

Remember:

You are defending
the waters, the sky, the soil.

You are defending the Earth,
your one home.

You are defending
its countless growing beings,
its plants, its creatures:
your siblings in life.

You are defending
the immune system
of your hurt
and feverish planet.

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You are defending humanity
now and of the future.

You are defending those
not yet born.

You are defending
the vulnerable,
the oppressed,
the stepped-upon.

You are defending
the defenseless.

You are defending yourself
and all you love.

At the front lines,
from the sidelines,
in the shadows,
stand strong.
Remember the soft place
in your heart,
that place that you protect,
where you keep
your kindness,
your care,
your fire.
That place from which
you first understood
that the world
needed saving.

When they beat
their riot shields against you,
stand strong.
When the bullets
and tear gas fly,
stand strong.
When they drag you
away to jail,
stand strong.
When you
can stand no longer,
stand strong.



A POEM OF RESISTANCE
ACTIVIST'S CALL
by GREGORY MANNI 2023

When they say,
"Now is not the time
for action,"
stand strong.
When they punish you
for speaking out,
stand strong.
When they steal your land
and evict you,
stand strong.
When they mean
to break you,
when they try
to shut you up,
stand strong.

When your government
makes a deal with the devil,
stand strong.
When your politicians
betray you,
stand strong.
When your police
protect only profit,
stand strong.
When greed reigns,
when the law of your day
can be bought,
stand strong.