

## Flood Lessons

The greatest lesson I learned from the flood was that rivers have a psychology-- they get angry, and when they are angry they overflow their banks and surge forward, taking with them everything in their path. Nothing is spared, they uproot gigantic trees and snap bridges and lift houses off their foundations. They wash people away and leave their bodies behind when they are done with that. Rivers are no different, I realized, than an angry person-- when a person is angry, really really angry, they don't just punch a hole in the wall, they punch a hole in the people around them, those they love as well as total strangers. Rising anger is a dangerous thing. We may not be able to control the anger of our rivers, but we must absolutely try to control our own. This is what the psychology of a flood taught me as I walked out the morning after the flood and saw what the river had done.