

1. Do we empathize with a stone because it is mineral, like our bodies? Does a stone empathize with us?
2. I have held onto stones for years before finding the opportunity to bring them back from where I took them. I see this as a conversation.

3. What does a stone think about? Does it find itself beautiful?

4. An orogeny occurs when the earth's crust is pushed upwards to form a mountain range. The geology of the Hudson River Valley has been shaped by the Taconic and the Acadian orogeny, and the most recent ice age.

5. When the Wisconsin Glacier melted, water pooled into lakes throughout upstate New York and New England. Then, the lakes broke through to the Atlantic Ocean, which is the origin story of the Hudson River.

6. Rivers are difficult to know, because they erase their own history as they widen through time.

7. When you are at Storm King, you are standing where the melting waters of the glacier rushed out to meet the sea.

It is a long story, and you are part of it. Can knowing where you are strengthen a feeling of symbiotic co-origin?

8. How does it feel to imagine the Taconic Orogeny happening in real time?

9. Or to lie down on a boulder and look at the daylight moon and be so grateful that orb chose us.

10. The Greeks believed that the first cairn was made when the goddess Hera, frustrated with Zeus' infidelities, buried his son Hermes under a pile of rocks in a jealous rage. Passersby would offer a stone or two to the pile with the hope that Hermes would protect them and hasten their journey.

It seems strange that one would add to the weight of this pile as a way to seek favor, but I suppose a cairn is also a way to say, "I exist, I am here, remember me."

11. Cairns can be anything from a pile of rocks on a hiking path to the massive Neolithic constructions used to mark and commemorate burial grounds, or entrances of the spirit world.

12. I like that cairns are very old and are found throughout the world.

13. In recent years, there has been an uptick in cairn building held under the hashtag #stonestacking. A problematic trend, yet moving that even in this technological age, some still feel a sense of expression in stacking stones.

*Maybe we should have public rock stacking gardens.*

14. Feeling a place with your body- does a place learn you as you learn it?

15. In her memoir *The Turquoise Ledge*, Leslie Marmon Silko describes putting her hand on a rattlesnake, while gardening. Because the snake has learned over time that she is not a threat, he does not bite her.

16. I believe knowing a place can take many lifetimes, but it can also happen in an instant. Like meeting someone you feel you have known all your life.

17. I believe scientific observation should not necessarily be considered separate from devotional practice.

18. The glass stones in *A stone that thinks of Enceladus* are cast from stones I gathered nearby. On their surfaces you can see the imprints of moss, and small cracks.

19. Enceladus was a giant, the child of Gaia (the earth), and Uranus (the sky).

20. Enceladus is also an icy moon of Saturn. It is the most reflective surface in our solar system. From space it looks like the moon is breaking open with light.

21. I imagine that rocks are able to look into vastness while experiencing their condensed form. Maybe they feel as if they are entering vastness as they slough off and become dirt. A part of a system, floating together through space.

22. I imagine that we are also able to look into vastness. A part of a system. Floating in space.

23. What does a stone think we think about?

All day long  
a little bit of shine from Enceladus  
makes its way across space to reflect upon us  
and all day long we are shining back.