

OWNERS MANUAL

Fred Wah

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*for Susan
(Smile at yourself doing -)
home*

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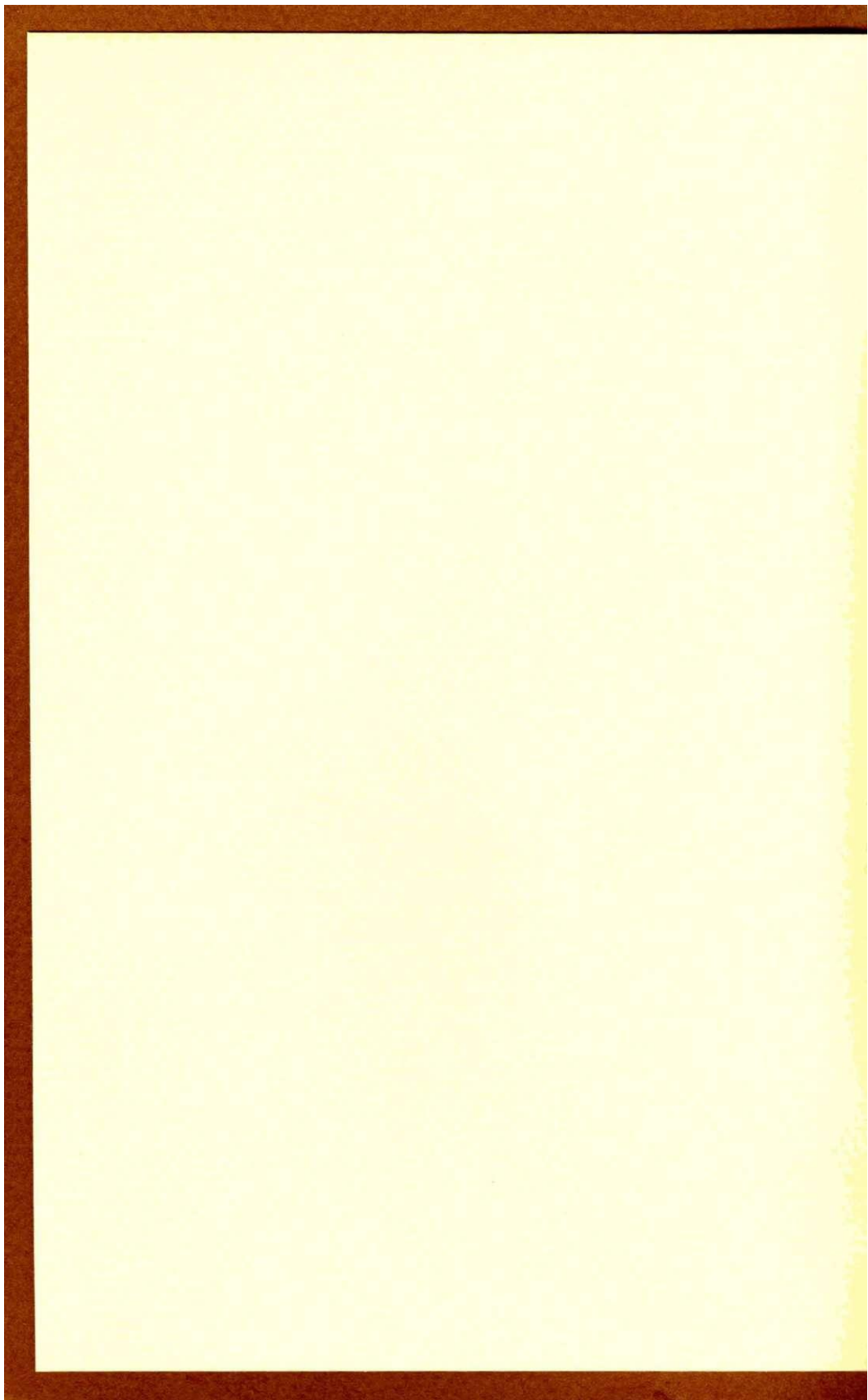
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HOW TO DO THIS

If you only do it once
you will remember that
so it becomes a river
more often present and gone
than done or will do

a mountain sits
think it a flower
blooms and dies
all of it
once carried is also held

fill all the space you can
just to do it
then imagine it
what a trick
once you move you can't stop
flowers mountains rivers
do dies did
done again
push mind wind
think of it somewhere
a given
maybe
just once.

HOW TO GET BACK

Help!
Half of me
everywhere I look
insides split too.

Get out of this
(mess)
see it
as symmetry
alignment
of the genetic
part of sky's
intricate order
jump up
into air
wave arms.

HOW TO READ A MAP

Side
to start from
side
city
get a vehicle/animal
check out the growth
look at the people
put your arms around
one of them
any one of them
stretch yourself
it's like old friends
a story sometimes
you tell yourself
then something else happens
now where are you
an intense map of routes
places to find again
or discover
i.e. imagine
through all that
but not there yet
the death
i.e. you noticed it
waits down the road
it's a story
everybody's running
someplace
over the hill
what they think is a hill

don't pay attention to the terrain
signs
become questions
maybe not a city
look at them
they are not birds
the signs are not other creatures
try this
the signs are projectile
have weight
just like an arrow
with feathers at one end
and you know what at the other
all-around things
the night sky filled with them
we still think they're stars
but they get in the way of the vision
the trace of thought, the line
grows across the plan
not a city
but a forest
with a big boulder in the middle of it
the middle of the forest
there
proportion gets it together
in a dance
leaves us in a heat
and the complicated tracks remain
how to get
gah Hahhh

headless moons
from here to there
incredibly difficult shapes
even languages
places
the place
the land jive
land
on the other side of the water
the soft, the hard
the softest hard
and more story
more directions
here to there, line
from mind
gets nowhere
past dying
journeying
and the returns
he called it
cute
boomerang
i.e. the truth
path flows through a crowded corn-field
near Albuquerque
near Toronto
near Iraklion
south of here there are ripe tomatoes
nothing solved
the side is.

HOW TO BE SOMETHING

Dream about it
get the head back
into the body into
remembering
skin
imprint of shape
into inside
and look at yourself
saying "mmmm"
remember
don't move
let yourself be caught
catch yourself
move
very fast
as fast as you can
as you can.

HOW TO GO SOUTH

look at it
broken
pieces of an intention
it
something left over
in the corner
an accident
maybe
how do you know
an attempt for sure
but how do you know
something left
pieces
that don't fit together
but there they are
together
gathered
you don't know it
but see it
there /beside everything
else.
(they might be stars)

HOW TO HUNT

Colour it brown
think about it
ahead of time
think about it
afterwards
listen to you
how alone you are
sitting on a log
in the forest
look at it about to happen
completely in your mind
and the world
all the trees
even the sky
size
surrounds everything
did you remember
did you forget
say it
“sheh”
how heavy the task
I’ve tracked myself
to this log
nothing else nothing waits
get up (later
you’ll get lost.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GET THERE

Travel

when you get there
get into a corner or something
take the 90 degree horizon
and with what you still carry from your trip
put it together privately
to the others talk
tell each other of events since last together
what you're going to do tomorrow, etc.
laugh a little bit at the perspective
it's large
and when things rise in you like this
come to the surface with a force of their own
then let them
sit in the warmth
be in the middle of the large.

HOW TO DISAPPEAR

Fill up

go

fill up again

get smaller (in your head)

stretch

do one thing at a time

be with yourself

by yourself (stomach)

with others (lots of them)

focus

keep at it

deeply, deeply

think about it (arms & shoulders)

eye (the forehead)

could be moved easily

or else

stay right where you are.

HOW TO BUILD A FIRE

Get hungry
go around in the bush
pick up sticks
throw them over the rocks
into a pile
remember the smile of the heat
watch out for thorns and splinters
keep going until you've got enough
past the man at the mouth
and watch out
meet everyone else
with their sticks and logs
don't forget the rock
be big and orderly now
start the fire
and get the others
to bring in the crow
shout and jump around
maybe pray to something
scatter the pieces
bones and feathers
and remember what's left
emptyhead.

GUARDIAN SPIRIT

Number one
where did you get it
and then
who did it say it was
how long did it take you
to get it
where did you go
when it first appeared
what words did you speak
well, then, what sounds
oh
between you
who came first
howd'ya get your name?

HOW TO NEST

Hang out in the sky all day
fly as far as you can
until your heart flutters
comes back and leaves again
keep doing that
until frost covers the ground
count what you have left (the days)
spin around at your reflection on the lake
take air
sticks, twigs, leaves, moss
and settle into the night
awake in the world
ask yourself questions
look through the window
it's not copper
you'll have to have
answers.

HOW TO CLEAN UP IN SPRING AND FALL

1. In the Spring

point to everything lying around
try to remember
kind of frown and shake your head
all of a sudden
there's more than there used to be
keep track of it
organize it all by counting
do a dance
a real funny dance.

2. In the Fall

exaggerate
tell a fish story
your world is getting smaller
look at the sky full of stars or snow
get ready for that
wrap everything up
and nudge it softly into corners
but don't forget
tell a really tall tale.

HOW TO FARM

Wake up
and consider it
a serious possibility.

Look
out of the corner of your eye
at the garden and the buildings
in the morning.

Smile at yourself doing this.

The animals
jump over the fences.

HOW TO GET AWAY

Try to imagine it
far away
stand up shape
as if it were meant to be
stone
choose a landscape
to be led along
a continent out there
shape far away
stone upright
ski there
or pretty soon
swim to it
by diving in
and sinking.

HOW TO FIND SOMETHING

Amble
not looking
you think it'll come to you
if it doesn't
thread line through your lips
in meditation
enclose it
in all you've passed by
count
break sticks at the tip
your legs are long shadows
a continuation
everything
an extension
and tied to
what it is
you look for.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE

Time edits
your fortune
is complete with imagination
the telephone pole
will carry the news
over the grass
beside the highway
indicated by markers
whenever
you point
stand there
like a rock
painted
names
saves.

HOW TO BE SURE

This is really crazy
but underneath everybody doing something,
all the music going on, the chatter,
reflections of the sky, the time of the year,
standing around looking for direction (or something)
you can silently sever head from body
at the neck
silence the voice
return
to the seed
with wings and arms
planted
in trenches
dug by girls.

