



**Diane di Prima, selections from *Revolutionary Letters: 50th Anniversary Edition*,
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REVOLUTIONARY LETTER #1

I have just realized that the stakes are myself
I have no other
ransom money, nothing to break or barter but my life
my spirit measured out, in bits, spread over
the roulette table, I recoup what I can
nothing else to shove under the nose of the maitre de jeu
nothing to thrust out the window, no white flag
this flesh all I have to offer, to make the play with
this immediate head, what it comes up with, my move
as we slither over this go board, stepping always
(we hope) between the lines



REVOLUTIONARY LETTER #34

hey man let's make a revolution, let's give
every man a thunderbird
color TV, a refrigerator, free
antibiotics, let's build
apartments with a separate bedroom for every child
inflatable plastic sofas, vitamin pills
with all our daily requirements that come in the mail
free gas & electric & telephone &
no rent. why not?

hey man, let's make a revolution, let's
turn off the power, turn on the
stars at night, put metal
back in the earth, or at least not take it out
anymore, make lots of guitars and flutes, teach the chicks
how to heal with herbs, let's learn
to live with each other in a smaller space, and build
hogans, and domes and teepees all over the place
BLOW UP THE PETROLEUM LINES, make the cars
into flower pots or sculptures or live
in the bigger ones, why not?

REVOLUTIONARY LETTER #106

experiment

Think of it as an experiment. Tip of the tip of the iceberg, and we ain't even on the Titanic. Not that much "safety." But it's a start. Sit down on the curb with somebody. Break what you got to eat in two pieces. If they don't seem even, take the smaller piece. (It's an experiment, you're only doing it once.) Both of you eat what you got. Chewing slowly, notice the taste. Sit five to fifteen minutes together without saying anything. Just notice how the world looks. Maybe you feel the same as ever. Maybe not.