



# **Dancing on Our Turtle's Back: Stories of Nishnaabeg Re-Creation, Resurgence, and a New Emergence**

*Leanne Betasamosake Simpson*

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Many promote Reconciliation as a "new" way for Canada to relate to Indigenous Peoples. In *Dancing on Our Turtle's Back: Stories of Nishnaabeg Re-Creation, Resurgence, and a New Emergence* activist, editor, and educator Leanne Simpson asserts reconciliation must be grounded in political resurgence and must support the regeneration of Indigenous languages, oral cultures, and traditions of governance.

Simpson explores philosophies and pathways of regeneration, resurgence, and a new emergence through the Nishnaabeg language, Creation Stories, walks with Elders and children, celebrations and protests, and meditations on these experiences. She stresses the importance of illuminating Indigenous intellectual traditions to transform their relationship to the Canadian state.

Challenging and original, *Dancing on Our Turtle's Back* provides a valuable new perspective on the struggles of Indigenous Peoples.

## **Dancing on Our Turtle's Back: Stories of Nishnaabeg Re-Creation, Resurgence, and a New Emergence Details**

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# **From Reader Review *Dancing on Our Turtle's Back: Stories of Nishnaabeg Re-Creation, Resurgence, and a New Emergence* for online ebook**

## **Clivemichael says**

A profound and compelling treatise. Excellent suggestions for living from a new/old perspective: "...our goals have been consistent throughout history: to restore balance, justice and good health to our lands and our peoples and to have good relations with settler governments and peoples based on respect for our sovereignty, independence and jurisdiction over our territories."

"...Creating was the base of our culture. Creating was regenerative and ensured more diversity, more innovation and more life. In essence Indigenous societies were societies of doing; they were societies of presence. Our processes- be they political, spiritual, educational or healing- required a higher degree of presence than modern colonial existence."

"...It is a style of leadership based on humility, emergence, collectivity in decision making, sharing of the work and in action, and listening."

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## **Emily Kimball says**

I needed this book. Leanne Simpson's beautiful mixture of academic theory with personal stories, and the honoring of other people's experiences as well, made the content and delivery incredibly holistic.

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## **Amélie says**

Plus je lis sur les Premières Nations & plus je deviens convaincue qu'il n'y a rien, dans notre éducation, qui nous prépare à la cohabitation avec les peuples autochtones & à la reconnaissance de leurs droits. Il y a un passage, dans *Dancing on Our Turtle's Back*, où Leanne Simpson explique à quoi ressemblait le partage du territoire entre deux nations, avant l'arrivée des colons : la notion de frontière qui est la nôtre, celle d'un tracé au crayon sur une carte, y est absente. Chez les Nishnaabeg & leurs voisins, le territoire national a un coeur, & plus les membres d'une nation s'éloignent de ce noyau, plus ils acceptent que leur sphère d'influence croisera celle d'un autre peuple. Simpson n'idéalise pas ce passé & ce mode d'occupation de l'espace ; elle souligne très bien les compromis nécessaires à son bon fonctionnement & le ré-engagement constant des partis impliqués. Mais en ouvrant la porte à un possible insoupçonné, elle force à la réflexion. Elle le fait tout le long du livre, en fait. Parce que si *Dancing on Our Turtle's Back* est une conversation que l'auteure amorce avec elle-même & avec son peuple, le livre n'en est pas moins accessible, & réfléchi, & doucement incendiaire.

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## **Raquel Kay-Doubleyou says**

I took my time with this one, I wanted to fully enjoy and understand it. It's great. Really, really great.

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**Jacob Wren says**

I wrote about it here: <http://lemonhound.com/2015/04/22/jaco...>

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**Amber says**

Dancing on our Turtle's Back is a beautifully, clearly written, personal, insightful, and enlightening work that addresses Anishinaabe resurgence and decolonization, through returning to the life ways of Simpson's ancestors. The book is written for and to Nishnaabeg people and should be read respectfully as such, but it is also a way for non-Indigenous people to understand how to decolonize our daily lives and our movements in harmony with such a resurgence. I look forward to reading this book again after reading some of the books she refers to throughout the text.

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**Kimberly Lorraine says**

awesome!

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**Leah Horlick says**

A must-read for anyone (but especially activists) seeking to decolonize their movements; reminded me very much of the work being done on emergent strategy by Adrienne Maree Brown and the Octavia's Brood collective. Simpson's writing is so beautiful and clear while being layered and complex. Really wonderful writing by Saskatoon folks quoted in here too!

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**Hannah says**

easily the most important thing i've read in years. so grateful to have access to a basic introduction to teachings & knowledge indigenous to the land i live on & near.

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**Liv says**

An interesting view of how we should tackle Indigenous/non-Indigenous issues in Canadian society, promoting resurgence and regeneration of Indigenous communities as opposed to immediately going to reconciliation.

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**Lisa Faye says**

This books is so, so good. It is hopeful and encouraging and a real education. I came away with some real solid ideas around actions that I can take in my life to nurture resurgence - in my family, in my community, and in myself. I would recommend it to everyone who is interested in understanding Canadian history, understanding the real effects of colonization in present day Canada, and committed to playing a role in decolonizing and resurgence.

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**Starleigh says**

Great read. Read it while doing my master's. Really helped me visualize possibilities for educational decolonization both in terms of my own studies and the school system.

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