

DEAR TUCKER,
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO WRITE YOU THIS LETTER FOR SOME TIME. NOW IN MY TRAVELS, I THINK I SHOULD SAY HOW I FEEL.



I WOULD HAVE SENT THIS TO YOU VIA EMAIL, BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A CONNECTION THIS DEEP IN THE HIMALAYAS.



LUCKILY THE LOCAL MONKS SHARED SOME OF THEIR ANCIENT MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH ME.



FIRST, THEY SHOWED ME HOW TO MAKE INK!



CAREFULLY LOWER THE MOLD, PULP SIDE DOWN, ONTO A PIECE OF FABRIC.



USE A SPONGE TO PRESS AND SOAK UP EXCESS WATER.



WHILE THE PULP IS STILL WET, SLOWLY LIFT THE MOLD, SEPARATING IT FROM THE PAPER PULP. THIS MAY TAKE A FEW TRIES. THE KEY IS TO KEEP THE PAPER FROM TEARING.



USE A TOP LAYER OF FABRIC ON THE PAPER TO PRESS OUT AND FLATTEN THE SHEET.



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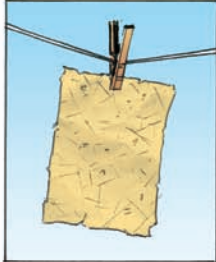
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DID YOU KNOW BY SQUASHING BERRIES, EVEN FROZEN ONES. YOU CAN MAKE INK. A HALF CUP OF FRESH BERRIES IS PLENTY. PUSH THEM THRU A STRAINER, GETTING THE BERRY JUICE PULP-FREE.



HANG UP TO DRY!



I'VE THE SEEN THE MONKS CREATE A LOT OF BEAUTIFUL AND TEXTURED PAPERS. MIXING DIFFERENT MATERIALS SUCH AS SMALL TWIGS, OR SCRAPS OF TIN FOIL, EVEN FLOWERS, YOU CAN ADD ALL KINDS OF FLAVORS TO YOUR PAPERS.



LASTLY, THE MONKS TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE A QUILL USING A FEATHER. THE LARGER FEATHERS WORK BEST.



BY SOAKING THE STEM IN HOT WATER AND USING A PAIR OF TWEEZERS, YOU'LL WANT TO REMOVE THE MEMBRANE FROM THE INSIDE OF THE STEM.



ALONG WITH THE BERRY JUICE, A KEY INGREDIENT IS SALT AND VINEGAR. A 1/2 OF TEASPOON OF VINEGAR WILL HELP TO HOLD THE COLOR. A 1/2 OF TEASPOON OF SALT ACTS AS A NICE PRESERVATIVE.



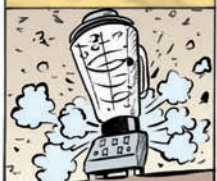
WHAT'S INK WITHOUT PAPER. I NEVER KNEW THAT MONKS ARE SO SELF-SUFFICIENT.



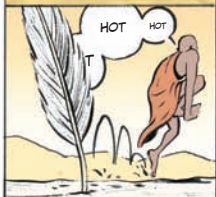
THEY RECYCLE ALL OF THEIR PAPER. WHEN THEY SHOWED ME HOW TO MAKE IT, I WAS ENCOURAGED TO EXPERIMENT WITH MIXING DIFFERENT MIXTURES.



FIRST, YOU'LL NEED A BLENDER. FILL IT UP HALF-WAY WITH PAPER AND THEN FILL THE REST WITH WARM WATER. BLEND UNTIL NO PAPER FLAKES REMAIN.



NEXT, YOU'LL NEED TO THOROUGHLY DRY THE STEM. SIT IT IN A DRY PLACE. STICKING IT IN HOT SAND WORKS BEST.

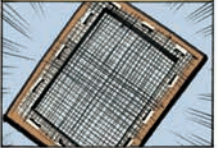


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ONCE YOU HAVE SMOOTH PULP, YOU WILL NEED A MOLD. NOTHING WORKS BETTER THAN A PIECE OF SCREEN FROM A WINDOW AND AN OLD PICTURE FRAME. STAPLE TOGETHER AND VIOLA!



USING A SMALL TUB, FILL IT WITH THE BLENDED PULP. STIR IN 2 TEASPOONS OF LIQUID STARCH - IT'LL HELP PREVENT THE BERRY INK FROM BLEEDING.



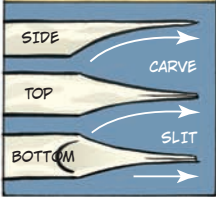
SUBMERGE THE MOLD INTO THE PULP. GENTLY WIGGLE IT, UNTIL THE PULP'S THICK ENOUGH AND EVENLY LAYED ON THE SCREEN.



LIFT THE MOLD OUT OF THE WATER TO DRAIN. THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO JUDGE THE THICKNESS OF YOUR PAPER. MORE PULP WILL THICKEN THE PAPER, LESS WILL MAKE IT THINNER.



CUTTING THE STEM IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR CLEAN LINES. CHECK OUT MY DRAWINGS TO SEE HOW THE TIP NEEDS TO BE CARVED.



TOGETHER WITH QUILL, PAPER, AND INK I'M READY TO CREATE! I'VE BEEN KEEPING A JOURNAL (THAT I MADE) DURING MY JOURNEY. I LOVE TO SIT AND RECORD ALL OF MY THOUGHTS. I EVEN HAVE A SECTION OF DRAWINGS OF ALL THE WONDERFUL SIGHTS I'VE SEEN! ANYWAY....



THE REAL POINT OF THIS LETTER WAS TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I MISS YOU. BEING SO FAR AWAY HAS MADE ME REALIZE THAT I REALLY VALUE YOUR FRIENDSHIP FOR THE WORLD, AND ARE ALWAYS URGING ME ON TO EVER CRAZIER ADVENTURES. PLUS YOU ALWAYS KEEP ME SMILING. YOUR MY BEST FRIEND TUCK!

WISH YOU WERE HERE,
Celine



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