

Akita Mani Yo*

By Tom Stock

Observe everything as you walk
 Let your senses be washed in nature
 Pick out the sounds
 Judge their distance, the size of their maker
 Infer their cause
 Let these sounds set fire to your senses.

Be tuned to smells
 Inhale deeply drawing in air
 Bring your nostrils close to the source
 Revel in the odors of earth
 Infer the cause
 Let the odors set fire to your senses.

Grasp a bunch of grass
 Pull it through your hands like a scarf
 Let the stems, leaves, and seed heads
 Pass your palm
 Infer their cause
 Let these touchings set fire to your senses.

Taste the berries of shrubs
 Let the taste expand on your tongue
 Infer their cause
 Let these tastes set fire to your senses.

See the signs of animals
 Footprints, feathers, leftovers
 Judge their direction, size
 Infer their cause
 Let these sightings set fire to your senses.

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*Dakotah language



