



## *Climate Changed* Podcast Discussion Guide Season 2, Episode 4

**Guest:** Ray Buckley

**Title:** *How Do You Love the World As It Is?*

### **Welcoming Activity**

As an opening to a thoughtful conversation about love and earth, read aloud this poem by Pattiann Rogers, titled, “Investigative Logic in a Study of Love” ([link](#)). Linger on each line, and perhaps allow a moment of silence after each stanza. Invite the members of your group to reflect on the meaning of each line and on their own experiences of loving a mourning planet.

### **Introduction To Episode**

In this episode, Ben Yosua-Davis has an honest and heartfelt discussion with Ray Buckley, who is a teacher, storyteller, author and poet of Lakota, Tlingit, and Scots descent. They speak about what it means to be a human being living in a world filled with other-than-human persons, a world that is facing numerous issues and grief. Ray shares an intimate story of grief and the lessons he has learned about kinship and pain.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. When describing what it means to love the world as it is, Ray describes an understanding of personhood which extends beyond humans. A mouse, an elk, a tree — each is just as much a person as a human sibling or neighbor. Have you encountered this way of viewing personhood before?
2. Ray says that “to live within a world and to live maintaining that world is a spiritual choice of non-assertion of power over another, so that the other can continue.” Consider for a moment your own relationships and social location, as well as the systems in which you participate. What “spiritual choice[s] of non-assertion of power over another” can you begin to make in your own life?
3. Two warnings that Ray names — a spiritual warning and an existential warning — pertain to the trends around narrative and history that he notices in parts of the United States and around the world. He observes the trends to erase stories of liberation from public memory and to rewrite national histories of oppression against enslaved, displaced, and marginalized peoples. What is at stake in our society when these stories and histories are being targeted in such ways?
4. A difficult teaching that Ray shared with Ben is in regards to walking into the pain of others and ourselves and holding grief as one does this. While honoring the sensitive experiences of one another in the group, what might it mean to walk into the pain of the more-than-human world and to advocate for this community of persons?

5. Have you encountered teachings or stories that associated kinship with pain or grief? How does such honesty guard against the temptation to romanticize the concept of kinship?

### **Closing Activity**

This was an honest and challenging episode. Through his generous offering of deep storytelling, Ray Buckley addressed topics which can feel weighty and personal. To draw this gathering to a close, use this opportunity to simply breathe among the community of your group. Situate your body in a comfortable position. Take long breaths in through your nostrils and slowly exhale through your mouth. As you do this, reflect upon the conversation with Ben and Ray. It can be a helpful practice to write your thoughts in a journal or piece of paper, or to hold a small object in your hand to tether your mind and body.