

# Please, continue fighting

*Author: Grace Golightly*

---

Sometimes your graciousness astounds me...

You must feel you are dealing with a race of amnesiacs...

You have to tell us what we did to you.

Then we are shocked – appalled – horrified...

Yet nothing happens.

What? Huge amounts of your territory were appropriated  
for a railway... (far more than was needed)...

Then we sold the excess to private interests,

Who destroyed and pillaged,

And then we offered to let you buy it back –

Sadly, you could not afford it.

What? Some treaties had been signed on Vancouver Island by 1862 ...

And then were ignored and forgotten, when we conveniently thought you would all die of  
smallpox.

What? We force you to prove in court

That what we took away from you was yours,

In order to even consider

Returning a tiny fraction of it to you.

As if we had caught you telling lie upon lie,

Instead of us.

Someone once said white men speak with a crooked tongue.

Perhaps they misunderstood.

It is our minds that are crooked...

That childishly think we can survive and prosper

In separation

From the Earth and all that we share it with.

Please, continue fighting.

In truth, you are fighting for the Earth,

who is the Mother of us all.

You are fighting even for those who have harmed you greatly...

Even for those who stood silently watching...

Even for those who turned away and did not want to see your loss, your suffering...

Some of us hope you can lead us back.

We are so distant from our lands.

We have forgotten our ancestors.

We have forgotten the lands of our lineage

And how our people survived the change of seasons

By depending on each other, and the Creator,

And honouring the land, air, water, and all those that move in them.

A friend of mine once insisted

That eggs come from cows...

Because they're sold in the dairy section. Obviously.

Do you see?

Do you see?

Despite our best efforts to assimilate you,

You are so much closer to Wholeness...

(At least... those of you

who have survived.)