



*Ancient Spirit Rising:  
Reclaiming Your Roots & Restoring Earth Community  
by Pegi Eyers*

## STUDY GUIDE PART 3

*“In the Belly of the Beast: the Solidarity, Anti-Racism & Social Justice Response to  
White Supremacy & White Privilege”*

*Ancient Spirit Rising* was written as an inquiry into the various ideas and actions we take for granted, in today’s world of diverse spiritual paths and practices. For many of us, and within our own circles and movements, some of these subjects are being talked about for the first time. As an author and life-long learner, it is my pleasure to offer this Study Guide as a way to delve into the issues and new directions as offered through the pages of *Ancient Spirit Rising*. For individual readers, or book clubs created in circles or online, this Study Guide can also be offered on request by Pegi Eyers through a series of two-hour Zoom webinars. This five-part *Ancient Spirit Rising* Study Guide is a guideline for telling your own stories, discussing difficult issues in a warm and supportive environment, looking at the journey ahead, and asking important questions. How you, your book club or group use the questions, prompts and dialogues is entirely up to you – please engage at your own pace and in your own way.

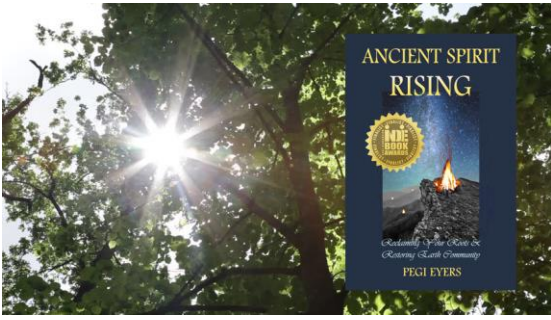
**STUDY GUIDE PART 3 is based on chapters 13 – 16 of Ancient Spirit Rising**

- 13 Allyship
- 14 Ethics Are Us?
- 15 “Race” and Racism ~  
The Impossibility of Reverse Racism  
What Can We Do?  
Ancestral Origins & Cultural Recovery
- 16 White Privilege

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### *Prompts for Self-Inquiry and Dialogue*

1. Introductions around the circle ~ what is your ethnicity or heritage? From that self-inquiry, can you describe your positionality on Turtle Island? (For example, Settler, Indigenous, POC, Black, recent immigrant, New Canadian, and others.) Which First Nation is closest to you, and whose traditional lands are you living on?

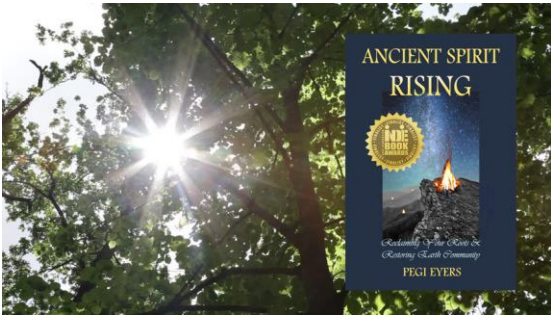


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2. The allyship framework involves deep listening; centering the needs and voices of Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC); and reversing the power dynamic by following the leadership of BIPOC. What are some good qualities (i.e. humility) to cultivate in ourselves and others, as we take on allyship and solidarity work?
  
3. What is the “white savior complex,” and can you think of any personal or prominent examples?
  
4. Allyship is a process, not a role or self-identity, and we can elect to support all beings interchangeably across the intersectional oppressions (race/gender/class/sexual orientation/able-bodied/speciesism). But what does an Ally do? Please share your own experiences, or examples of “allyship in action” from current events.

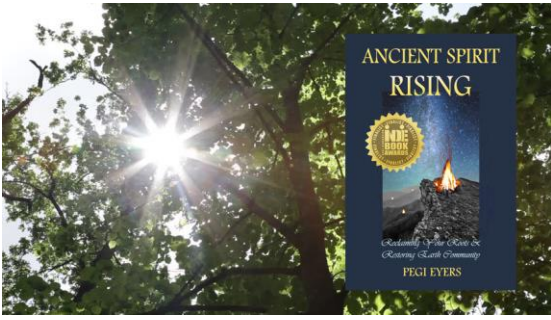


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5. In terms of personal ethics and a moral code, our positionality depends on whether we are willing to see Turtle Island through the lens of genocidal Empire-building, and accept some kind of responsibility for the privilege and high standard of living we enjoy as a result. Do you agree with the “Why Does Any of This Matter?” list of colonial crimes in the chapter “Ethics are Us?” (*Ancient Spirit Rising*) Can you add anything else to the list?
  
6. When was “race theory” invented? Who did it benefit? Describe the group that created it, and how “race theory” dovetailed at the time with European colonial expansion. What has changed (or not) today? If you are familiar with Riane Eisler’s dominator/partnership model point (*Ancient Spirit Rising* ~ Page 129 paperback ~ Page 130 eBook/PDF), give some examples of egalitarianism within a balanced society.
  
7. “Race theory,” white supremacy and racism are at odds with the true history of human DNA, that traces back to one African Ancestor, the “Mother of Us All.” We are 99% the same; we have more in common than we are different; and in terms of variation, people from the same race can be more dissimilar than people from different races! So race theory, white supremacy and racism are fraudulent, and yet this ideology has been normalized and destroyed millions of lives. The dismantling of this false paradigm is at the heart of social justice work – what are some ways you are challenging racism, or hope to in the future?



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8. “The Impossibility of Reverse Racism” is an important point (*Ancient Spirit Rising* ~ Page 133 paperback ~ Page 134 eBook/PDF). How would you explain this dynamic to a white person who insisted they were being targeted by racism?
  
9. In a Neo-Pagan group, I was kicked out because I was advocating for the recovery of earth-emergent traditions along the lines of our own ethnoculture. They were of the opinion that it was “ethnic nationalism” and somehow racist. And yet, we are being urged to recover our own Indigenous Knowledge or Ancestral Wisdom by countless First Nations Elders and activists today, and truly, the traditions that will have the most meaning to us will be our own. How did this extreme de-valuing of our own ancestry [as white people] come to be?
  
10. Unpack that knapsack~!! Identify the many ways that white people benefit from “whiteness” from your own understanding, or read some advantages from the list in the chapter “White Privilege.” (*Ancient Spirit Rising* ~ Page 140 paperback ~ Page 141 eBook/PDF). How do we leverage our white privilege in social justice work, and what would it look like to relinquish it altogether?

*Thank you so much for your participation~!! This session of the Ancient Spirit Rising Study Guide has been particularly challenging, and your honesty and good heart are much appreciated.*