



An occupy protestor stands up to the police. Photo by Joshua Trujillo



An occupy protestor stands up to the police. Photo by Joshua Trujillo

TAKE THIS LONGING TO THE STREETS

If there is one thing we can say to each other, it is this: Have courage. The hard courage which comes with the learning and speaking of truth. We are saying that we *do not have to capitulate* in the face of powerful enemies. We do not have to capitulate in the face of friends and supporters who may not yet understand. They tell us to be practical, to be concrete. They say that their way is the only way to change things. But we say: do not waver.

None of us deride the demands being made. We sympathize with them wholeheartedly. But they do not come close to summing the energy and trajec-

tory of this worldwide occupation. No quantity of practical, pragmatic legislative change could ever encapsulate this movement. Because the fact is very apparent: *We who were born kneeling are now, finally, learning to rise.*

But some encourage us to *simply crawl*. The democrats, and liberal philanthro-capitalists. They pat us on the back, telling us how much they admire the effort, how much we are changing things. And then they tell us *to crawl to the feet of our masters* and beg for crumbs—crumbs from the table *that we built*, from the meal *that we cooked*.

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Your hope is so inspiring, these leaders say, so *audacious*. But this system is the only way to change things—they say it as if it is simply an order of nature, our *place*. So they tell us to stay kneeling, to keep our place and ask politely for the wealthy to create jobs, for the banks to keep lending and for the politicians to more accurately represent our will to the 1%.

And now that we are *at last beginning to stand* they push us back down gently, telling us to hope. To *hope* that the wealthy will afford us a little more from their stock. To *hope* for a bigger cage, a longer leash.

But we say, clearly, undeniably: No. We say that hope is nothing without courage and our courage is the courage of those who would break their proper place because it is neither proper nor ordained by nature—because this system is not “the way the world works,” it is the way *they have built it to work*.

Because *without courage, hope is an opiate* and our entire lives we have been only *hoping* when we should have been weeping in rage—when we should have been at least rattling our chains.

But *we have courage!* Because even though they own everything, *we are everywhere* and we are learning to *stand together*—and this terrifies them. From Seattle to Santiago and New York to Athens, from Madrid to London, Berlin to Bogota. They are trembling because we have opened up a void in the center of their empire and they are scrambling to fill it.

We must have the courage to *keep it open*—even though it is sometimes ugly, often disconcerting, always ominous. It is *terrifying* even for us, because there’s always some fear in love—because we are facing the end of this impossible world that we all intimately know. It is the end of us as we were and the beginning of us as *what we can be*.

So yes, friends, be terrified, be uncertain—*but stand!* Do not *crawl back to your masters!*

Winter is coming, but even now embers are dropping on this cold world from a fire lit beyond the dawn-dark horizon, promising that new warmth, that final conflagration which is our rupture, our world of love and splendor—when it is spring again. When rank, black soil is bared under melted frost. Our world blooms.

If this global occupation is anything, it is honest. We do not know what this new world looks like. We have barely risen, barely glimpsed what lies around us and have only yet seen its glow from a distance.

But we know our hearts are beating. We know we will not stop.

We love you. Join us.

The Red Spark Collective

We are revolutionaries, we are communists, and we aren’t settling for anything less than the freedom and liberation of people everywhere.

Let’s work together! We need to go back to the last 100 years of radical revolution and learn from past ideas: Whether communist, anarchist, socialist or just plain revolutionary. We need to study new trends and thinking that come from the people. We envision a process that embraces open discussion among ourselves and others, critical investigation, and comradely debate. We are out to be a collective that is unapologetically revolutionary as well as open-minded and humble.

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