



Dry Stone

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From the beginnings of agriculture, human beings have needed to domesticate land in order to feed and protect themselves. They have used stone walls, now cultural and immaterial heritage of UNESCO, among other techniques, for that end, This is an ancestral construction method that consists of joining stones through fitting them together with the force of gravity.

The margins and walls on plains are used to hold livestock and protect crops from predators. On slopes, the walls were also used to create flat terraces, in this way aiding crop growing and livestock grazing, encouraging water retention and preventing mudslides and avalanches provoked by rain and wind. In addition, in this way, land was cleared of stones to allow for crop sowing.

The infinite shelters that these walls offer to many species including insects, spiders and reptiles, are also important as they contribute to pest control, pollination and balance the environment that surrounds us, improving the ecosystem and biodiversity.

Regarding their construction, different techniques are used depending on the geography of their location. The margins that we see here, rise with a slight incline, so as to multiply the strength against the pressure of holding the earth.

As we build the margin, we should compact the earth and fill the gaps with small stones so that when the rain comes and puts pressure on the wall, the water can drain out through the holes between the stones. Although it's surprising, we should never put compacted earth in the wall because rainwater would accumulate and form a dam that could tear it down. It's amazing how the stones themselves support each other and how the pressure of their own weight multiplies the strength of retention of the wall, preventing it from falling, despite rainfall and crop cultivation. This simple, cost-effective, durable way of building, using materials from the land, has lasted out centuries, becoming a heritage to protect.

We invite you, with the help of our master in dry stone construction, Chuchi, to participate in the construction of this stone wall in front of you.

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