

superior to some other group.

Racism and patriarchy are the recruitment tools for the legions of enforcers: the soldiers, police, judges, bureaucrats and officials who protect institutions of power. Patriarchy, racism, homophobia, discrimination against Arabs and Muslims, anti-Semitism, ageism and all forms of prejudice keep our eyes trained downward, looking at those we see as beneath us, instead of looking upward and seeing clearly how we are being manipulated.

We need strong feminist voices to cry out that there is no hierarchy of human value, that every child must be cherished, that we claim common ground with women, children, and men around the world.

Oil is the lifeblood, and the military is the ultimate enforcer of economic policies which disenfranchise the poor and undercut the livelihoods of working people around the globe, consolidating wealth and power in fewer and fewer hands, devouring the family farm, the vibrant neighborhood, the old growth forest and the last remaining wilderness, eroding the soil, poisoning the atmosphere, disrupting the earth's climate and threatening every life support system of the planet. The global corporate capitalist system also exalts toughness and ruthless competition,

and exhibits utter disdain for caring, compassion, and nurturing values. Women staff the *maquiladoras* and the sweatshops that produce the cheap goods of the global economy. The vast majority of the world's poor are women and children. A feminist voice for peace must identify and address the root causes of war. "Peace" cannot be separated from justice, including economic justice. And real security can only come when we weave a new global web of mutual aid and support.

We need women's actions, to make these larger connections, to assert that compassion is not weakness and brutality is not strength, to dramatize our support for nurturing and life affirming values. And ultimately, we need women and men both to join our voices and roar like a mother tiger in defense of our interconnectedness with all of life, the true ground of peace.

Information on upcoming women's actions can be found on <http://www.codepink4peace.org> or <http://www.unitedforpeace.org>.

Copyright © 2003 by Starhawk. All rights reserved. This copyright protects Starhawk's right to future publication of her work. Nonprofit, activist and educational groups may circulate this

essay (forward it, reprint it, translate it, post it, or reproduce it) for non-profit purposes. Please do not change any part of it without permission. Readers are invited to visit the website at www.starhawk.org.

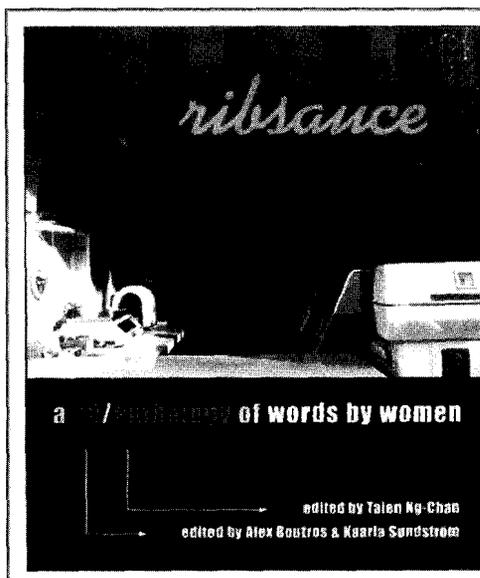
Starhawk, committed global justice activist and organizer is the author of nine books, including The Spiral Dance, The Fifth Sacred Thing, and the new Webs of Power: Notes from the Global Uprising. She is a veteran of progressive movements, from anti-war to anti-nukes, is a highly influential voice in the revival of earth-based spirituality and Goddess religion, and has brought many innovative techniques of spirituality and magic to her political work.

**MARIE JANICK
BELLEAU**

L'essentiel

Du pain, de l'amour
Un toit dans la nature
Que voilà la vie

Marie Janick Belleau's poetry appears earlier in this volume.



**words + women =
ribsauce: n. (spoken word)**

in this book and CD, language and sound are manipulated and muscled into place by women who push the boundaries of genre and form

"More than simply a feminist project, ribsauce is an exploration of the region where sound, meaning and performance intersect."

-Montreal Gazette

**isbn: 1-55065-150-1
\$18.95
204pgs+cd**



**ordering info:
(t) 800.591.6250
(f) 800.591.6251**

www.vehiculepress.com