

Ancient Ethics

Lee Beavington

Lee Beavington Lee Beavington is a poet, learning strategist and interdisciplinary instructor at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and has also taught graduate students at SFU in nature-based education. He coordinates KPU Wild Spaces, which focuses on place-based learning in higher education, and serves on the Climate+ Challenge instructor team. More at www.wildethic.com.

Abstract:

During fall 2019, Beavington enrolled in SFU's President's Dream Colloquium course, Creative Ecologies: Reimagining the World. This interdisciplinary course interwove numerous disciplines, and considered how to approach environmental catastrophe, and the other-than-human world, through a pluralistic lens. One of the scholars we read was Leanne Betasamosake Simpson. Beavington's creative response to Simpson's book chapters and presentation is this found poem: "Ancient Ethics"—which offers an alternative way to engage with her scholarship. Simpson frequently uses storytelling and other-than-human worldviews in her scholarship, and these informed the poem, revealing an ancient code of ethics found in the lake, salmon and thunderbird.

All phrases and words from Leanne Betasamosake Simpson's two books, *As We Have Always Done* and *The Accident of Being Lost*, as well as her presentation/film showing of *Biidaaban (The Dawn Comes)* on October 17th, 2019 at the SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts.



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scrolling
watching Netflix
scrolling
scrolling
posting important things on Instagram
scrolling
scrolling
scrolling
texting with a lake

sweet water stories
given to us by the spirits
we are the only ones who are supposed to be here

data theory curriculum
degree derived privilege

whitte poeple haate typeos

this is the part I never want her to see
imagine the worlds already lost
don't count our dead
it's like calling them back
there isn't enough time to love everything

contraction and release
contract and release
contract release
contract
you stopped breathing

salmon caribou eagle crane
purple thunderbird

I need to have just one conversation with you so I can write this

the lake is opening up
she has 350 questions



radical ecology
unfolding intimacy
a reflective landscape for fourth world problems
a collection of missing parts
disregarded, unsupported

the ancient code of ethics
comes through the land
this is my beginning
take your body and learn something
to ask permission