



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

STUDY GUIDE PART 1

“Identity, Modern Spiritual Paths & Cultural Appropriation”

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 either in circle 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 ASR 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.

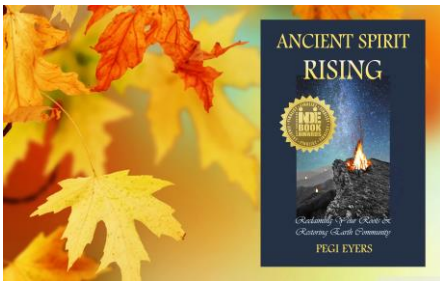
STUDY GUIDE PART 1 is based on chapters 1 – 5 of *Ancient Spirit Rising*

- 1 Taking Our Direction from Indian Country
- 2 “I Am” Interloper
- 3 Intersections
- 4 Don’t Go Where You Are Not Wanted
- 5 Poetics: Liminal Zone & Threshold to Sisterhood

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?

2. What circumstances have led to the loss of your own ancestral traditions, or your connectivity to your Ancestors and/or ancestral group?



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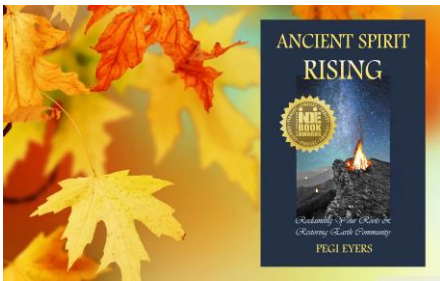
Prompts for Self-Inquiry and Dialogue

3. For white folks, are there any stories of interactions with, or connections to Turtle Island First Nations in your family history, from the early settlement or “pioneer” era?

4. A common thread running through *Ancient Spirit Rising* is how all peoples, from all ethnocultures and walks of life have been negatively impacted by Settler-Colonialism. Can you think of a specific example from your own life, family, or kinship group?

5. Why do you think there is so much interest today in reviving the Old Ways through re-wilding, nature spirituality, earth-connected communities, and the Ancestral Arts?

6. What has been your experience in New Age communities? Have you been active in New Age circles? In what capacity? What have you observed in terms of cultural appropriation? How did it make you feel?



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7. Why are First Nations protesting the cultural appropriation of their traditions?
8. This question is specifically for white women. How is the liberation of white women from patriarchal dominance different from the liberation of WOC from Settler-Colonialism? Have you observed any errors or assumptions being made in white feminist spaces about the struggles of WOC? How have white women benefited from Empire? Have you noticed any evidence of the “internalized patriarchy” happening in the relationships between white women?
9. It is an important teaching of both the Anishnaabe and Haudenosaunee to consider the well-being of the Seven Generations yet to come in all endeavors, and this responsibility requires the ethics of sustainability and care. Ultimately, the tribal landbase, well-being, collective identity and cultural traditions in the past, present and future are all enhanced and protected by this directive. (*Ancient Spirit Rising*) What are new ways of thinking and initiatives we can engage with right now, that support the Seven Generations Teachings?
10. Do you have any other questions about these specific *Ancient Spirit Rising* chapters, or concerns about identity and cultural appropriation?