"teach [him] how to see." This enthusiasm for "seeing" life and experiencing "the joy that comes with it" is a desire of every human being, according to Cameron (Cieply). As he spends more time with the Na'vi and forms a special connection with them, especially through his intimate relationship with Neytiri, he develops his eco-awareness. This is proved to the audience towards the end of the film when Jake tells the Na'vi that although at first he was only obeying orders, "everything changed. I fell in love. I fell in love with the forest, with the Omaticaya people." By the end, Jake becomes so attached to Pandora that he was willing to become a "warrior for the Earth [Pandora] regardless of the consequences" (Foreman 35), putting his life on the line for the Na'vi and their planet. As stated by Robert Ray in "The Thematic Paradigm," this change of heart of the hero towards the end, from individualism to collectivism, is another aspect that draws the American audience to such films.

In addition to the change from rationality to emotional thinking, like Foreman, *Avatar* encourages human beings to develop a relationship with the planet that resembles that of the Na'vi. Foreman states that "all things are connected, .interrelated, that human beings are merely one of the millions of species that have shaped by the process of evolution for three and half billion years" (3). Foreman argues that because all species in some way rely on others, no one species – not even humans -- can claim superiority over another. This idea takes physical form in the trees on Pandora, which Grace describes (after the humans destroyed a number of trees) by saying, "there's some kind of electrochemical communication between the roots of the trees. Like the synapses between neurons." The connection Grace describes is "a network- a global network [with] more connections than the human brain." This is the kind of connection that leads Foreman and the Na'vi to value all life. *Avatar* sends the message that human beings are not above any of the other species, when Neytiri, Jake's Na'vi love interest, expresses grief after killing the Thanator (a dog-like predator) that attacked Jake. She says, "This is sad. Very sad only . . . They did not need to die." She, along with the rest of the Na'vi, would agree with Foreman's view that "all living beings have the same right to be here" (3), and for that reason, she felt she did not have the right to kill the Thanator.

To honor this relationship between all living things, *Avatar*, like Foreman, encourages humans to stop destroying the planet and learn to respect and preserve what is left of it. For example, when Jake is praying to Eywa, the diety of the Na'vi, for help, he says, "See, the world we come from: there's no green there. They've killed their mother, and they're gonna do the same thing here." He is explaining how humans have completely extracted all of the valuable resources available on Earth, so they now believe that they have every right to go to Pandora and strip it of its resources as well. Foreman critiques this perspective by saying that "the picture that most humans have of the natural world is that of a smorgasbord table, continually replenished by a magic kitchen hidden somewhere

in the background" (3). This is clearly not true, and thus respecting the Earth and preserving it is "a battle for life itself" (2), as demonstrated by the Na'vi, who literally are fighting for their lives because the whole environment of Pandora is critical to their survival.

In the final analysis, though *Avatar*'s typical Hollywood plot is what brings it so much popularity with American audiences, its connection to Foreman's dark green political ideology is what encourages the audience to think twice about taking for granted the resources given to us by our planet. As Jake exchanges individualism for communitarianism, *Avatar* stresses to its audience the importance of preserving the planet and keeping it habitable for future generations. By getting all the Na'vi to work together to protect Pandora from being destroyed by the humans, Jake saves the Na'vi and their planet. Ultimately, he chooses to become one of them, leaving his human body behind to become a full-time Na'vi. Up until this point, he always considered himself to be a human who donned the Na'vi form for his own selfish interests. As Jake began to feel more like he belonged with the Na'vi, however, he felt as if his true place was among the Na'vi, and that his human form was just a costume he donned when not on Pandora. He decided he wanted to permanently stay on Pandora among the Na'vi and thus, Jake disconnected himself from the Earth and his human form by connecting himself, literally and emotionally, to Pandora.

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