A FOREST CALLED AMAZON

by Chief Ninawa Huni Kui
Forest Guardian

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#todospelaamazonia

My name is Ninawa Huni Kui. I am one of the chiefs of the Huni Kui Indigenous people.

Today I will tell you a story about a forest called Amazon.

The Amazon forest is very, very old - more than 50 million years old!
For you to have an idea, we humans have only been around for 300 thousand years.

Even so, the forest is not older than its cousin forests that exist in other places, but it is, indeed, the largest in the world.

The Amazon forest is alive in a way that most people cannot understand. The Amazon forest is a sacred mystery.

The forest finds it very very difficult to live without their soulmate, who is called Dr. River Basin.

Both the Amazon forest and Dr. River Basin are very good friends and love to play together by turning themselves into a million different dancing forms all over the place.

At any time, in the blink of an eye or a heartbeat, they can be a tree, a waterfall, a jaguar, an anaconda, a manioc bush, a monkey, a dragonfly, a hummingbird, a human being or absolutely anything in between!

Have you ever imagined anything like this?!

In fact, the human beings who are part of the Amazon forest are the first people who came from there. We are known as Indigenous peoples.

Most Indigenous peoples do not make a distinction between humans and nature. We believe we are not separate from the land, the forest, or the planet itself. That's why many Indigenous peoples call the planet Mother Earth.

For those of us who live in the Amazon, the forest is a school, a university, a hospital and a pharmacy. For us, everything comes from the forest.

Indigenous peoples are also known as guardians of the forests.

The Amazon forest needs guardians to keep it safe because it is constantly under attack. The attackers are called Greed, Arrogance, Vanity, and Selfishness.

Greed wants to sell the forest to get rich. Arrogance wants to control and hurt the forest to show how strong he is. Vanity is jealous of anything more beautiful than she is - she wants to destroy the beauty of the forest. Selfishness couldn't care less about the forest.

Without the Indigenous peoples taking care of the Amazon forest as its guardians, both the forest and Dr. River Basin will be destroyed forever by the attackers.

Because of the attackers, the Amazon forest and Dr. River Basin are in terrible danger right now and so are the Indigenous peoples who protect it. They need you to help to protect the forest and to protect their right to exist in and look after the forest.

The Amazon forest and the Amazon river basin do vital work for the planet. The forest filters the air we breathe and the river basin regulates the water currents affecting the climate and the atmosphere in the whole world.

If the attackers are not stopped, all life will suffer: the forest will turn into a savanna with no trees, and most animals, plants and insects who currently live there will die. We will also suffer: there will be more bush and forest fires, we will have periods of no rain at all or too much rain, we will have severe floods and droughts, our weather will go from one extreme to another. We won't be able to slow down climate change.

We need to wake up the whole world to what is happening to the Amazon and to the Indigenous peoples in Brazil. We need everyone to know that:

The Amazon is crying for help!
Indigenous peoples are not alone in this fight!
We need to defend the guardians of the forest!
We need to save the Amazon because everyone's future is at stake!
We need to protect the rights of nature and of Indigenous peoples in Brazil and everywhere.

We need everyone to make the last stand for the Amazon, for Indigenous people and for the climate.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you are able to help, here are a few things you can do:

If you are a kid, or a kid at heart:

1. Print and cut out the cartoon of Chief Ninawa on the next page, glue it to a cardboard, and then to a stick. Choose one of the messages of Chief Ninawa, or write your own. Take Chief Ninawa with you for a protest. Take a picture of Chief Ninawa with you in the protest and share it on social media using the hashtag #all4theamazon.

2. Make a drawing of the Amazon forest with Chief Ninawa on it and upload it to the dropbox. Share it on social media. Learn more about the Amazon forest, hear the stories of Indigenous peoples who have known the forest for a very long time.

3. Organize a teeny-tiny protest outside (with plants, trees, pets carrying signs), or with your toys, with Chief Ninawa. Take a picture or make a video to share it on social media using the hashtag #kids4theamazon.

4. Organize a mini protest with friends or family, take a picture and share it on social media using the hashtag #all4theamazon
If you receive any pocket money, consider donating it to a project that protects forests.

5. Write to a celebrity or politician expressing your concerns about the destruction of the Amazon forest.

If you identify as a grown up, please check the campaign at https://lastwarning.org to see many other ways you can help!

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