

'Notes on Sediment Collection'

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arth is often abused by our taking and this impact drives

our daily lives as resource consumers. From the SpacePhones we use for *everything* to the crystals we buy from a shop, most of the practices under which it is extracted is either toxic, requires massive amounts of fossil fuels, and/or conducted with questionable human ethics.

I feel like we should not always need to compromise our planetary or spiritual ethics to acquire materials for well-being. My entire business is built from this concept, with 'regenerative' as a code. Im trying to sequester carbon in soils, disseminate scientific information about Earth Systems integration, and reduce carbon emissions by offering alternative products sourced ethically. Such as these sediments:

While many 'new' locations have been carefully targeted, I began this collection as an odd practice while conducting geologic field work so sediments were collected at or near field sites. When I collected material (anything: rocks, plants, water, sediment, etc.), I leave something in return. This is a wise practice that many may follow (or should) and was taught to me by sister Nicole. At first, I nearly always left tobacco from a roll-your-own AmericanSpirit brand tobacco pouch (my brand of choice when smoking), but I would also leave bits my own hair--easy and painless to cut from one's head—or any other decomposable material I happen to have. At some point, this evolved into leaving sediments or mixes of sediments that I had collected elsewhere. Once, a reddit user on r/geology got really upset with me that I would contaminate the geologic record of active sedimentation with these foreign materials. While I understand the sentiment, I feel this user greatly underestimates the contamination impact of the Anthropocene in addition to misunderstanding the volume. Anyway, this practice then translated into my private magick practice and eventually into our family

traditions. For years we have kept a special EarthMagick box (have later expanded to the other elements) with our private collection.

Collection, even from the beginning when I had no real spiritual practice, takes place under ceremony-like conditions. Always asking Earth and local spirits while taking NO for an answer, passing out my return offering, singing a song of praise accompanied by some personal prayer. The ceremony has always remained organic and free-flowing, with no specific plan but making sure to absolutely feel the connection with the place being collected. Yes, a *place* is collected! A place and an Earth material with a geologic history of its own!

For the actual collection, I target an area of the landscape under active erosion but rarely from active streams, lakes, or beaches. After all, it is sediment I am after! Thus, I am not attempting to cause any additional erosion to cover soils or rock outcrops. Soils are avoided, as that is an ecological community that should not be disturbed. All material is collected from the surface and no excavating (unless this was part of the geologic study, upon which additional information is provided along with that product). No plants or animals are intentionally harmed or removed from their home (not collecting soils, so no worms), though I cannot account for the numbers of microscopic organisms. The material is often collected from multiple sites, to decrease the impact in any one site. Although, a case may be made that I am starving the local drainage of sediments that would normally be transported or I am exposing a slightly deeper portion of the landscape that would not have otherwise been uncovered until the next rain event.

I typically only remove a sack of sediment per trip, enough to fill 20-40 4 oz. jars, though this is conflicting as it takes energy (fossil fuels) to get to the sites. To replenish supplies, sediment collecting forays can be arranged to hit multiple locations on a multi-day pilgrimage.

Collect with Respect.