
- August 15, 2016 Energy Transfer Partners countersues the Standing Rock Sioux
- August 31, 2016
 - *United Nations officially supports Standing Rock Sioux
 - *Dale “Happy” American Horse Jr. locks on to construction equipment
- September 3, 2016 Energy Transfer Partners purposefully demolishes sacred burial ground sites (destruction of grave sites previously documented publicly by Tim Mentz – a clear violation of ND Code 23-06-27(3), which states “A person is guilty of a felony who ... willfully disturbs a human burial site, human remains, or burial goods found in or on any land, or attempts to do the same, or incites or procures the same.”) Private security attacks peaceful protestors – using pepper spray & attack dogs

September 6, 2016 *US District Judge James Boasberg halts construction
*Warrant issued for Jill Stein's arrest

September 8, 2016 ND Governor J. Dalrymple activates National Guard

September 9, 2016 Judge Boasberg officially denies Standing Rock Sioux's request for relief

September 13, 2016 23 Water Protectors arrested on felony charges without bond

September 14, 2016 (69 Water Protectors arrested to date)

September 23, 2016 1200 archaeologists officially denounce DAPL destruction of sacred sites

September 28, 2016 heavily militarized police push back protestors (21 arrested)

October 9, 2016 US Court of Appeals rules against Standing Rock Sioux

October 10, 2016 Shailene Woodley arrested with 26 others

October 11, 2016 Lawrence O'Donnell publicly stands with Standing Rock
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mqBy8aKBDI>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EsQa7GdeI4>

October 12, 2016 Energy Transfer Partners proceeds with construction despite requests by the Justice Department, the Department of the Army, and the Department of Interior to cease (27 additional protestors arrested)

October 23, 2016 141 Water Protectors arrested – DAPL asks to have Native drones shot down (activists put in kennels & numbered; dozens strip-searched)

October 27, 2016 Sacred Ground Camp raided (140+ arrested)

November 2, 2016 *Pres. Obama claims that ACOE is "examining whether there are ways to reroute the pipeline" (Liar!!!) and says that the US government is thus going to "let it play out for a few more weeks" (For shame!!!)
*Police occupy sacred Turtle Island, dismantle protestors' prayer bridge & attack protestors with pepper spray & rubber bullets

November 3, 2016 *500 clergy denounce Catholic Church's racist "Doctrine of Discovery"
*14 arrested in Bismarck praying before Capitol

November 15, 2016 *International #NoDAPL Day of Action in 300 cities
*Energy Transfer Partners files lawsuit against USACoE
*Population of Resistance Camps said to be near 10,000

November 21, 2016 Law enforcement use tear gas, rubber bullets and water canons (167+ protestors injured – 7 severely)

November 25, 2016 Evacuation of all Camps (by Dec 5) ordered by ACOE

November 28, 2016 Evacuation order issued by Governor Dalrymple (winter supplies unofficially blockaded & confiscated)

December 3, 2016 2000+ Veterans arrive & stand with Standing Rock

December 4, 2016 ACOE halts construction pending new EIS

January 24, 2017 Trump expedites DAPL approval process

February 1, 2017 76 protestors arrested

February 7, 2017 ACOE grants easement to drill under the Missouri River (also cancels EIS & public comment window)

February 9, 2017 Cheyenne Sioux & Standing Rock Sioux ask for injunction

February 13, 2017 Judge Boasberg denies the joint motion, noting that oil is not yet flowing

February 22, 2017 new ND Governor Doug Burgum sets this date for remaining protestors to leave encampment on federal land near construction site

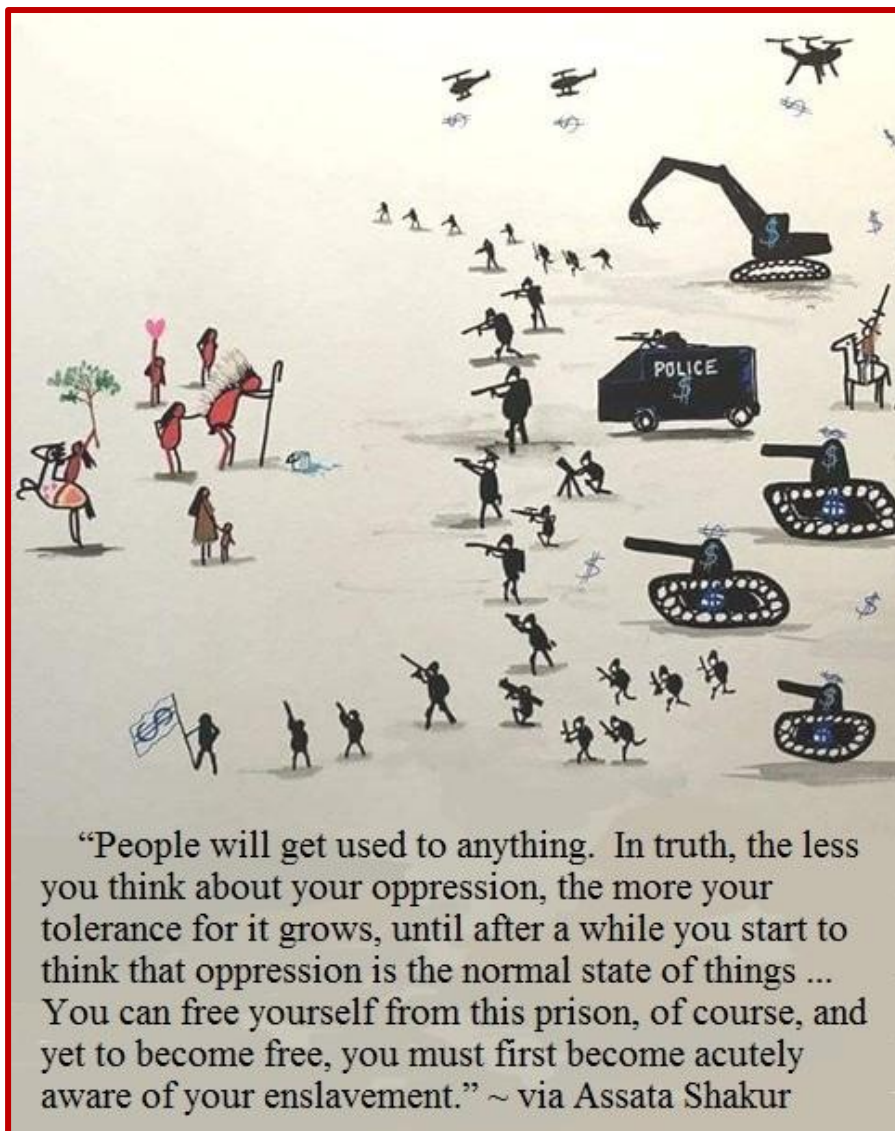
February 23, 2017 47 arrested during clearing of the Oceti Sakowin Camp

March 1, 2017 Sacred Stone Camp cleared by BIA

March 7, 2017 Judge Boasberg denies preliminary injunction, citing unlikelihood that tribes will ultimately prevail (!?!?)

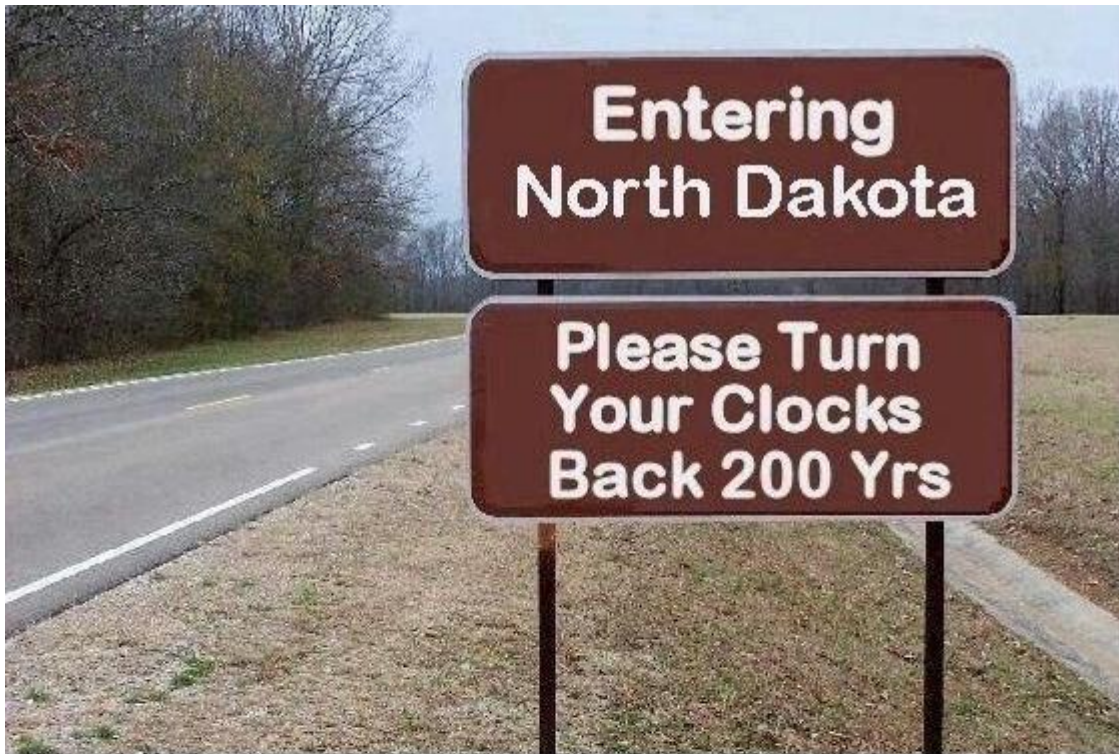
March 20, 2017 Energy Transfer Partners says that oil is in the pipeline beneath the River, and that the complete line will soon become fully operational

A white man and an elderly Native man became pretty good friends, so the white guy decided to ask him: “What do you think about Indian mascots?” The Native paused for a moment and then responded: “Here’s what you’ve got to understand. When you look at black people, you see the ghosts of all the slavery and the rapes and the hangings and the chains. When you look at Jews, you see the ghosts of all those bodies piled up in Nazi death camps. And those ghosts keep encouraging you to do the right thing. But when you look at us you don’t see the ghosts of little babies with their heads smashed in by rifle butts at Big Hole, or the old folks dying by the side of the trail on the way to Oklahoma, or the dead mothers at Wounded Knee, or the little kids at Sand Creek who were shot for target practice. No, when you look at us you don’t see any ghosts at all. Instead you see casinos and drunks and junk cars and shacks ... Well, we see those ghosts. And they make our hearts sad and they hurt our children. And when we try to say something, you tell us, ‘Get over it. This is America. Look at the American dream.’ But as long as you’re calling us Redskins and doing tomahawk chops at football games, we can’t look at the American dream, because those things remind us that we are not real human beings to you. And when people aren’t humans, you can turn them into slaves or kill six million in gas chambers of them or shoot them down with Hotchkiss guns and throw them into mass graves at Wounded Knee ... We’re not looking at the American dream, because we still haven’t woken up from the American nightmare.” ~ anonymous

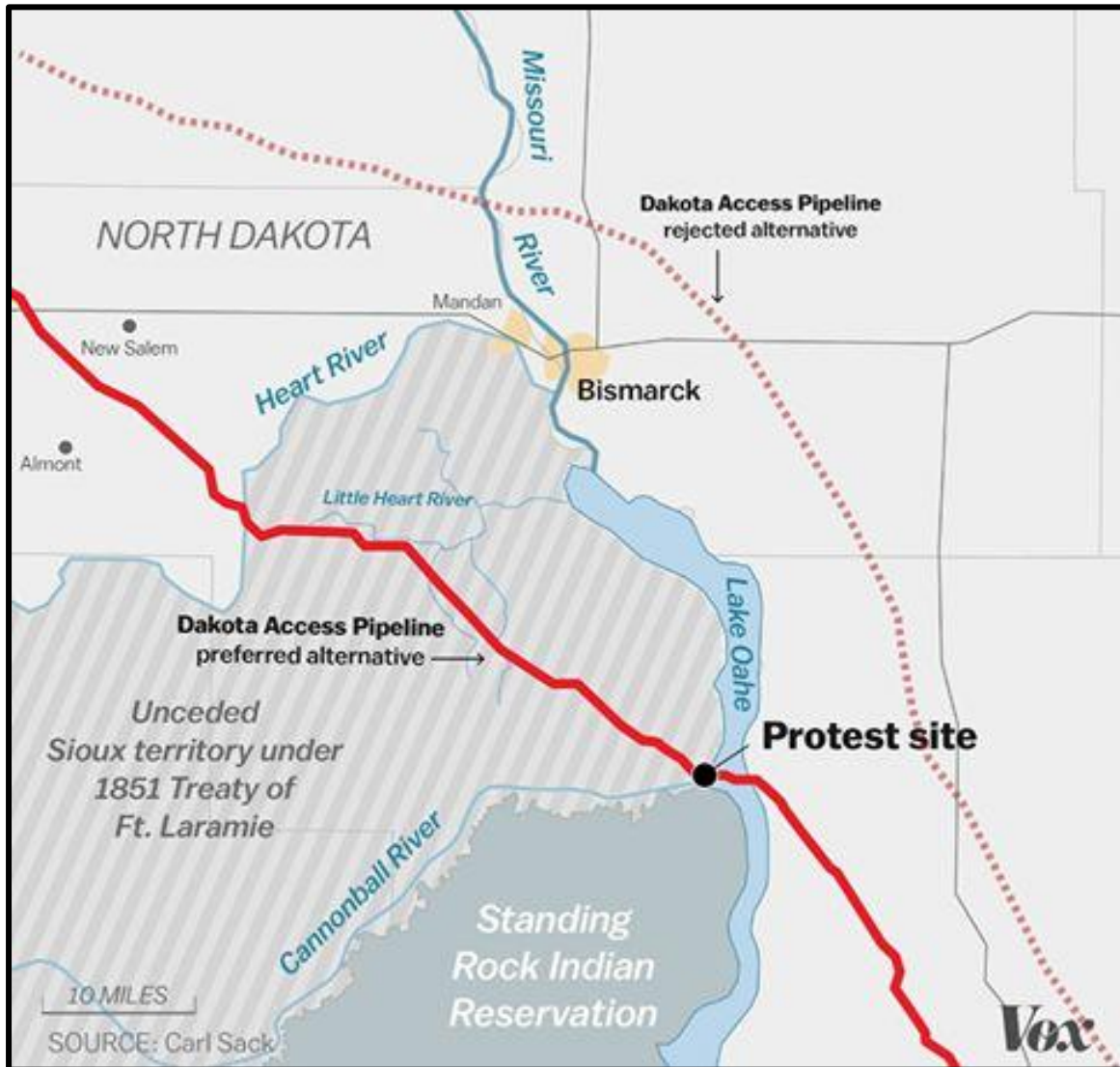




Someone was waiting in line at a grocery store, and the woman in front of her was speaking on her cellphone in a foreign language. After she hung up, the white man ahead of her turned and said quite politely: "I didn't want to interrupt you while you were talking on the phone, but you are in America now, and should really be speaking English." ... "Excuse me?" said the woman. The man replied, this time speaking very slowly: "If you want to speak Mexican, you can do so in Mexico. Here in America, we speak English." ... The woman paused for a moment, smiled at him gently, and then replied: "Sir, I was actually speaking Navajo. If you want to speak English, maybe *you* should go back to England."



"No human being should ever have to fear for his or her personal safety because of their political affiliation, their religious beliefs, or their skin color. Unfortunately, there are obviously still many Americans who have somehow forgotten this founding principle of freedom; have somehow forgotten that we are *all* quite literally in this together -- liberals & conservatives, believers & non-believers, red folks, white folks, black & brown & yellow folks. We *all* share a mutual responsibility towards Mother Earth and *all* those who live and breathe upon Her ... Always remember this, my Friends ... And always choose to act accordingly." ~ inspired by Leonard Peltier



“The aforesaid Indian nations do hereby recognize & acknowledge the following tracts of country, included within the metes & boundaries hereinafter designated, as their respective territories: The territory of the Sioux or Dahcotah Nation, commencing the mouth of the White Earth River, on the Missouri River: thence in a southwesterly direction to the forks of the Platte River: thence up the north fork of the Platte River to a point known as the Red Butte, or where the road leaves the river; thence along the range of mountains known as the Black Hills, to the head-waters of Heart River; thence down Heart River to its mouth; & thence down the Missouri River to the place of beginning ... It is, however, understood that, in making this recognition and acknowledgement, the aforesaid Indian nations do not hereby abandon or prejudice any rights or claims they may have to other lands; & further, that they do not surrender the privilege of hunting, fishing, or passing over any of the tracts of country heretofore described.” ~ The 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie (Article V)

“This Constitution, & the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; & all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be *the supreme law of the land*; & the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.” ~ The United States Constitution (Article VI)

A Refresher Course on THE LAW ...

Let's review the very first portion of the Bill of Rights; that miraculous founding facet of that miraculous document -- the U.S. Constitution -- that (supposedly) ensures that ALL Americans have liberty in their lives and that *all* Americans have equal protection under the law ... The **First Amendment** states quite clearly that “Congress shall make no law ... prohibiting the free exercise [of any religion]; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances” ... Needless to say, the inalienable rights contained herein have been absolutely *trample upon* by the officials of North Dakota & Morton County therein at Standing Rock ... Consider:

*The Water Protectors at Standing Rock have been *unlawfully arrested* for peaceably assembling on public property, and they have been unlawfully arrested for peaceably assembling on private property without any complaint from the owner of said property.

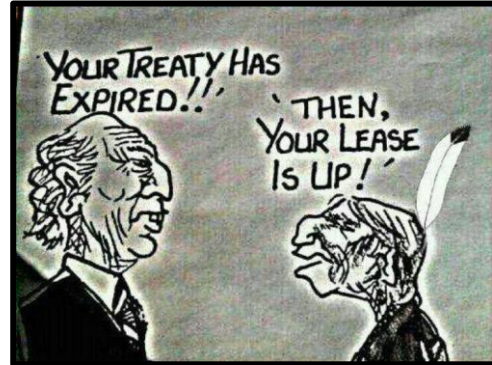
*Members of the press who have gathered in North Dakota to neutrally observe and impartially record to goings on during this incredibly important movement have been *unlawfully arrested* for doing so -- with some of them even being charged with the felony of “participating in a riot.”

*Most importantly of all, many hundreds of peaceful Water Protectors have been *unlawfully arrested* merely for speaking their minds; merely for standing up in a loud-yet-respectful manner and correctly proclaiming that what the oil companies are doing is flat-out wrong -- for saying that they have improperly obtained easements for their pipeline even though the same is being built purely for private profit; for saying that they are building their pipeline on lands that were stolen from the Native Americans and that indeed still belong to the “Lakota Sioux” per the Fort Laramie Treaties of 1851 & 1868 (the validity thereof having been later upheld in 1980 by the United States Supreme Court); for saying that the DAPL workers *violated both federal and North Dakota law* on multiple occasions by knowingly & willingly destroying multiple Native American grave-sites and sacred spaces; for saying that the (shockingly militarized) police force on hand is knowingly & willingly failing in its sworn duty to protect and serve THE PEOPLE -- *not* corporate profit margins.

*Indeed, even the last tenet of the First Amendment has become meaningless there, because even though the Water Protectors technically still have their right to petition the U.S. government for a redress of their grievances, this right has no meaning whatsoever when the government refuses to take such petitions seriously.

In summation then, there is no more viable Freedom of Speech in North Dakota; there is no more Right to Peaceably Assemble in North Dakota; and there is no more Freedom of the Press in North Dakota ... In North Dakota, at least -- and at the very least as far as Native Americans are concerned, democracy has died, and has been replaced by a full-blown, fully illegitimate police state.

“We are Standing Rock -- one of the most powerful places in the world. It is currently one of the only places in the United States where the government and local authorities maintain extreme caution when approaching; not because of weapons of violence (because there are none), but rather because they fear the camp standing peacefully as a place where people from all around the world have come to form a community of love, prayer, and protection. We are what corporations fear the most: free thinking humanity focused on human and civil rights to guide our future -- to protect Mother Earth and keep Her safe; to respect our heritage and preserve our history; to defend indigenous liberties and preserve justice for all ... We encourage you to get to know us ... We are Standing Rock, and we will sit no more.” ~ via Redhawk



A few Important Questions: the Why's of it all ...

***Why** is Morton County strip-searching Native Americans after (often unlawfully) arresting them for minor misdemeanors?

*And **why** is North Dakota threatening unarmed, lawful, and fully peaceful protestors with a fully militarized police presence, including hundreds of police in full riot gear, armed with brandished batons, shotguns, automatic weapons, and armored vehicles?

*And **why** have the local authorities in North Dakota refused to charge GS4 (the private security company hired by Dakota Access LLC) with *assault with a deadly weapon* for unleashing attack dogs on peaceful protestors on September 3rd of 2016, &/or standard assault for unlawfully spraying peaceful protestors with chemical agents (pepper spray)?

*And **why** have local authorities not pressed charges against Dakota Access LLC itself for willfully & knowingly destroying sacred burial sites on that same day (pursuant to North Dakota Code Chapter 23-06-27.03, which clearly states: "A person is guilty of a felony who, without authority of law, willfully disturbs a human burial site, human remains, or burial goods found in or on any land, or attempts to do the same ... A person is guilty of a class B felony if the offense in this subsection was committed for monetary gain, whether or not such monetary gain was related to the use of the land in or on which the burial, remains, or goods were disturbed.")?

*And **why** have numerous journalists been unlawfully arrested and charged with misdemeanors for lawfully recording the events at Standing Rock -- fully pursuant to their 1st Amendment right to do so?

*And **why** have federal authorities not pressed charges against North Dakota police officers under U.S. Code 18 Section 242, which clearly states: "Whomever, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, willfully subjects any person in any State, Territory, Commonwealth, Possession, or District to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or to different punishments, pains, or penalties, on account of such person being an alien, or by reason of his color, or race, than are prescribed for the punishment of citizens, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both; and if bodily injury results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, explosives, or fire, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both"?

*And **why** have numerous Water Protectors been charged with **felonies** for lawfully & peacefully protesting the illegitimate destruction of their sacred lands and the immoral endangerment of their primary water supply?

*And **why** has President Obama done **nothing** to halt these egregious tragedies of justice? (For shame, Barack Obama – *for shame!*)

Well, the answer to all these questions is a simple one, and the answer to all of them is exactly the same ...

..... **MONEY** .





"The measure of a civilization is not how tall its buildings are or how long its pipelines run, but rather how gently & harmoniously its people relate to their environment, and how justly & compassionately its people deal with their neighbors." ~ via Sun Bear



"Warriors are not what you think of as warriors. The true warrior is not someone who fights with violence, because no one has the right to take the life of another -- even the life of an abject enemy. No, the true warrior for us is the one who sacrifices himself for the good of others ... His task is to care for the elderly, to defend the defenseless, to stand between injustice and its victims, and above all to protect the children -- the future of humanity and the next caretakers of our Earth." ~ inspired by Sitting Bull

(**Pictured:** Dale "Happy" American Horse Jr. -- who performed the first act of open civil disobedience at Standing Rock; locking himself down to DAPL construction equipment on August 31, 2016; thereby successfully shutting down pipeline construction for that day)





"We're sitting here in this world, a world where there has been no real rainfall in Syria for five years -- a world where catastrophic storms are increasing in their strength and their frequency, and this pipeline alone is going to add about 250,000 tons of carbon emissions to the atmosphere every single day ... In addition to destroying Native burial grounds and insulting Native traditions, that is exactly what this Dakota Access pipeline is -- and that's just plain *wrong*." ~ via Winona Laduke



👏 IT'S INTERESTING THAT EVERY SINGLE BIG PIPELINE CUTS RIGHT THROUGH THE HEART OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANDS WHILE COMPLETELY BYPASSING WHITE SUBURBS AND GOLF COURSES. IT'S ALMOST LIKE THEY'RE DOING IT ON PURPOSE. 🙏

DAVEY WILLIAMS



"Know that you yourself are absolutely essential to this world, and that you must understand both the blessing and the challenge of that. I will say it again: You yourself are desperately needed to save the Soul of this world. Did you think you were put here for anything less?"

~ via Chief Arvol Looking Horse

*On Friday, September 2nd (2016) – on the basis of a survey that had uncovered numerous sacred sites (including burial grounds) within the proposed construction path of the pipeline – the Standing Rock Sioux Nation filed legal papers challenging the permits that had been given to DAPL by the Army Corps of Engineers ... The very next morning, barely 24 hours after those papers had been filed, DAPL moved several bulldozers from their previous construction areas and purposefully destroyed those same sacred sites.



“They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but they never kept but one: *they promised to take our land and they came and took it* ... It was not hard to see that the White Man coveted every inch of land on which we lived. It was not hard to feel his desire and his greed. He wanted our land, every last bit of it -- every last bit of ground that supported Indian feet. Indeed, it was land -- it has always been land -- for which the White Man oppresses the Indian, and to gain possession of that land he has shown that he will commit any crime ... The treaties that have been made are but vain attempts to save the smallest slice of our fatherland; treaties that are holy to us by the smoke of the pipe. But nothing is holy to the White Man. Little by little, with callousness and cruelty unsurpassed by any others, he has taken almost all of it from us. And still he comes -- still he wants more. The loaf is completely gone and yet the White Man comes for the crumbs.” ~ inspired by Chief Luther Standing Bear (Oglata Lakota)



One morning, a 14-year-old girl came and sat down with the elders before the sacred fire and quietly asked them to think about the pipeline security guards who had just attacked members of the camp with dogs and pepper spray, saying: “Something painful must have happened to them as children. Maybe they didn’t have loving parents. Maybe they were abused ... They obviously need kindness. I ask you to forgive them.”



"There is something mysterious about the Standing Rock movement. On the surface it seems like just another reaction to mistreatment and abuse of the land, just another opposition to injustice. And yet if you watch closely and listen quietly, the spirits will whisper in your ear -- the spirits at Standing Rock will begin speaking to the spirits that reside within your Heart. The world is steadily transforming itself back from the square to the circular -- back from greed and conquest to community and harmony. This is what you see when the doors of perception open. This is what is happening at Standing Rock." ~ inspired by Josue Rivas



"When you come to this gathering, you can't help but feel the Love, and the prayer, and the spirit of our ancestors, and the amazing feeling that comes from all the tribes coming together. It's something that goes deep into your center of self, and you can't help but be moved. I've cried more sad and happy tears in the last few weeks that I can count, and I know that the Seventh Generation has finally arrived. I know that this is what our ancestors envisioned; all of the tribes uniting in prayer -- all of the people uniting to bring a great Peace. I'm so blessed to have been a part of it all; to have met so many caring people, to have been able to help the cause in any way, and to have been able to bear humble witness to so much Love and Unity." ~ via Alayne Lee Eagle Shield



“I believe that there will ultimately be a clash between all those who are being oppressed and those who are doing the oppressing. I believe that there will indeed be a clash between those who want freedom, justice, and equality for everyone and those who want to continue the cuurent system of repression and exploitation. I believe that there will be that great clash, and yet I do *not* believe that said clash will be based on the color of one's skin.” ~ via Malcolm X



"This time it isn't the Indians versus the Cowboys. No -- this time it's different. This time it's all of the beautiful races of humanity facing off against all that would seek to destroy the same; this time it's all peoples coming together on the same side -- the side of Justice, the side of Peace, the side of Respect, the side of Love. This time we know that arrows and bullets and cannonballs won't save us. This time we know that violence only brings more violence and that hatred will only bring more hatred ... No, the only weapons that will triumph in this great battle are the only weapons that can ever hope to open the Hearts of those whose minds remained closed -- and these are the weapons of Truth, and the weapons of Nonviolence, and the weapons of Compassion." ~ inspired by Lyla June (Navajo)



"Our prayers reach the stars and shine back upon us like soothing words from our ancestors, making every dot in the night sky into another member of our greater Family fighting to protect all that is right and sacred." ~ via Tomas Kamelo Amaya



"The fact that we still have Native Americans left in this country who will still choose to be arrested for 'trespassing' on their own land is most certainly **not** a testimony to any supposed 'mercy' of the genocidal invaders who seized their land in the first place, but is rather a shining beacon to the *stunning strength* of those who were here long before us; of those who have always known what we have so obviously forgotten; of those who have always known what is truly sacred in this world -- of the 500 years of their impressive endurance in the face of injustice, and of the 500 years of their undying dignity in the face of oppression." ~ inspired by Lawrence O'Donnell



That's right -- all this; all these heavily militarized police invading sacred land (upon which they have no true jurisdiction) to arrest unarmed American citizens for peacefully & lawfully protecting local water supplies from being poisoned by a pipeline that is being built by a fracking billionaire from Texas; essentially so that Canada can more easily sell its dirty Bakken shale oil to the Chinese ... If this doesn't deeply upset you, your moral compass is broken, and needs to be repaired or replaced as quickly as possible.



“There is a wicked and pervading arrogance loose on the earth, like a rabid beast -- like an overdog. Does it run, does it slouch, does its name have a number? No matter, as this beast preaches contempt, for that's what arrogance essentially says: that nothing is real but itself, and that the bone and the blood and the joy of another's being are as insubstantial as breath.” ~ via Kelly Cherry

(Actually, if you choose to take a deep breath and look without anger, most of these men are quite clearly disturbed and even ashamed of what they are doing ... On a deeper level, even the ones who look like they are having fun know an even deeper hurt, and therefore an even deeper shame -- a shame that will gnaw at their days and have them twitching in their sleep until they either one day die in distress or -- hopefully -- awaken to their crimes against decency and atone for the same. As enraged as I am over what is happening at Standing Rock, I know that Justice will win in the end, and that these men doing these wicked deeds will pay with years and years of stress and regret ... I have great Compassion for them -- the same Compassion that will allow them to awaken sooner; if we but have the courage to extend it to them *while* they are behaving badly ... **Peace.**)



*"Men build far too many walls
and far too few bridges."* ~ Joseph Newton



“Our nation was born in genocide when it embraced the doctrine that the original American -- the Indian -- was an inferior race. Even before there were large numbers of Negroes on our shore, the scar of racial hatred had already disfigured our early society. From the sixteenth century forward blood flowed copiously in battles over racial supremacy. Indeed, we are perhaps the only nation which tried as a matter of national policy to wipe out its indigenous population ... Just as repulsively, our leaders chose to then elevate that vile travesty and turn it into a sort of noble crusade. To this very day we as a people have not permitted ourselves to reject or feel appropriate remorse for this shameful episode in our history. In truth our literature, our films, our drama, and our folklore all for the most part exalt it. And our children are still taught to respect and even honor the massive acts of violence which reduced a red-skinned people of an earlier and equally worthy culture into a few fragmented groups herded onto and essentially confined within a smattering of impoverished reservations.” ~ via Martin Luther King Jr.



At first the federal government's lack of response to the violent atrocities being committed by local and state "authorities" at Standing Rock was alarming. Then it became annoying -- and then frustrating -- and then aggravating. And now it has become outright infuriating & indeed downright shameful ...

Mr. Obama, you have once again exposed yourself to be a hypocrite; a shill to those with money & power; an utter *disgrace* to the country you have sworn to serve. And yet at the very least you and all the lame-principled, greed-steeped politicians under you have finally shown us all the Truth -- namely, the Truth that you just don't care about we the people; the Truth that you only care about maintaining your own comfort and status by caving to the wishes of the elite few over the dire needs of the impoverished many.



"If you're going to hold someone down against their will you're going to have to do so by holding the other end of their chain; an act which always ends up imprisoning you in your own repression." ~ via Toni Morrison





On October 27, 2016, Morton County Sheriff's deputies claimed that this woman threatened them with a .38 caliber pistol ... As anyone with even a modicum of intelligence can see in this image, what she is actually holding is a highly non-lethal prayer stick. As such, I think we have found the source of the problem in Standing Rock -- that being, abject moronity on the part of the "authorities" there, mixed of course with more than a touch of racism and exceptionally poor training ... And so it is that I wondered as I watched these events unfold from afar: How much longer will our species behave so barbarically towards one another? How much longer will we *all* (the "authorities" included) suffer from hatred and violence and fear and ignorance? ... How much longer?



"The only thing more frightful than willful ignorance in action is hateful greed in motion."

~ inspired by Wolfgang von Goethe



“When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life in such a way that when you die it is the world that weeps, and it is you who know Peace and Happiness.” ~ via White Elk

There is no middle ground. Either you support this coward macing a woman for protecting her water, or you stand with Standing Rock. [#NoDAPL](#)



While it is indeed true that I have immense compassion for all cowards, it is in-Deed just as true that I choose to boldly stand and fight for Justice alongside the brave.



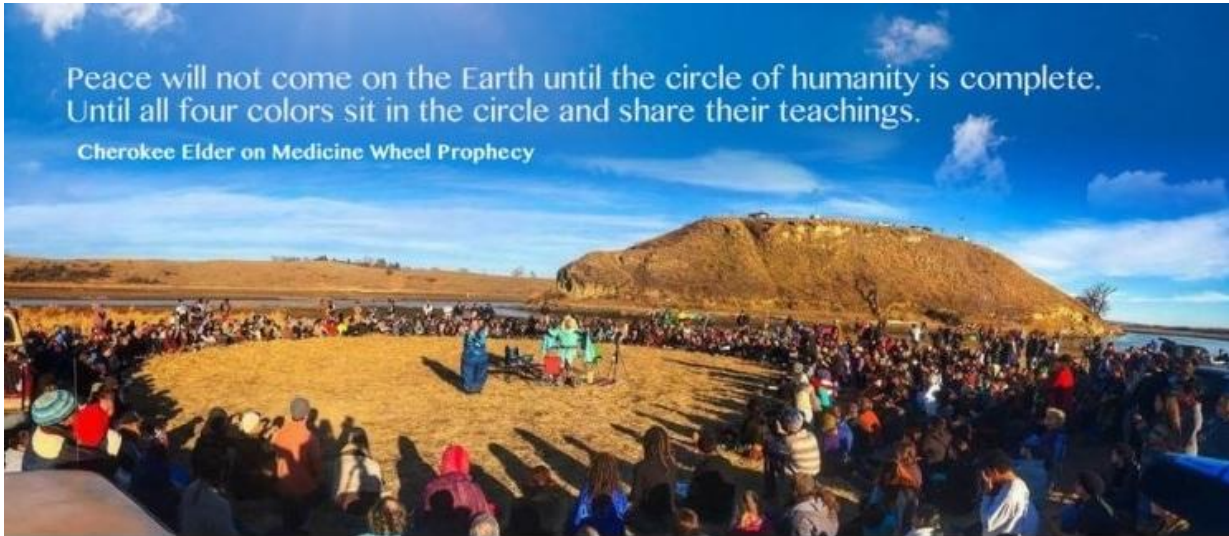
"We warned you that one day you would no longer be able to control what you have created ... That day is now here." ~ Chief Arvol Looking Horse



“What is this you call property? It cannot be the Earth, for the land is our Mother, sustaining and nourishing all Her children -- all the animals, all the birds, all the fish, and all of humankind. The woods, the streams, the meadows, the lakes -- everything in Nature belongs to all of us and is for the respectful use of all. How can one group of men say it belongs only to them?” ~ via Massasoit

Peace will not come on the Earth until the circle of humanity is complete.
Until all four colors sit in the circle and share their teachings.

Cherokee Elder on Medicine Wheel Prophecy



“The true Indian truly loves the soil, and sits or reclines on the ground with a feeling of being fully connected with the Mothering Power. It is good for the skin to touch the earth, and so Indians like to remove their moccasins and walk with bare feet over the sacred ground. Their tipis are built upon the earth and their altars are made of the earth. Even the birds that fly in the air come to rest upon the earth, and the earth is the final abiding place of all things that once lived and grew. The soul of the earth is soothing, strengthening, cleansing, and healing. And this is why the Indian still sits upon the earth instead of propping himself up and away from its life-giving energies. For the Indian, to sit or lie upon the ground is to be able to think more deeply and to feel more keenly. She can see more clearly into the mysteries of life, and he can come much closer in heartfelt kinship to the other lives around him.” ~ via Chief Luther Standing Bear (Oglata Lakota Sioux)



“And while I stood there, looking down upon them all in the calm of the night, I saw more than I can tell, and I understood more than I saw. For I was seeing in a sacred manner the spiritual shapes of things -- the shape of all shapes as they truly are; the shape of all things living together as One.” ~ via Black Elk



"Grown men can learn much from our children, for the Hearts of our children are still pure. As such, the Great Spirit shows them many things we older people no longer choose to See." ~ Black Elk

(Pictured: Lauren Howland, whose arm was broken by police on October 22nd while peacefully protesting at Standing Rock, after which she said: "We are praying for them [her assailants]. We are protecting their generations as much as our own.")



“The ground on which we stand is sacred ground. It is the embodiment of the blood of those who came before us. As such, we choose to treat the Earth with honor and with respect, for it was not given to us by our parents, but was rather loaned to us by our children ... In truth, none of us can inherit any land from our predecessors; we can but humbly tend the same for our progeny.”

~ inspired by Chief Alaxchiihahush (Crow Nation)

“We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Whenever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, those places must – in those very moments – become the center of the Universe.” ~ Elie Wiesel



"To blame protestors for their demonstrations is as ridiculous as blaming Martin Luther King for slavery and racism or Mahatma Gandhi for colonialism and oppression. The brave people you see in the streets, the ones with their raised voices and their picket signs, are simply a visible symptom of a fatal social malady -- one that begs for a complete cure, not merely a superficial treatment ... These are the people who have seen firsthand the vileness of inequality and who have felt firsthand the pain of injustice -- they have become enlightened to the realness of great wrongs, and have become inflamed in their need to correct them. They are enraged, yes, and yet mostly they are angry with themselves -- for sitting so long idly by; for allowing so much suffering to take place on their watch ... Now they have woken up, and now they can no longer sit.

So if you are looking for someone on whom to properly place the blame for such protests, then I suggest looking long & hard in the mirror -- for it is there & there alone where you will find the one who allowed the government and its corporate cronies to run wild & unchecked; and all because you wanted to remain cozy at home on your sofa while being numbly entertained by your television." ~ anonymous



“If the white man wants to live in peace with the Indian (and I am still not convinced he does), then he can easily have that peace -- by simply treating all men & women evenly; by giving us all the same laws, and giving us all an equal opportunity to live and grow under those laws ... For all of us were made by the same Great Spirit, and we are all basically brothers & sisters within one Great Family.

The Earth is the mother of all beings, and all beings should have equal rights while living upon Her sacredness. So let the Indian be equally free -- equally free to travel, equally free to stop, equally free to work, equally free to speak out. Let the Indian have the same blessings as his white brothers & sisters -- the right to choose our own teachers, the right to openly follow the religion of our ancestors, the right to think and talk and act for ourselves, the right to defend our loved ones from violence and injustice. Do these simple things for the Indian, and then we will all know Peace.”

~ via Chief Joseph (Nez Pearce)



"I spoke to you today at Turtle Hill. I could see you felt uncomfortable standing up there. I could feel you did not want to be on that hill ... I spoke to you about Selma, and the civil and human right violations that have stretched from that era to the day upon us now. I spoke to you about my hometown, of Atlanta, Georgia. I spoke about how the men you were working with do not care about you, and about how it was no accident that you were the only minority member on that hill. I spoke to you about how Chief Turner in Atlanta is always looking for good officers, and how I believed that he would be proud to have you serving in the birthplace of American civil rights. I told you I would personally fly with you to Atlanta if you contacted the camp and stepped away from the Morton County Sheriffs office ... And then I watched you sit down and think. I could see you felt the words I was speaking, and before you stood up again and stepped back from the line, I saw you look me directly in the eyes. I saw you, the man -- not the badge ... Know that I am a man of my word and that I keep my promises. Feel free to contact our camp. We love you for who you are. Thank you for listening." ~ Redhawk



For what it's worth, I am going to continue doing my small-but-significant part to dismantle and destroy both the fossil fuel industry and the animal agriculture industry -- the two entities primarily responsible for the vast majority of the suffering felt on our planet today. *And*, in great part because of the beautiful people who so beautifully resisted at Standing Rock, I will now no longer worry and I will now no longer fret while I do so ...

Because they (like I) will remain ever peaceful, and because they (like I) will remain ever steadfast, and as such because they (like I, along with the rest of humanity) will indeed one day be victorious.

Amen ... Let it be so.



"When you know who you truly are -- when your Mission is crystal clear in your mind and you burn with an inner fire of unbreakable Will, then no cold can touch your Heart, and no deluge can dampen your Purpose. It is then that you know that you are alive, it is then that you have no choice but to act with great Courage, and it is then that you become a potent force for Life and all things Living." ~ via Chief Seattle

As a U.S. Passport holder (at least for the time-being), I state unequivocally that the U.S. government's use of excessive force at Standing Rock is an absolute *disgrace*. Indeed, as I impotently watch this debacle from afar, I am furious at the local authorities for abusing their police power, and I am disgusted with the complete lack of leadership that President Obama has shown in this matter ... Dakota Access LLC has no proper claim to use eminent domain to take *any* private lands for their own corporate profits, and they most certainly have no right whatsoever to violate the still-viable Fort Laramie Treaties of 1851 & 1868. And, most importantly of all -- it is immoral, it is barbaric, and it is flat-out *wrong* to treat any peaceful, prayerful, unarmed human being in this manner. I have little doubt that this transgression will go down in history as yet another moment of great shame for the United States -- a moment of profound ignorance; a moment of raw injustice; a moment of acute cowardice; a moment of repugnant greed ... And so, to the Native American peoples at Standing Rock -- indeed to indigenous peoples all over the world, please know that not all "Europeans" are as violent or as ignorant as the ones you are seeing these days. In truth, many of us stand with you in **complete solidarity** in your fight for justice against the evil fossil fuel industry and its oppressive U.S. government. As a fellow human being, I for one am ashamed at the utter lack of honor on display in North Dakota, and as such humbly apologize on behalf of all my non-indigenous brothers & sisters who are *still* (now some 500+ years later) treating you so poorly.



“Where are the Pequot? Where are the Narragansett, and the Mohican, and the Pokanoket, and the many other once powerful tribes of our people? They have all vanished, they have all receded and disappeared before the avarice and oppression of the White Man, just as snow melts beneath a summer sun ... They did no wrong, and yet were gravely wronged. They destroyed no one, and yet were themselves destroyed ... And so I ask you: Will we allow ourselves to be destroyed in turn without a struggle; to give up our homes, to abandon the lands bequeathed to us by the Great Spirit, to forsake the graves of our dead and everything that is dear and sacred to us? I know you well enough to know you will raise your voices and cry loudly with me, ‘Never will we do so ... Never will we sit idly by while the unjust and those without honor abuse what is rightfully ours and take what will never truly be theirs ... Never will we do so ... **NEVER!**’”

~ Tecumseh (Shawnee Nation)



The North Dakota Access Pipeline resistance is not only about obtaining Justice for native peoples who have been embarrassingly abused for the last 500 years, and it is not only about preserving life itself for the 17+ million people who depend upon the Missouri River for their drinking water. No, my dear Friends, the North Dakota Access Pipeline resistance movement -- the courageous and noble actions of all the Water Protectors at Standing Rock (and all resistance movements like it) -- was about *you* and preserving the quality of life (if not life itself) for all those in *your* community. For no matter where you live on this still-beautiful planet, a victory for the fossil fuel industry is a devastating loss for all of us. And no matter where you live on this still-beautiful planet, a victory for indigenous cultures -- no matter where they are and no matter what their particular cause -- is a victory all of humanity.



“The angry men know that the golden age of fossil fuels has gone; but they cannot find the words for the critiques they hate. Clutching their copies of Atlas Shrugged, they flail around, accusing those who would impede their nefarious aims of 'communism' or 'fascism' or 'religiosity' or 'bleeding-heartedness'; all the while knowing full well that these criticisms are driven by something far more repulsive to the immorally unrestrained man: namely, the basic decency we owe to all other beings.” ~ via George Monbiot



"The police, the National Guard, and DAPL security (I can't really tell the difference anymore) have set up massive spotlights that shine into our camp all night long. They fly planes and helicopters over us 24hrs a day; even jets with no lights when they feel like it. They are trying to deprive us of sleep, make us lose ourselves and turn on one another. We are living in a war zone ... Now I know what my ancestors felt when they were confined to military camps and reservations. But just like our ancestors, still we preserve. Right now I hear roundance songs in the distance and laughter from a hundred different campfires as we take care of our wounded and eat dinner. I love this place and the people who have come here to fight for our children's future. We won't stand down... We are in this until this black snake and all the rest of them are dead." ~ via Conor V. Handley



“It is no longer good enough to cry Peace. We must act Peace, we must live Peace, and we must live *in* Peace. We will survive today based on the choices we make. We will be known forever by the paths we choose.” ~ via Shenandoah



To all of you at the Morton County Sheriff's Department: *I forgive you* ... I forgive you for serving the interests of an oil company over the safety of those you have sworn to protect ... I forgive you for breaking the very laws & desecrating the same Constitution you all swore to uphold ... I forgive you for violently attacking innocent, lawful protestors exercising their 1st Amendment rights to protest & assemble ... I forgive you for knowingly & willingly (and in some cases joyfully) injuring those same protestors... I forgive you for lying to the American public, to your friends, and to your own families about what is *actually* happening at Standing Rock and what you are *actually* doing to the Water Protectors there.

Your suffering for these travesties will indeed be great, and I have great Compassion for you ... You might chuckle in denial now -- and even remain in a state of callous rejection for years to come, and yet at the very latest on your deathbeds you will know what you have done, and you will quake & tremble while futilely wishing more than anything to go back and make it right ... But it will be too late, and you will whine and moan deeply as a result. Indeed, in that final moment of recognition, you will be rendered to nothing more than a trembling ball of despair & regret -- and that is how you will die; the same way all those who knowingly cause others suffering die -- alone in your thoughts; alone in your shame & sadness.

And so it is that I send you all great Compassion today -- great Compassion for all of the wicked choices you have made at Standing Rock over the past year. I send you Compassion for those choices and I send you Compassion for their inevitable consequences. In essence, I send you Compassion for your chosen fate -- a fate that will be at least as dark and twisted as your recent deeds ... May you have the humility to soon awaken to this Truth, and may you have the Wisdom to escape your currently dire fate by at least attempting to atone for what you have done.

Amen ... Let it be so.

What is Eminent Domain?

Eminent Domain, also called “*condemnation*,” is the power to take private property for public use. Under state law, condemnation proceedings can be used for only projects which have a public use or public purpose. The law does not require a “public use” project be for actual use by the general public. Private property cannot be taken:

- For economic development projects, including an increase in tax base, tax revenues, employment, or general economic health;
- For the benefit a private individual or entity except as necessary for conducting a common carrier (such as telecommunications) or utility business.

As such, regardless of where you stand on the viability of the Fort Laramie Treaties, eminent domain does *not* give either the U.S. government or Energy Transfer Partners the legal authority to build the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Reminder that DAPL was re-routed through Standing Rock because Bismarck's residents feared it could poison their drinking water.

The Sioux are literally being forced at gunpoint to accept ecological risks that North Dakota's white residents refused.





Colorful Portrait of a Faded Traitor

"I know that throughout history the United States often didn't give the nation-to-nation relationship the respect that it deserved. So I promised to be a President who changed that -- a President who would honor our sacred trust, and who would respect your sovereignty, and uphold treaty obligations, and work with you in a spirit of true partnership" ~ Barack Obama (speaking to the Standing Rock Sioux in June 2014)

"The Army Corps is examining whether there are ways to reroute this pipeline ... So we are going to let it play out for several more weeks and determine whether or not this can be resolved in a way that is properly attentive to the traditions of First Americans." ~ Barack Obama (overtly *lying* while speaking about the Dakota Access Pipeline project in late October 2016; just a few weeks prior to the presidential election, and after months of vapid silence and repulsive inaction in the face of repeated Treaty abrogations & hundreds of human rights violations)

NOTABLE QUOTE

"You will not be forgotten as long as I'm in this White House. Indians will have a seat at the table when important decisions are being made about your lives. Washington can't – and shouldn't – dictate a policy agenda for Indian country. Tribal nations do better when they make their own decisions."
– President Barack Obama, Nov. 5, 2009



President Obama

Please **NOTE**: President Obama did *not* need Congressional approval to declare a State of Emergency and order North Dakota law enforcement officers (who are all ultimately under his jurisdiction on federal lands) ... Obama did *not* need Congressional authority to order the Army Corps of Engineers to not only grant Water Protectors permanent rights to remain at Standing Rock, but to permanently cancel the permit to drill under the river -- much less for rescinding all standing permits for the pipeline that have been illegitimately granted to date ... He could even have used overwhelming climate change evidence to make the entire oil industry take a back seat to alternative energy sources (we could be 100% alternative powered by 2020 if we put our resources to it) and shut down **all** current fracking and tar-sands pipelines.

In essence, the buck stopped with Obama -- that is what it means to be President -- and yet Obama passed the buck instead. And as such, *he* is ultimately responsible for the tragedy that happened Standing Rock, and his willful inaction there will ever remain **INEXCUSABLE!**


Feel free to **NOTE** as well that Hillary's legacy – had she been elected and taken Obama's place -- would not have fared any better ...

The number of relevant, oppression-laden days Hillary remained essentially silent about the Dakota Access Pipeline: *All of them*



And here, a partial list of the major businesses & banks that directly funded both the Dakota Access Pipeline *and* Hilary Clinton's Presidential campaign: Wells Fargo, PNC Bank, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, Comerica Bank, Citizens Bank, US Bank ...

A mere coincidence? I think **NOT**
... and neither should you.



**CLINTON'S STATEMENT ON
STANDING ROCK ATROCITIES:**

"ALL VOICES SHOULD BE HEARD AND ALL VIEWS CONSIDERED... INCLUDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THE PIPELINE COMPANY AND CONTRACTORS, THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA AND THE TRIBES-NEED TO FIND A PATH FORWARD THAT SERVES THE BROADEST PUBLIC INTEREST"

**A FANCY WAY TO SAY
#OilLivesMatter**

I KNOW THERE ARE PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT THE NEW PRESIDENT.

AND I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE SUFFERED UNDER ALL THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AMERICA. NOTHING CHANGES FOR US. WE WILL STILL BE EXPENDABLE IN THEIR EYES.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO STAND UP AND SAY WE HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE. WE MUST LET THE WORLD KNOW WE HAVE A RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER.

WE MUST STAND UP FOR OUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, AND THE UNBORN!

WE FIGHT IN PRAYER.

WE FIGHT IN CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE.

**WE MUST STOP
THE BLACK SNAKE!**

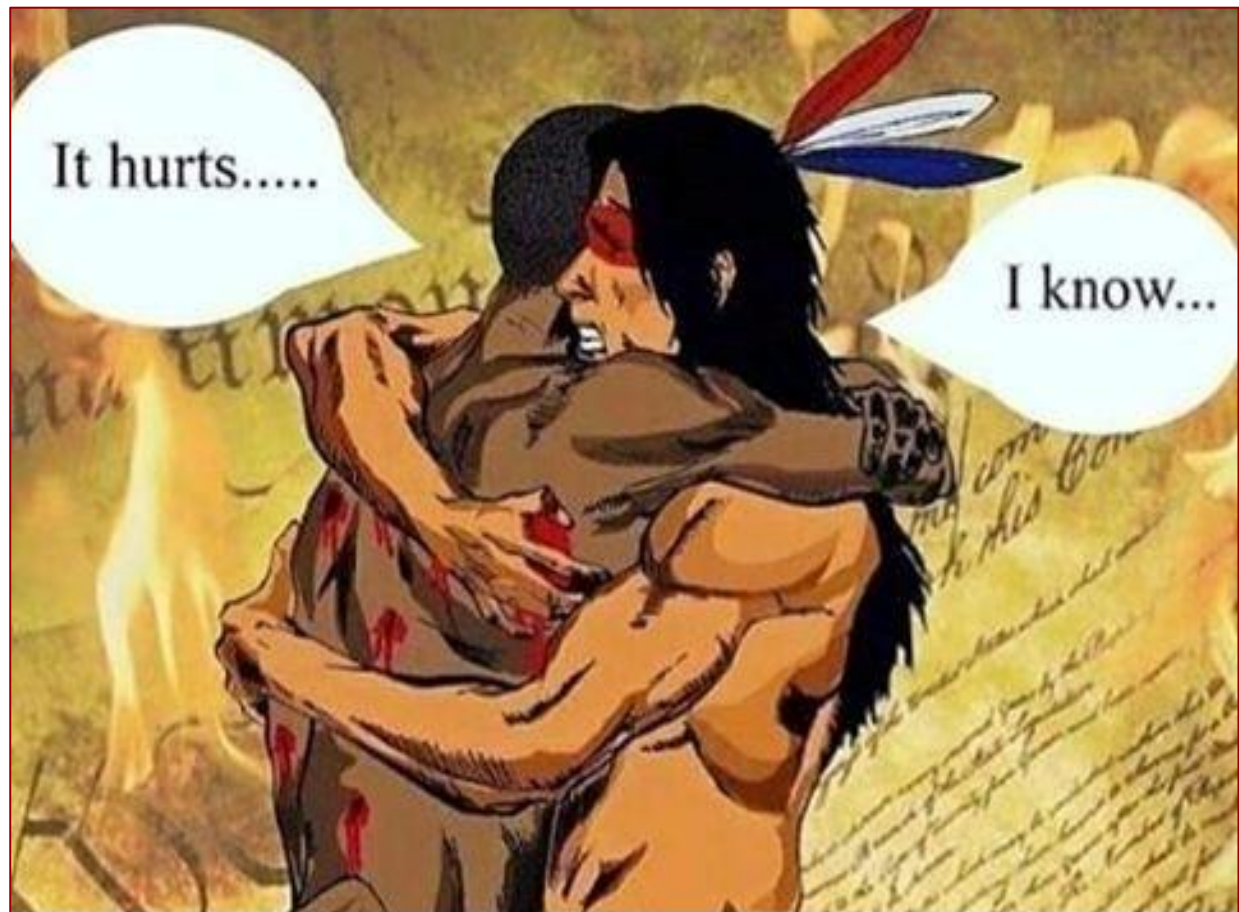
STOP THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE.

STOP COLONIALISM.



LADONNA BRAVEBULL ALLARD

#NODAPL



“As a nation, we began by declaring that 'all men are created equal' and yet we now practically read it as 'all men are created equal, except Negroes and Indians.' Next, when the abject Know-Nothings get control, it will read 'all men are created equal, except Negroes and Indians, and foreigners, and Catholics.' And when it gets this far is when I will prefer to emigrate to another country; one where they make no false pretense of loving liberty – to Russia, for example, where despotism can be taken pure, without any base alloy of hypocrisy.” ~ via Abraham Lincoln



"The whites came to this land for a fresh start and to escape the tyranny of their masters, but the ideals they held up for themselves, they then denied to others ... I remember hearing a white man recite the Declaration of Independence, his voice drifting through my village like an angry phantom. I didn't understand most of the words at the time, but 'created equal' was not lost on me. Of course, the white men who wrote those words didn't understand them either -- since 'all men' clearly did not truly mean all men; not if those men were allowed to snatch away what belonged to others, whether it was something you could hold in your hand, like dirt, or something you could not, like dignity." ~ inspired by Colson Whitehead



*"We do not
want schools ...
They will teach
us to have
churches.*

*We do not
want churches
... They will
teach us to
quarrel about
God."* ~ Chief Joseph



*Those who cannot reason are fools.
Those who will not reason are bigots.
Those who dare not reason are slaves.*

(via George Byron)



If you can't see the tragic irony in this picture, then you haven't been paying attention -- and you desperately need to start doing so.

Mni Wiconi! ... Water is Life!



"We are all -- each & every one of us; each & every day -- faced with a series of fantastic opportunities; many of them brilliantly disguised as impossible situations. And yet no matter how hopeless our circumstances might seem, and no matter how thorough our defeats might appear, it is crucial that we repeatedly remember that hatred -- however justified or reasoned -- always serves the Darkness, and that LOVE always ultimately wins the day." ~ inspired by Charles Swindoll



"Suppose a white man were to come to me and say, 'Joseph, I like your horses. I want to buy them.' And then suppose I say to him, 'No, my horses suit me, and I will not part with them.' And then suppose the white man goes to my neighbor and says, 'Pay me some money, and I will sell you Joseph's horses.' And then suppose the white man returns to me and says, 'Joseph, I have bought your horses from your neighbor and so you must let me have them.' ...

If it is true that we sold our lands to the white man, then this is the way he bought them." ~ Chief Joseph (Nez Pearce)

On February 22, 2017, journalist and activist **Eric Poemz** peacefully stands before a large group of riot police and says to them: “I know you have a job to do and a family to provide for, but why do it [by] protecting oil? ... All we’re trying to do is protect the water.”



The police responded by chasing him, slamming him to the ground (breaking his hip as a result), and arresting him.





"And they will come to a fork in the Road, with one path leading to the destruction of rampant materialism -- and the other leading to the Spiritual Way. The latter will be the path upon which the Native Peoples will be standing, and it will lead to the lighting of **the 8th Fire** -- a period of eternal Peace & Harmony; the age of a "New Earth", when the destructions of the past will be cleansed and the wounds of the past will be healed." ~ Anishnabe Prophecy

"This morning, *Indigenous Rising* spoke with Darren Begay, who has been managing the Navajo style structures at Oceti Camp. He told us that as the forced evacuation grew nearer, he consulted with elders from his ancestral lands and they all agreed that based on the behavior of the law enforcement in the past -- who during raids have broken and thrown away sacred items, and who have shown disregard and horrible disrespect to tipis and sacred dwellings -- it is best to burn these scared structures instead of having them desecrated by Morton County and North Dakota law enforcement ... Lighting our dwellings on fire is a sign of respect for them. It's a sign of respect for the purpose they have served over these past months. They have been containers for prayer and for bringing people together. By lighting them on fire we send their smoke up like prayers ... By lighting them on fire we ensure these structures pass onward in dignity." ~ via Liz McKenzie



“Our children, our language, our livelihood: almost everything was stripped away from us, stolen when we weren’t looking because we were trying to stay alive. And in the face of such massive loss, one thing our people refused to surrender was the meaning of land. In the white settler mind, land was property, land was real estate, land was capital, land was natural resources. And yet to our people, land was *everything*: our identity, the connection to our ancestors, the home of our nonhuman kinfolk, our pharmacy, our library, the source of all that sustained us. Our land was where our responsibility to the world was enacted -- our land was our sacred ground. It belonged to itself. It was a gift, not a commodity, so it could never be bought or sold. It simply was ... It was holy, and we treated it as such.

These are the meanings people took with them when they were forcibly taken from their homelands and made to live in new places.” ~ Robin Wall Kimmerer



"We live, and we die. And like the grass and trees, we renew ourselves from the soft earth of the grave ... Stones crumble and decay, faiths grow old and are forgotten, and yet new mountains ever rise, and fresh beliefs are ever reborn. The faith of our villages has indeed today been turned to dust. And yet it will grow again -- just like the grass and the trees."

~ Chief Joseph (Nez Pearce)



“You may encounter defeat, and yet you need not be defeated ... You may encounter sorrow, and yet you need not be saddened ... You may encounter enemies, and yet you need not know anger ... You may encounter difficulty, and yet you need not know despair.

Indeed, it is necessary for us all to stumble upon such challenges, for they are the very moments that allow us to remember who we truly are, how indomitable is our Spirit -- how powerful is our Purpose ... These are the moments when we remember that we will ride through every storm that meets us, and that we will indeed arrive at our sparkling destiny. These are the moments when we remember that riding through those same violent gusts of fear & disappointment & injustice with stoic calm *is* our destiny; that Caring for others *anyway* is truly the reason we are here.”

~ inspired by Maya Angelou



"Here's the real story: The fight over the Dakota Access Pipeline has been neither won nor lost. The oil is flowing, yes, and yet our people are still rising and they remain still strong. Just as the illusion of victory is a dangerous thing, so too is the illusion of defeat. Some embrace the former because they are hurting, and just want a happy ending to make the pain stop. Others make the mistake of embracing the latter -- because they too are hurting, and don't want to fight anymore. But whether you raise a glass to the executives of Energy Transfer Partners and toast their apparent success, or you raise the same glass to the Standing Rock Sioux in sympathy for our apparent loss, you will be doing so in error either way; erasing a battle that isn't over yet -- exiting a war that is indeed very far from won or lost." ~ inspired by Robert Zverina

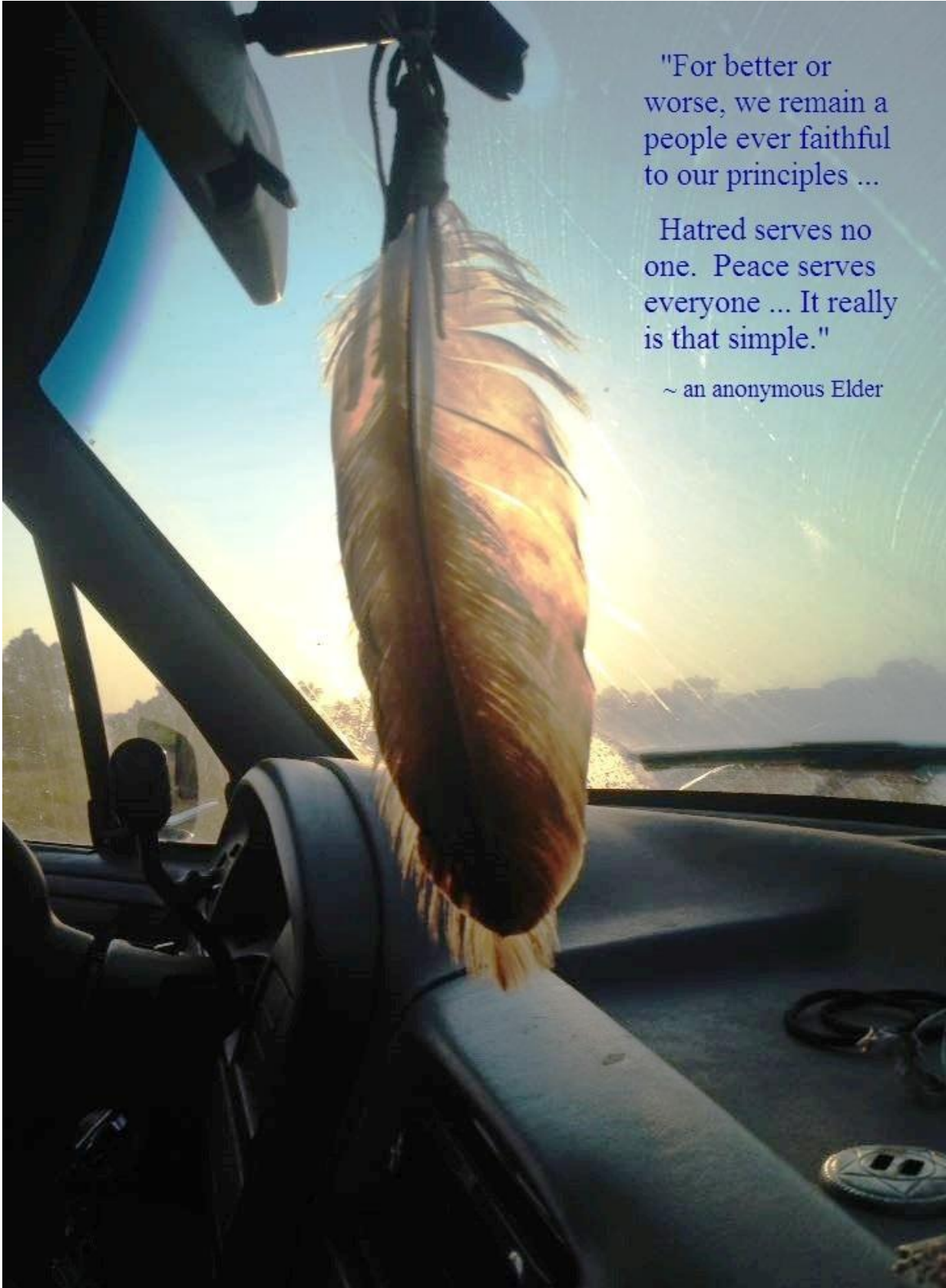


"Our strategy should be not only to confront empire, but to lay siege to it -- and this, *no matter where you are*. Expose it ... Deprive it of oxygen ... Denigrate it ... Challenge it ... Mock it ... We need to do so with our art, and with our music, and with our literature, and with our stubbornness, and with our joy, and with our voices, and with our bodies, and with our brilliance ... And we need to do so with our sheer relentlessness. Our actions must be loud and they must be clear, and they must be brazen enough & bold enough to tell a very different story from the one we are currently being brainwashed to believe.

The corporate system will collapse and its corporate overlords will flee only if we refuse to buy what they are selling – their products, their ideas, their version of history, their wars, their weapons, their notion of inevitability ... And remember this, my dear Friends: *We are a Loving many and they are but a fear-filled few*. As such, another World is not only possible, She is already on Her way. Indeed, even now on a quiet day, you can close your eyes and hear Her heartbeat." ~ inspired by Arundhati Roy



“We do not need to plan or devise a 'world of the future'; if we take care of the world of the present, the future will have received full Justice from us. A good future is implicit in the soils, forests, grasslands, marshes, deserts, mountains, rivers, lakes, and oceans that we have now, and in the good things of human culture that we have now as well. The only valid 'futurology' available to us is to Care for those things. We have no need to contrive and dabble in 'the future of the human race.' We simply have to meet the only truly pressing needs that we have ever had as a species - to Love each other, to Care for the Earth and all Her inhabitants, and to teach our children the Way of Peace.” ~ inspired by Wendell Berry



"For better or worse, we remain a people ever faithful to our principles ...

Hatred serves no one. Peace serves everyone ... It really is that simple."

~ an anonymous Elder



“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can do our part to change a small portion of events. Indeed, it is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. For each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which inevitably sweeps down even the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.” ~ Robert F. Kennedy



"No matter what they ever do to us, we must always act in a way that reflects our Love for all people and for the Earth. No matter what they ever do to us, we must always respond with peaceful compassion for those who so obviously have lost their sense of Self." ~ inspired by John Trudell



"Fight for Justice, and yet remember Mercy ...For justice without Mercy is but a path to further injustice." ~ via Criss Jami



“My request right now is simple: Today (or tomorrow, or sometime later this week) find somebody, anybody, who is different than you -- somebody that has made you feel ill-will or anger or even hatred; somebody whose life decisions have made you uncomfortable; somebody who practices a different religion than you; somebody who has been lost to addiction; somebody with a criminal past; somebody who dresses 'below' you; somebody with a disability; somebody who lives an alternative lifestyle; somebody without a home; even somebody who has taken your home -- somebody who you, until now, would always avoid, always look down on, or always be angered or disgusted by ... Then, once you have found them, reach your arm out and put it around their shoulders. Tell them they're all right. Tell them that they have a friend. Tell them that you Love them anyway.

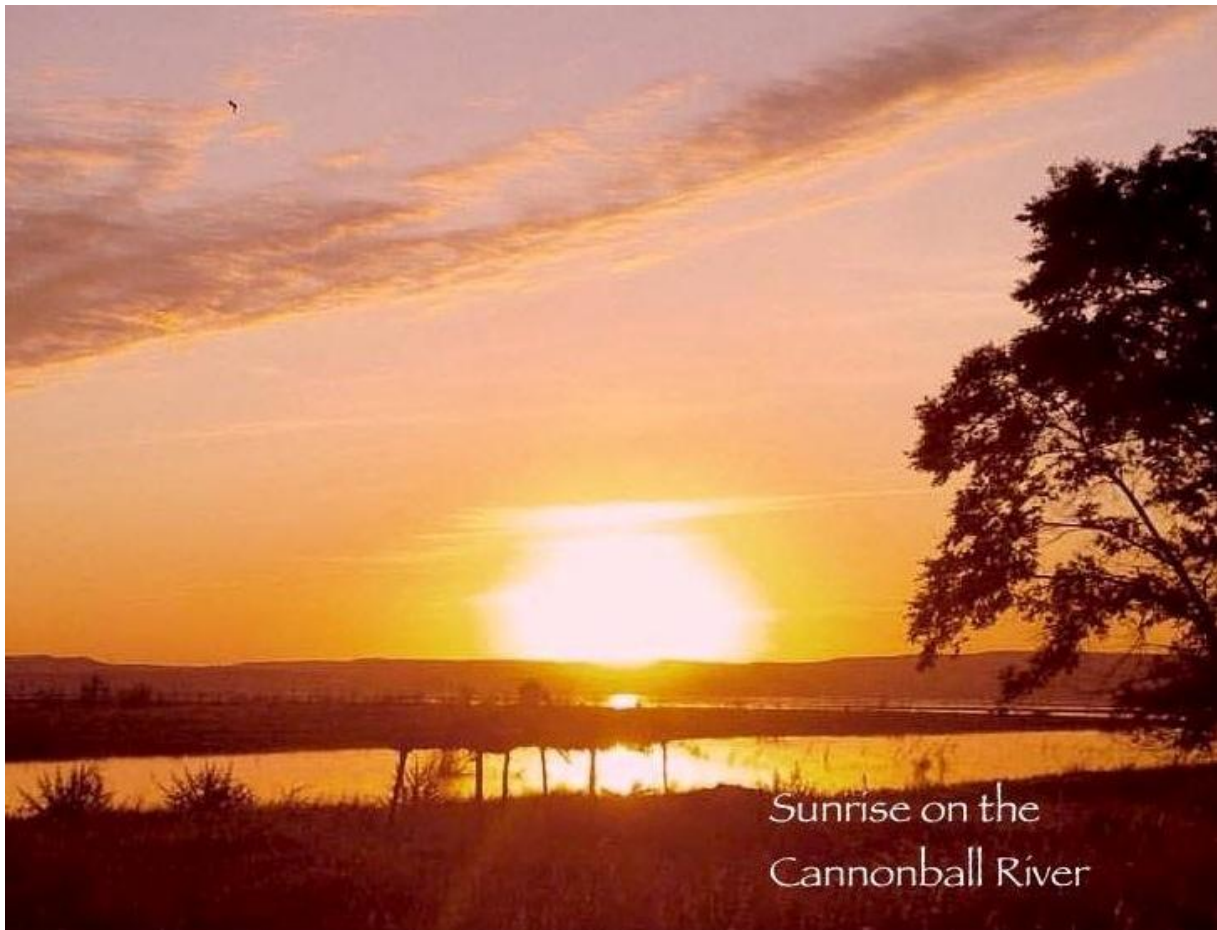
We are simply going to have to do this, my Friends, because if you and I ever want to make any real change in this world, that's where & that's how we're going to have to make it. For it is only in the Heart of the enemy that real change can begin.” ~ inspired by Dan Pearce



Water is indeed Life, my Friends, and thus the Water Protectors in Standing Rock are exactly right to fight for that water. Their water is our water -- and thus their fight is our fight ... And yet what those same Water Protectors probably do not know is that there is another enemy of water -- an enemy that is far more insidious and an enemy that is wasting far more of our precious water -- and that enemy is **animal agriculture**. Indeed, the "food" we humans get from the dead bodies and the raped udders of animals uses roughly *thirteen times more water* than the far healthier sustenance we can receive from plant-based alternatives -- food-sources that are just as available to us, and far healthier for us as well.

As such, it actually makes no sense whatsoever for a Water Protector -- be he or she in North Dakota or Minnesota or Iowa or Alabama or even Germany -- to fight for clean water during the day and then eat hamburgers or hot dogs or fried chicken at night, just as it makes no sense for him or her to sing & pray for clean water at night and then wake up to a breakfast that includes bacon or milk or eggs or cheese.

I am all for Justice, my Friends, and as such I stand with Standing Rock in their struggle against the evils of the fossil fuel giants. And yet it is also true that *I stand with Mother Earth*, and know that *going vegan* is far more important to preserving water as defeating any pipeline ever could be.



"This morning as I watched the sun rise over the Cannonball River I realized that my life has been forever altered. I thought when I came to Standing Rock that the people here needed me. I now fully believe that it was *me* who needed the people ...

While one of my personal points of satisfaction has been watching Dakota Access stock value plummet over the course of this standoff, I have come to understand that we all must create a new system of value based on respect for Mother Earth, her Waters which constitute her blood, and for *all* the beings who reside here -- not just for those humans who have fat wallets, political clout, and/or well connected networks." ~ via Dell Hambleton



“They say that perhaps it is not by power or money, but rather by blood, that land is truly bought. They say that perhaps my people had to die to nourish this earth with their Truth; to make it ready for future residents who will one day cherish it properly ... Your people did not have ears to hear or eyes to see the land. And even though you 'own' the land now, you never truly bought it ... Perhaps we had to die; perhaps we had to return to the earth so that we could grow within your Hearts. Perhaps we will indeed return and once more fill the hills and valleys with our songs ... Who is to know?”

~ inspired by Kent Norburn



"It is the men who sit on the ground in their tipis and meditate on life and its meaning who ultimately come to accept a deep kinship with all creatures. It is the women who acknowledge unity with the all of the Universe who infuse into their being the true essence of humanity. And it is the union of those men with those women that will finally bring Peace to the Earth again."

~ inspired by Luther Standing Bear (Oglala Lakota Sioux)



"The Red Nation shall rise again and it shall be a blessing for a sick world; a world filled with broken promises, selfishness and separations; a world longing for light again.

I see a time of Seven Generations when all the colors of mankind will gather under the Sacred Tree of Life, and the whole Earth will become one circle again. In that day, there will be those among the Lakota who will carry knowledge and understanding of Unity among all living things, and the young white ones will come to those of my people and ask for this wisdom ...

I salute the light within your eyes where the whole Universe dwells. For when you are at that peaceful Center within you and I am at that same place within myself, then we shall be One." ~ Crazy Horse (Oglala Lakota Sioux)



“If he were allowed contact with foreigners he would soon discover that they are all incredibly similar to himself, and that most of what he has been told about them is lies. And if that were to happen the sealed world in which he lives would be broken, and the fear, hatred, and self-righteousness on which his aggressive morale depends would evaporate and transform into a sense of harmony and goodwill. That is why those in power know that the only way to keep violence viable is to make sure that all main frontiers are never crossed by anything except bombs.” ~ via George Orwell (1984)



“Life upon Mother Earth is a walking, a journey, and there are two ways to walk it. We can choose to walk forward or we can choose to walk backward. Forward-walking choices bring consequences that light the way to peace, happiness, joy, comfort, knowledge, and wisdom. Backward-walking choices bring to all two-legged beings the consequences of fear, misery, despair, and darkness ... Don't believe the dark whisperings either within or around you that invite you to walk backward. At any time in your life, you always have the power to turn forward again.” ~ the Anasazi Foundation



“Live your life that the fear of death can never enter your Heart ... Love your life and perfect your life by seeking to beautify all the things in your life. Always give a word or sign of humble salute when meeting or passing a friend, or even a stranger. Show deep respect to all beings, while remembering to grovel before none of them ... When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, and for your strength. Give thanks for your friends, give thanks for your challengers, and give thanks for the sheer Joy of living among them ... Live a life filled with acts of Kindness and Generosity and Service to others, and when your time comes to die, be not like those whose hearts are stained with the fear of death -- those who when their time comes weep and moan for a little more time to live their lives over in a different way. Sing loud instead the Death Song that your Love has composed during your living, and die like a Hero going Home.” ~ via Tecumseh (Shawnee Nation)



“I have learned that the point of life's Walk is not where I go or how far I move my feet, but rather how I am moved within my Heart. If I walk far but am angry toward others as I journey, I walk nowhere. If I conquer mountains but hold grudges against others as I climb, I conquer nothing. If I see much but regard others as enemies, I see no one.”

~ via the Anasazi Foundation



"During our many months of journeying through life we are all in touch with Death. And the reason we are ever connected with Death is because we have all known real LOVE. For we have all searched for Love -- and all found that Love -- and all lost that Love -- and all mourned that Love lost -- and all let that mourning eventually fade -- and all have risen again to look for Love anew ... And eventually, if we choose to Love enough, we come to know true, selfless **Love**; and we sink into the reality that we *are* that Love, and that we can manifest that Love in every single moment of our lives; even in times of sadness -- even in moments of fear -- even in flashes of anger -- even when surrounded by death and suffering; especially when surrounded by death and suffering ... For it is in these moments; moments when all seems lost and the Sun is gone and we feel as though it might never return and that a smile will never again touch our lips -- it is in these moments of darkness & shadow that our Love is both most precious and most powerful. For it is in these moments that we are most needed. It is in these moments that we can bring real Hope to those in despair, it is in these moments that we can bring real Solace to those in pain, and it is in these moments that we can bring real Joy to those steeped in sorrow ... Aho, my Friends ... Let it be so." ~ inspired by Naisah van Vliet

To Rise & to SHINE ...

Rise and shine, my Friends ... It's 6:00am and the sun's not even all the way up and your hand can't even make it to the alarm clock before the voices in your head start telling you that it's "too early" and "too dark" and "too cold" for you to get out of bed ... Your sleepy, somewhat aching muscles – just like your drowsy, still groggy intentions -- lie motionless in rebellion, insistently pretending not to hear your Soul commanding them to move; all while an entire chorus of voices from your past, your present, and your future are whispering in unison their lilting permission for you to simply hit the snooze button and go back to sleep ...

But not on this day -- on this day you're not going back to sleep at all. No, my Friend, on this day you will do something different -- you won't ask those voices for their opinion and you won't listen to that opinion when they give it to you anyway. Today, **there is another voice within you** to which you have chosen to listen -- the voice of calm defiance; the voice that says there was a very good reason that you set that alarm in the first place.

So it's time to buck up, sit up, put your feet on the floor, and don't look back towards that bed because you have important Work to do. There are people in need out there and there are at least a dozen small ways that you can ease their pain, and you are going to get started doing so *right now*. And indeed, this is the same debate we each engage every day of our lives; for each day is a renewed series of arguments between the voices tempting us to walk the easy way and the far greater (yet often far quieter) Voice within reminding us that we can re-forge the more difficult way – the more meaningful way; the more courageous way; the Right Way – instead.

And without doubt the voices of temptation are many – with at least 10,000 tributaries spreading out into each instant; fanning out like the muddy rivulets of a river delta; each one slow & clogged with silt and sludge; each one promising a path of cozy familiarity & least resistance -- a path of comfort -- a path of pleasure -- a path of ease ... And yet the thing is – on this day you have already decided to return to the River; on this day you have already decided to return to a life that is not nearly as easy and yet one that is filled with far more Power & Purpose. And now that you have sincerely made that choice, there is no turning back -- which is why so many refuse to ever make this leap in the first place; why so many turn away and never engage the courageous re-immersion into The River it requires.

And yet you have done so -- and now that you have done so, now that you have made your life no longer about you & yours but **about us & ours**, you have finally arrived at **Day ONE** – the day of your personal rebirth ...

And it is now, at this daring time of resolve, that you begin to feel better than you have ever felt before. Desire falls away and is replaced by Caring; fear falls away and is replaced by Service ... You are tempted to feel proud, and yet this is no time to dwell on the bravery you have exhibited or how far you have come. You understand now more than ever that you are in a fight against an opponent you cannot see, but one that you can always hear & always feel. Indeed, when you close your eyes you can hear that internal enemy right there nearby – close on your heels, breathing down your neck. And you know exactly who that enemy is ... That's right -- *It's you*; that other you; the you comprised of all your doubts and all your fears and all your insecurities; the you who wishes the real You had never shown up at all; the you who wishes You never had the guts to make a real Life out of your living -- the you that wishes you were still tucked away safe in bed.

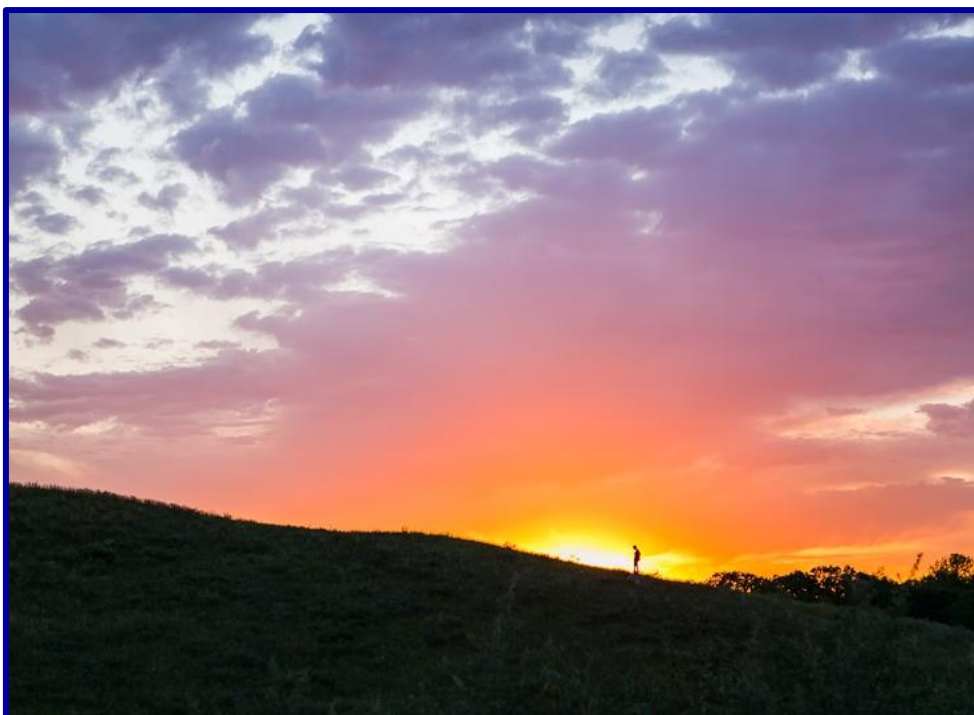
And it's always there, this altered-ego; you can never be rid of it -- and yet be not discouraged. Though it cannot ever be fully defeated, it has a permanent & fatal weakness -- the Achilles Heel is your resolve to Care anyway -- again ... & again ... & again ... & again. This is what some call "the grind" -- the eternal battle between the you that wants only fun & comfort, and the true You that wants to Live your life to the max; the You that wants to do the most Good it can before you die ... Yes, there will always be this "smaller you" within you; this impish "demon" on your shoulder, and yet the more you choose to smile at him and forgive him and **Do Good Anyway**, the quieter he gets. The more you choose to get up out of bed at the break of dawn to go forth and serve others -- *any* others -- the less he has to say ... And this is the only way to beat any Darkness within you -- a raw, unadulterated, radical persistence of choosing to **Live in the Light**.

So today, choose to remember who you truly are. Drown out the voice of doubt with your determination to make a positive difference in someone else's life; set aside your insecurities by remembering that your selfless deeds -- no matter how "small" -- always count & are innately potent; burn away the subconscious fears ladled over your Soul by instincts & upbringings & politicians & preachers. Simply keep getting up to go **Be Caring Anyway**. Remember what amazing possibilities life holds; remember what profound Meaning awaits you in every moment; remember the deeper, noble reason why we are all here -- and remember that momentum has no power in the realm of a well-lived Life; that **only this moment counts**, and that -- no matter what we might have done or not done in the moment before -- we can always pause anew in *this* fresh moment and **choose to Love again**.

No matter how many times your other you tells you that You are bound to fail; no matter how many times it tells You that You aren't making a difference; no matter how many times it tells You that You are "not ready" or "too weak" or "too busy" or "too tired" or "only human" -- no matter how many times it tells You to just hit the snooze button and go back to bed ... Get up and **Be Kind anyway**.

Even if only for today, choose anew to get up and **BE who you truly ARE** ...

Choose to **RISE & SHINE!**





"Be not daunted by the enormity of the world's grief or the sharp pain of its injustices. Live righteously now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. Serve selflessly now ...

None of us are obligated to complete this Great Work, and yet neither are we ever fully free to abandon it." ~ the Talmud



“What is life? It is but the flash of a firefly in the night. It is but the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is but the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in every sunset.

This is what we should remember each day -- and this is why we should deeply cherish the time we have been given.” ~ inspired by Crowfoot



“In my youth I respected the world and my life, and wanted nothing but the peace of heart that Wakantanka always provides. And yet as I grew older I changed despite myself and began to believe in Iktumi's lies of want and lack ...

*And so I asked for wealth, that I might have power; and instead was given poverty, that I might find my deepest strength. *And I asked for fame, so others would know me; and instead was given obscurity, that I might know my True Self. *And I asked for a lover, that I might never be alone; and instead was given a life of solitude, that I might feel at One with everything & everyone around me. *And I asked for power, that I might achieve and know success; and instead was given weakness, that I might learn to humbly serve. *And I asked for health, that I might live a long life; and instead was given infirmity, that I might appreciate each & every moment. *And I asked for strength, that I might have my own way; and instead was given weakness, that I might seek to aid the ways of others. *And I asked to live happily, that I might enjoy life; and instead was given life itself, that I might know the Joy of bringing happiness to others.

In the end I received nothing I asked for, and yet all my deepest wishes came true. Indeed, despite myself and all my fears & yearnings, all my most profound dreams were fulfilled. I am blessed far beyond my grandest visions, and I thank you Wakantanka, for all that you have given me.”

~ Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota Sioux)



"Only to the white man was Nature a wilderness, and only to him was the land 'infested' with 'wild' animals and 'savage' people ... To us it ever was and still remains sacred. To us the Earth is ever bountiful, and we are always surrounded with the blessings of the Great Mystery." ~ via Black Elk



*“And to Justice now I open my Heart and say:
'Even at the very end of my life -- even with only a
single breath remaining, when they finally come
for me, even then for you will I rise up and sing.”*

(~ via Rumi)

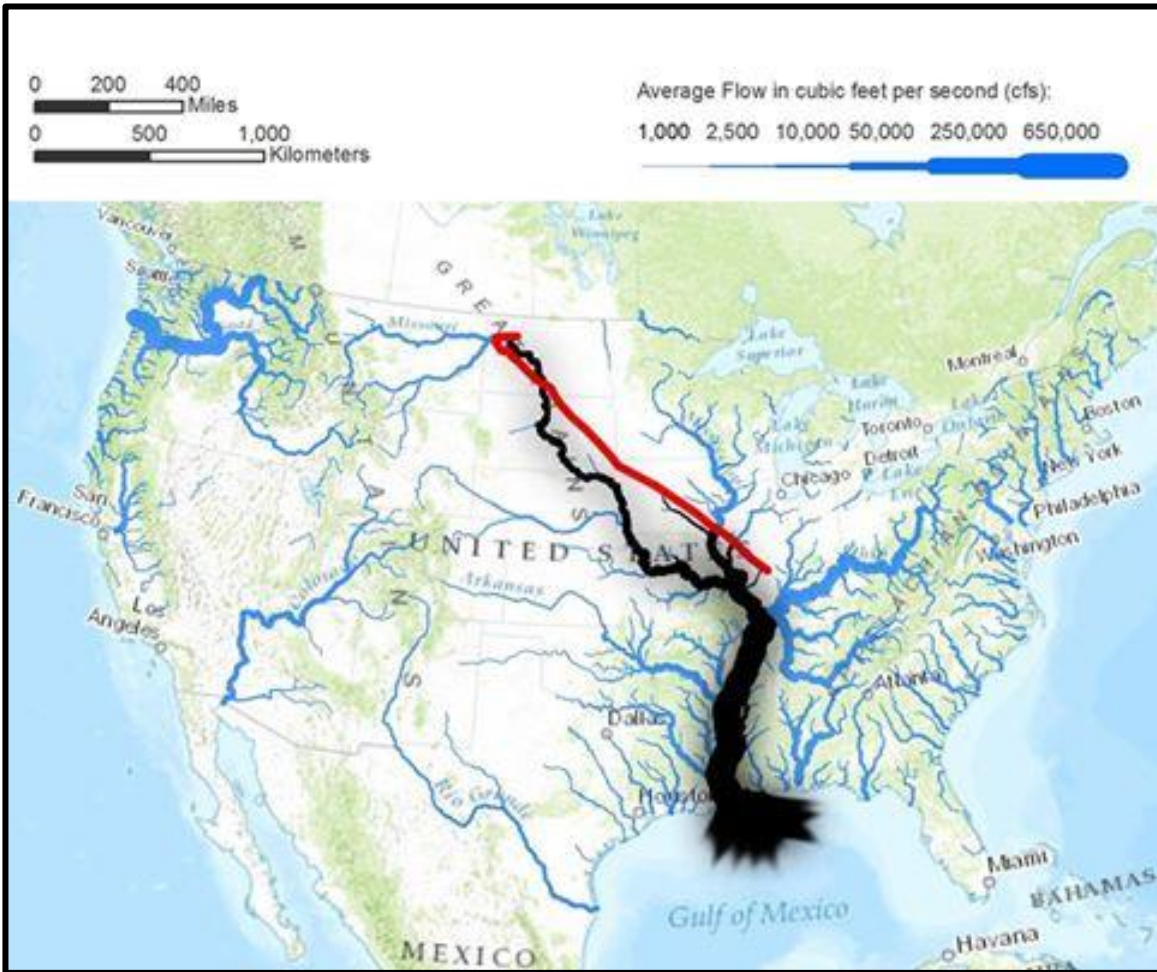


My Friends, we will not ever ensure justice for our marginalized minorities or maintain a sustainable environment for our own children through violence or through voting or even through vocal vehemence. The fossil fuel giants & the animal agriculture industry have more weapons in their holsters & more politicians in their pockets than we could ever hope to muster -- and we have already seen how the mock our voices whenever we raise them ...

Of course, what we have that they will never have is a very real *moral mandate*. In essence, we are absolutely Right and they are very very very wrong. And as such, if we come together to persistently & powerfully (in brave peace & with bold presence) protest their wickedness -- *with our bodies* more than our words, then these enemies of of all that is Good will eventually cave in & fade away, and HUMANITY WILL WIN.

So *let's do this* ... No matter where you are, make it a point to *take a stand*. Boycott all businesses that profit directly from fossil fuels &/or animal use & abuse ... Carpool more than you drive, bus more than you carpool, and walk/bike more than you bus ... Invest in solar & wind & wave-generated energies ... Be civilly disobedient at your local gas stations & grocery stores ... Stage sit-ins in the offices of your local politicians ... Raise your voices in rallies ... **Go vegan** (by far the number 1 thing you can do to save our Mother Earth) ... Pull your money from all banks backing animal agriculture &/or fossil fuel developments ... Lock-down &/or monkeywrench the machines being used to rape our land, desecrate our water, &/or murder our animal Friends ... Send emails & texts of encouragement to Water Protectors &/or animal rights activists everywhere ... Donate money to any and all causes that are striving to stop Big Oil & Big Gas & Big Coal & Big Ag from killing our planet for their personal profit ... Share this meme.

Do whatever you can do, and be sure you start doing so **TODAY** ... For this is the Great Battle we have been waiting for, and now is the time to stand up and join the fray.



What you allow,
is what will continue.



“The Indian sets no price upon either property or labor. His or her generosity is limited only by strength and ability. She regards it as an honor to be selected for difficult or dangerous tasks, and he would think it shameful to ask for any reward for engaging the same, saying rather: 'I serve to serve, not to receive thanks or payment. So let the person I serve express his or her thanks according to their own upbringing and sense of honor.' ... Each & every Soul must meet the morning sun, each & every Soul must set forth each day upon the sweet earth, and each & every Soul must walk in the Great Silence essentially alone ... What is the Great Silence? It is the deep Mystery that sits at the center of all things. It is the Holy Silence that is the Voice of the Divine.”

~ inspired by Charles Alexander Eastman



Mni Wiconi

"The Earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the Earth. All things are connected, like the blood that unites the one Great Family ... Man did not weave the Web of Life; he is merely a single strand within it. Whatever he does to the Web, he does to himself and all he holds most dear.

The Earth is sacred and all men and all animals are but parts of its entirety. As such, we are to treat the Earth with respect so that its life might last for eons to come; that it might remain a place of wonder and beauty for our own children and all the children who come thereafter." ~ via Chief Seattle

“And in the end, we remained, and we remained strong -- despite some of the most heinous state-sanctioned violence that you could possibly imagine. I was there and I can personally tell you the difference between a rubber bullet injury and one caused by a bean bag round. I can tell you the difference in the way pepper spray feels versus CS gas. I know the look of true, clinical shock in the eyes of a Lakota elder. I know what it is like to be pushed off of land that I love. I always felt the echoes of that grief deep in my DNA -- but now I really know ... Now I understand.

We took a stand, and were on the right side of history. We did the right thing ... We took a stand to protect the water and our children's future. This pipeline will be the death of our nations -- not necessarily overnight and maybe not even next year; but it will happen eventually and that is why we must continue to stand against the fossil fuel industry and the U.S. government that backs it ... We must never stop fighting until that industry deservedly shrivels and dies ... We will never stop fighting for Mother Earth, we will never stop fighting for the Water, and we will never stop fighting for Justice ... Some will believe the lies of the mainstream media. Some will believe that we were violent or that we made a mess out of the various Camps. These are lies, of course, and yet I can't help such people to see the Truth. I can't make them believe their own eyes, or the live feeds, or the documentaries, or the photos, or the hundreds of eye-witness accounts ... Just as nothing will help them understand the frightening science that tells us about this pipeline's inherent weaknesses and its inevitable dangers, nothing will allow those weak-minded servants of the colonial establishment from Seeing the Truth that was oh so plain to see.

And now all that remains is to pray for those people -- and to pray for our people -- and to pray for our allies -- and to pray for our enemies ... To continue to pray, and to continue to fight, and to continue to stand strong for the Earth, and the Water, and the rights of all Native Americans -- indeed, for the rights of all humans to clean land and clean air and clean water ... And to pray as well that you too will never forget; that you all will keep the Truth of what really happened at Standing Rock in your hearts, and that you will keep fighting with us” ~ Linda Black Elk



Epilogue: *To SEE for your Self – and then ACT for others ...*

What follows is a video-timeline of many of the major events related to the Standing Rock DAPL resistance. Sometimes words and mere images are not potent enough to illuminate a grave happening. In such times, video clips can be helpful in exposing the Deeper Truths therein. Feel free to allow these videos & livestreams to help you ***Wake up to the Truth*** – the Truth about how the U.S. government genocidally abused the Native Americans in the past, and the Truth about how it uses the fossil fuel industry to continue that abuse to this day. And then, once you have awoken, feel free to go forth into your life and ***Do Something*** to rectify the injustices that are still being committed against Indigenous Peoples ... Thank you.

.....

First, here is an article from August 19, 2016, describing how the original pipeline route was changed at the insistence of the primarily white residents of Bismarck, North Dakota -- whose water supply would have been affected were the route not altered ... <http://www.inforum.com/news/4097616-pipeline-route-moved-south-bismarck-partly-because-drinking-water-contamination#.V822xRvmbhA.facebook>

August 21, 2016 ... The End begins:
<http://thefreethoughtproject.com/native-americans-block-oil-pipeline/>

August 23, 2016 ... Winona Duke interviewed by Amy Goodman:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kooD44norew>

August 25, 2016 ... Global Research on the real reason for the mass-media blackout at Standing Rock:
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/why-theres-a-media-blackout-on-the-native-american-dakota-oil-pipeline-blockade/5542793>

August 28, 2016 ... An excellent article documenting the early days of the Standing Rock resistance:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/georgianne-nienaber/spirit-wins-and-media-lie_b_11748446.html

August 31, 2016 ... Lawrence O'Donnell has the courage to offer the first real report on Standing Rock by the corporate media:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mqBy8aKBDI>

August 31, 2016 ... As the first prominent act of civil disobedience at Standing Rock, Dale "Happy" American Horse Jr. chains himself to a large backhoe for over six hours, stopping work on the pipeline for an entire day, and inspiring thousands around the world to join the movement:
<https://www.facebook.com/lastrealindians/videos/1215894298432198/>

Here is a much shorter video of the same momentous event ...
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGjC1_oYb04

Even though most of the protestors (Water Protectors) were moved well away from Happy during the standoff, Kelly Hayes was able to document this somewhat disconcerting image ...
<https://www.facebook.com/hayeskelly/posts/1257905187576855>

September 2, 2016 ... Here is a pretty good article on Standing Rock from the Boca Beacon:
<http://bocabeacon.com/uncategorized/local-just-back-standing-rock-explains/>

September 2, 2016 ... The Sioux present evidence that dozens of cultural sites -- sacred as well as burial -- exist in the planned DAPL path of construction:
<http://www.grandforksherald.com/news/4107522-tribe-submits-evidence-cultural-sites-dakota-access-path>

September 3, 2016 -- the Saturday before Labor Day (also the 153rd anniversary of the Whitestone Hill massacre) ... Having heard of the newfound cultural sites, DAPL employees moved their equipment directly to where they were located and bulldozed them into oblivion, inspiring a standoff that saw several Water Protectors get sprayed with mace &/or pepper spray and several get bitten by attack dogs:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyL1wBjIpd8>

Amy Goodman (with Democracy Now) provided footage of the event as well; footage that gained quite a large audience and helped the movement gain international recognition ...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuZcx2zEo4k>

September 4, 2016 ... Tim Mentz speaks about the sacred sites and burial grounds that were destroyed:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJRww9aPK5A>

September 4, 2016 ... Joe Hamilton eloquently speaks his mind:
<https://www.facebook.com/soloaction/videos/508532409339856/>

September 5, 2016 ... Dale "Happy" American Horse Jr. is honored with an eagle feather:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLqSpk99bLYIRhTrDy1WU4xR5xqTDT4KCP&v=cCpvBlwqAFQ>

September 6, 2016 ... Lawrence O'Donnell once again speaks to Standing Rock:
<http://www.msnbc.com/the-last-word/watch/lawrence-visits-standing-rock-759206979622>

September 6, 2016 ... a fine article on Standing Rock is published in the New Yorker:
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/a-pipeline-fight-and-americas-dark-past>

September 7, 2016 ... It turns out that Kelce Warren, the CEO of Energy Transfer Partners (the company primarily responsible for the construction of the DAPL pipeline) has a long history of greed and unethical behavior (surprise, surprise):
<http://inthesetimes.com/article/19435/the-man-behind-the-dakota-access-pipeline-has-a-history-of-profiting-off-di>

September 9, 2016 ... a fine article about Standing Rock is published by the RSN:
www.readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/39158-focus-law-is-to-justice-as-treaties-are-to-native-americans

September 10, 2016 ... Riot police show up to a peaceful protest in Bismarck -- and then THIS happens:
<https://www.facebook.com/wearethemedia2016/videos/626031740911190/>

September 13, 2016 ... 23 Water Protectors were arrested and then denied their Constitutional rights:
<https://bsnorrell.blogspot.de/2016/09/twenty-three-water-protectors-being.html>

September 13, 2016 ... This is a great video from one of the Water Protector heroes who yesterday locked himself down to one of the construction machines in order to stop the pipeline ...
https://twitter.com/UR_Ninja/status/775727219482107904

September 14, 2016 ... Even the National Guard has been brought in to serve their corporate overlords:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8_C3uLKCTs

September 14, 2016 ... Assault rifles were aimed at unarmed protestors on this day:
<https://www.facebook.com/CampOfTheSacredStone/videos/1770979816524382/>

September 14, 2016 ... Several peaceful and fully lawful protestors are now facing felony charges:
<http://www.kfyrtv.com/content/news/Felony-charges-being-pursued-related-to-Dakota-Access-Pipeline-protests-393468761.html>

September 16, 2016 ... The movement begins to spread, with several protestors getting arrested at the Department of Interior:
<https://www.facebook.com/therealnews/videos/10154455431307980/>

September 21, 2016 ... Lawrence O'Donnell at it again:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mMIy_Wi6nI

September 24, 2016 ... Obama gives the Green Light for two more pipeline projects:
<http://countercurrentnews.info/2016/09/public-thinking-stopped-dapl-obama-just-gave-green-light-dakota-access-pipeline-company/>

September 27, 2016 ... Hundreds of Water Protectors from Standing Rock engaged in a truly inspiring act of peaceful civil disobedience that shut down production on the Dakota Access Pipeline:
<https://www.facebook.com/RedWarriorCamp/videos/1754264538158832/>

September 28, 2016 ... Police show up in massive & militarized force against the unarmed Water Protectors: <https://livestream.com/unicornriot/events/6419548/videos/137214220>

Here is a good article about the aforementioned September 28th event: <http://nativenewsonline.net/currents/videos-cast-doubt-police-justification-brandishing-weapons-anti-pipeline-protestors-north-dakota/>

September 30, 2016 ... Well over 1000 archaeologists express their official outrage over the destruction &/or desecration of Native American sacred sites by DAPL employees during the pipeline's construction: <http://countercurrentnews.com/2016/09/outraged-archaeological-experts-demand-criminal-prosecution-dapl-corporation-deliberate-destruction-sacred-site-standing-rock/#>

October 1, 2016 ... Leonard Peltier, a Native American activist wrongfully imprisoned for life in 1977, speaks out to stand with Standing Rock: <http://countercurrentnews.com/2016/10/aim-veteran-speaks-standing-rock/>

October 4, 2016 ... North Dakota authorities seek felonies for more Water Protectors arrested during peaceful protests: <http://sacredstonecamp.org/blog/2016/10/4/north-dakota-seeks-more-felonies-for-water-protectors>

October 10, 2016 ... Lawrence O'Donnell supports Standing Rock once again: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49fCp3qe84s>

October 10, 2016 ... a drone's perspectives on Standing Rock: <https://www.facebook.com/Drone.nation2017/videos/1204738339592492/>

October 10, 2016 ... Livestream of the "riot" (according to Morton County police) that took place on this day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apYmmPawDIA&feature=youtu.be>

October 11, 2016 ... 5 brave activists temporarily shut down all the oil flowing into the U.S. from Canada: https://www.facebook.com/climatedirection/videos/1805386616377545/?autoplay_reason=user_settings&video_creator_product_type=2&app_id=2392950137&live_video_guests=0

Here is a good article about the aforementioned action ... <http://news.streetroots.org/2016/12/01/how-5-activists-stopped-flow-alberta-tar-sands-oil-us>

October 17, 2016 ... A civil rights attorney explains the legal issues (and the patent illegality) of both the pipeline construction and the police response thereto: <https://www.facebook.com/TYTpolitics/videos/1761177447463296/>

October 18, 2016 ... Democracy Now examines law enforcement employees strip-searching Water Protectors: https://www.democracynow.org/2016/10/18/north_dakota_jail_faces_criticism_for

October 22, 2016 ... A well-linked article providing a review and an update of the Standing Rock protest: <http://www.mintpressnews.com/north-dakota-police-control-crackdown-dakota-access-pipeline-protests/221677/>

October 22, 2016 ... An incredibly powerful, stunningly beautiful, and also quite disturbing photo-montage of the Standing Rock anti-DAPL action: https://www.facebook.com/pg/RobWilsonFoto/photos/?tab=album&album_id=216155715472574

October 22, 2016 ... Once again, Morton County crosses the line; once again violating the human rights of the unarmed and the innocent: <http://bsnorrell.blogspot.de/2016/10/war-crime-morton-county-engaged-in.html>

October 22, 2016 ... Militarized police terrorize, arrest, beat, and violate the rights of hundreds of peaceful Water Protectors: <https://theintercept.com/2016/10/25/video-police-viciously-attacked-peaceful-protestors-at-the-dakota-access-pipeline/>

October 22, 2016 ... A heartfelt call for solidarity -- a heartfelt Call to Action: <https://www.facebook.com/lylaj/videos/10154048222882776/>

October 27, 2016 ... Livestream from Dallas Goldtooth of the Water Protectors' encounter with police on this day: <https://www.facebook.com/dallasgoldtooth/videos/10105866548157273/>

October 27, 2016 ... A report (including livestreamed video) from Unicorn Riot documenting the aforementioned violent interactions between unarmed and peaceful Water Protectors and heavily militarized riot police: <https://www.unicornriot.ninja/2016/police-military-attack-oceti-sakowin-treaty-camp/>

October 27, 2016 ... Another livestream video of the aforementioned confrontation & abuse: <https://www.facebook.com/unicornriot.ninja/videos/364876927179868/>

October 27, 2016 ... Dallas Goldtooth video of this day's encounter -- including a Water Protector injured by a concussion grenade (!!!), massive use of pepper spray by the police, and the arrest of Tribal Councilwoman Casey Camp: https://www.facebook.com/dallasgoldtooth/videos/10105868266548603/?hc_location=ufi

October 29, 2016 ... Joe Hamilton once again shares his calm yet firm words of Truth: <https://www.facebook.com/soloaction/videos/532135283646235/>

October 29, 2016 ... A poignant article from Common Dreams tying the Standing Rock travesty to governmental ineptitude, immorality, and corruption: <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/10/29/when-will-it-end-us-government-again-uses-militarized-response-stand-native>

October 31, 2016 ... an informative article published by Yes Magazine about the police brutality at Standing Rock: <http://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/why-the-assaults-on-standing-rock-require-police-from-seven-different-states-and-other-questions-20161031>

November 2, 2016 ... Hundreds of Water Protectors try to pray upon the summit of Turtle Rock (a burial ground sacred to the Sioux; one that happens to be far away from any pipeline construction activity) and are subjected to mace, pepper spray, "non-lethal projectiles" and hypothermia by riot police who refuse to allow them to do so: <https://www.facebook.com/TYTpolitics/videos/1769992633248444/>

November 2, 2016 ... Video footage of police shooting journalist Erin Schrode at Turtle Island: http://fusion.net/story/365922/standing-rock-erin-schrode-shot-police-nodapl/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=socialshare&utm_content=theme_top_desktop

November 2, 2016 ... Honor for the Heroes; Compassion for the villains: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1335375306482241&set=a.249701791716270.71662.100000293532435&type=3>

November 2, 2016 ... a Truth-full map of Standing Rock: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/a-nodapl-map_us_581a0623e4b014443087af35

November 4, 2016 ... What the Native American women at Standing Rock have and must continue to endure: <https://www.facebook.com/GuardianUs/videos/vb.456740217686384/1519529974740731/?type=2&theater>

November 5, 2016 ... Josh Fox breaks it all down: <https://www.facebook.com/TYTpolitics/videos/vb.1681900485390993/1770937326487308/?type=2&theater>

November 6, 2016 ... a fine article on the political corruption underlying the pipeline, written by TYT's Jordan Chariton: <http://www.mediaite.com/online/obama-clinton-push-stronger-together-unless-youre-native-american/>

November 7, 2016 ... Dave Herbert's heartfelt message from Standing Rock: <https://www.facebook.com/munciephotography/videos/vb.551424282/10154702787499283/?type=2&theater>

November 9, 2016 ... The Orlando Sentinel publishes a paltry piece of pro-pipeline propaganda, and then Jimmy Dore demolishes it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pl7Kc2ISGiQ>

November 14, 2016 ... Water Protectors are graced with a stunningly beautiful sunset at Standing Rock: <https://www.facebook.com/dustin.t.hawk/videos/vb.16908239/10103720509496110/?type=2&theater>

November 18, 2016 ... Cass County Sheriff's deputies brutally beat Water Protector outside of Wells Fargo bank in Bismarck, North Dakota: <https://www.facebook.com/unicornriot.ninja/videos/376395376028023/>

November 18, 2016 ... Veterans of the U.S. armed services speak out in solidarity with Standing Rock:
<https://www.facebook.com/CollectiveEvolutionPage/videos/vb.131929868907/10154700454273908/?type=2&heater>

November 20, 2016 ... In one of the most alarmingly violent (and indeed fully repugnant) incidents to date, dozens of Water Protectors are wounded by riot police (a handful severely) and hundreds are terrorized, abused, and intentionally subjected to hypothermia:
<https://www.facebook.com/kevin.happyhappy/videos/1806825289589975/>

November 20, 2016 ... One of the Water Protectors who was severely wounded, Sophia Wilanski, had her arm almost blown off by a concussion grenade. Doctors were able to save her arm, and yet her road to recovery will be long, and there is no guarantee that she will fully recover the use of that arm:
<https://www.facebook.com/ryanvizzions/posts/1169532176446471>

Here is an interview with Sophia's father after the aforementioned incident:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqapOrnPkmc>

November 20, 2016 ... To make matters even more vile, listen to the Morton County Sheriff's office deny a caller's request for aid (!!!) on the night in question: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cgXBhiK9y4>

November 21, 2016 ... Kit Karzen and the POWER of a free press:
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=10207866398431201&id=1032900387

November 21, 2016 ... TYT's report about the horrific happenings of November 20th at Standing Rock:
<https://www.facebook.com/TYTpolitics/videos/vb.1681900485390993/1778411889073185/?type=2&theater>

November 24, 2016 ... Despite the police overtly lying about their use of actual concussion grenades and other highly dangerous projectiles against Water Protectors, PROOF of those lies was collected from the scene:
<https://www.facebook.com/ProlificTheRapperOfficial/videos/vb.100005509539837/575710629289250/?type=2&theater>

November 24, 2016 ... Hundreds of Water Protectors try again to gain access to the sacred burial ground atop Turtle Island to pray there, and once again they are met with a repulsive display of violence, disrespect, and desecration (Shailene Woodley's report):
<https://www.facebook.com/ShaileneWoodley/videos/648251728669544/>

November 24, 2016 ... Prolific's livestream video of the buildup to the aforementioned day of great Honor (for the Water Protectors) and great shame (for all law enforcement officials present, as well as for President Obama & ND Governor Dalrymple): <https://www.facebook.com/ProlificTheRapperOfficial/videos/576153969244916/>

November 25, 2016 ... The New York Times decides to chime in:
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/25/opinion/at-standing-rock-and-beyond-what-is-to-be-done.html?_r=0

November 26, 2016 ... The Water Protectors hold a press conference at Oceti Sakowin:
<https://www.facebook.com/ProlificTheRapperOfficial/videos/577334039126909/>

(NOTE that the aforementioned is hands down the best press conference I have *ever* seen ... I have been feeling so incredibly disappointed with the obvious bigotry & repulsive violence used by North Dakota law enforcement -- so incredibly disappointed with the obvious callousness & repulsive immorality exhibited in the abject silence from the Governor of North Dakota and President Obama -- so incredibly disappointed with how many of my fellow citizens are either ignoring this issue or (God forbid) actually supporting the excessive use of force against the innocent ... And then I watched this video and remembered the most important thing of all -- indeed, the only thing of true importance in any time of war or oppression. And that thing is this: **LOVE ALWAYS WINS** ... Peaceful resistance to vile violence -- if it is persistently & courageously applied -- has always defeated that evil -- *always*. Indeed, the only times in history that nonviolent resistance has failed is when those using it gave up on it and resorted to using violence themselves. And *that* is why I am so hopeful today -- because here, finally, we have a group of people clearly & resolutely dedicated to the values of Peace & Justice. Here, finally, we have a group of people who will never cave in and respond to violence with violence; who will forever respond to anger with Love & to ignorance with compassion. These people have endured unspeakable crimes for over 5 centuries on the North American continent -- almost all of those despicable crimes coming directly at the hands of the very same U. S. government who is criminally inflicting similar crimes upon them to this very day. And yet still these people remain peaceful -- still they remain respectful -- still they stand as one for *all*, including those who are oppressing them! ... So I'm going to keep doing my small-but-significant part to destroy both the fossil fuel industry and the animal agriculture industry (the two industries primarily responsible for the vast majority of suffering on our planet today, and the two industries almost solely responsible for humanity's imminent extinction) ... And yet because of the beautiful people of Standing Rock, I will now no longer worry and I will now no longer fret while I do so ... Because they -- like I -- will remain peaceful, and they -- like I -- will remain steadfast, and as such they -- like I, along with the rest of humanity -- will indeed one day be victorious ... *Amen* ... Let it be so.)

November 27, 2016 ... Here is the press release (written by John Bigelow of the Standing Rock Sioux) published on this day: <http://www.ocetisakowincamp.org/holding-truths>

November 27, 2016 ... The Standing Rock Sioux officially denounce the Army Corps of Engineers December 5th (Custer's birthday, non-coincidentally) eviction notice, and state openly that no one has the right to evict them from land that is still rightfully their home:
<http://sacredstonecamp.org/blog/2016/11/27/the-us-army-cannot-evict-us-from-treaty-lands>

November 28, 2016 ... North Dakota Governor Jack Dalrymple echoes the Army Corps of Engineers December 5th evacuation date, citing concern for the health and well-being of the Water Protectors who remain. Here is the highly accurate response thereto from one of those Water Protectors (via Victory Lonnquist) on November 30th: "Let's summarize the blatant hypocrisy of this Governor who is "concerned about our safety and the bad weather": *He has cut off emergency services to camp, (but not to the Casino 20 minutes up the road). * He has blockaded the highway in one direction with large concrete barriers and razor wire, significantly delaying any efforts we might make to transport the injured or ill to hospitals ourselves. *It is reported that he wants to completely close Road 1806, so we could not get in or out -- with or without an emergency. *It is reported he is forbidding others to sell propane (one of our primary sources of warmth) to Water Protectors (all the way to Bismarck). *He is imposing up to a \$1,000 fine on anyone who donates to Water Protectors. *On November 20th, his minions sprayed innocent people with water in freezing temperatures for 6-7 hours straight, obviously intending to bring on hypothermia. *His agents & officers have maced, pepper-sprayed, tear-gassed, shot, unlawfully arrested, and tortured Water Protectors, put hoods over Water Protectors' heads (illegal), and put knees into the back of necks and chests of Water Protectors who were already detained and in hand cuffs (illegal & extremely dangerous). His officers also intermingle with DAPL security forces, who have exhibited acts of excessive violence against the Protectors ... I have never in my life seen such blatant human rights violations on multiple levels, to all races, all walks of life, in one place – and all to protect private oil profits."

December 1, 2017 ... To date, 76 different law enforcement agencies have been fighting for Energy Transfer Partners against the Water Protectors -- seventy six!!!
<https://www.facebook.com/aclu.nationwide/photos/a.7413438182.86554.18982436812/10153925759761813/?type=3>

December 5, 2016 ... Hundreds of U.S. military veterans from all over the country made their way to Standing Rock to take a knee before Tribal Elders and ask their forgiveness. Now if only the U.S. government would one day do the same:
<https://www.facebook.com/ryanvizzions/photos/a.1131354410264248.1073741826.1131347910264898/1188863801179975/?type=3>

December 5, 2016 ... Despite the jubilations of many at Standing Rock over the Army Corps of Engineers' December 4th decision to not grant Energy Transfer Partners an easement to run the Dakota Access Pipeline under Lake Oahe, Debbie from the Sane Progressive hits the nail right on the head when she reminds us that this is nothing more than a diversionary tactic; that the Obama Administration has been in bed with Big Oil from the beginning, and that the Obama Administration is in bed with Big Oil still:
<https://www.facebook.com/saneprogressive/videos/1311431162240696/>

December 9, 2016 ... Many of the Elders have asked the Water Protectors to go home for the winter, and this even though Energy Transfer Partners is still working on the line!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTEHjXbQIPs>

"I don't know what is going to happen out at Standing Rock, but what is clear now is that the oil company responsible for the Dakota Access Pipeline is *still working on the line* -- despite the final easement being denied by the courts, despite the massive protests against this wicked project ... The oil companies don't care -- they don't care about the fines they will have to pay, they don't care about the people they have already injured (some of them, maimed for life), they don't care about the U.S. Constitution, they don't care about the still viable rights of the Native American community, they don't care about contaminating the drinking water for 18 million people ... They just don't care, period, and no one is holding them accountable -- no one is enforcing the law -- no one is stopping them from continuing to behave badly; to desecrate the land and spit on the rights of thousands of innocent people ... In a word, this is a *disgrace* -- a disgrace that looks like it's going to end poorly."

February 21, 2016 ... The End of the Beginning: Law enforcement forces are preparing to move in and clean out the last Water Protectors from the Oceti Sakowin Camp:
<http://www.thedailybeast.com/taxpayer-funded-horror-at-standing-rock>

February 22, 2016 ... Riot police overrun the Oceti Sakowin Camp and this phase of the DAPL resistance movement comes to a somber close: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gvQbC6QFB4>

February 22, 2016 ... ☹ ☹ ☹

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WrG5UBAuHo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xH9ZAgv8ZzM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLaSFa6nyCA>

February 23, 2017 ... Myron Dewey's summation of events:

https://www.facebook.com/DigitalSmokeSignals/videos/10155815579739746/?autoplay_reason=user_settings&video_container_type=0&video_creator_product_type=2&app_id=2392950137&live_video_guests=0

February 23, 2017 ... Lyla June reminds us all that -- even though they were ultimately evicted, and even though the Dakota Access Pipeline will ultimately be completed -- the Standing Rock Water Protectors actually WON this Graet Battle; and that because of their courage and their resolve and their peacefulness, Water Protectors all over the world are now inspired to become active and continue to fight this most noble of Good Fights:https://www.facebook.com/lylajune/videos/1637614963212421/?autoplay_reason=user_settings&video_container_type=0&video_creator_product_type=0&app_id=6628568379&live_video_guests=0

*“Even though I was already ‘woke’ to the insidious (if not outright evil) of the U.S. government, what happened at Standing Rock over the past year+ has inspired me to take my life to a higher level of devotion to the causes of Justice - Justice for indigenous peoples, Justice for peoples of color, Justice for the poor, and Justice for the animals ... In part due to Standing Rock and the amazing Courage & Integrity shown by so many there, I have a renewed flame inside me to dedicate the rest of my life to fighting against the forces of wickedness (primarily the American political industry, the fossil fuel industry, the animal agriculture industry, and the neo-fascist "evangelical" Judeo-Christian industry). **THANK YOU** for literally being the change we **all** need to be ... Let us continue to Good Fight on into the darkness; that Light might one day shine again upon the Hearts of all sentient beings ... Until every politician has become obsolete (or at least honest) ... Until every Black Snake has shriveled up and died ... Until every church preaches only acceptance & Love ... And until every single cage is empty & every single slaughterhouse is shut down. Until all these things happen, in part due to the Bravery & Dignity shown at Standing Rock, I will give my life to seeing that it is so ... Peace to **all**” ~ S*



*“And I will take one from a thousand
and two from ten thousand,
and they shall Become a single One.”
~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 23)*