**Purification Sanctuary (PS), Elimination Station and Changing Chamber**

Common name: Queen Regal Outhouse!

For nearly three decades the dilemma of where to pee, how to pee and with whom to pee has meandered through many solutions here on The Holyland. Sorry you missed the journey.

But, you don’t have to miss the story. A few of the solutions are still quite viable and preferable to some. With nearly 120 acres of natural woods, there is plenty of privacy to simply join the other native animals and squat (or stand) and relieve oneself to make water for the earth below. No one will judge you if you prefer to shake free and walk on. On the other hand, each retreat includes home rules where we teach the bountiful and beautiful use of plantain as a soothing and natural toilet tissue for those of us who prefer to wipe dry. More solid elimination can also be healthy for the soul and soil as long as you find a place with some leaf coverings and away from walk ways or water ways. Plantain serves both and might even heal your ouches a bit. No promises. This lengthy explanation is because this primitive and first solution is still one of our best and favorites.

Growing from there, some of us needed more visual and sound privacy. The pooping in privacy fund allowed us to invest seasonally in a Janie house which served as an elimination station, changing chamber and girls chat room. It had its challenges though. Creating level ground for one. Ordering in time. Raising the funds to pay for it. The smell. Soul Blossom refresh and fresh bouquets of lavender helped. But, only helped some noses. Still, oh my goddess, were we grateful.

Time passed. Many ideas swirled. We tried digging a trench and using lime dust. You had to be either youthfully strong in the legs or aging radiantly…and with ideal balance and aim. We tried buckets with toilet seats and cloth walls. In the woods on windy and rainy days the walls came tumbling down. Horrible if you were on the pot at the time. Back to the circle of great minds for new solutions.

Over the last five years we perfected a semi-perminant elimination station behind the guest cottage, Casita. It was designed with plastic pipe fixtures, tarps for walls and ceiling and a movable shower curtain as the door. The toilet seat evolved into a fancy wood throne with the opening being sized to fit one and then another posterior. Full consensus nor satisfaction was ever reached on the perfect size hole. The composting bucket underneath required many accessories. Sawdust. An accompanying bucket for toilet tissue or other personal hygiene products. The most critical limitation of a composting toilet is the need to be emptied before overflowing. Folks used to flushing toilets are the first to agree with this need. But, emptied by whom? Part of our first night order of business at group retreats is to set up crews for fire tending, kitchen duties, food and final clean up, etc. A special dedicated selfless service, self appointed, haloed elimination crew took charge. Some folks alternated between this crew and the kitchen crew but they always washed their hands. We also added a hand washing station nearby with fresh water, soap or hand sanitizer. Don’t you wish we would have added hand lotion? Me too. With such an almost perfect solution, why would we continue to search for another? Can you imagine one of the sisters going out in the rain with a stick to lift the ceiling tarp up from the weight of gathering waters sure to fall on the head of the next guest? Raccoons continued to tear open the screen taped around the throne to keep out the flies (yes, there are flies around poop) and other rodents. The plastic pipes would buckle and break. The refortification was endless. Now, you are with me.

Sorry you missed all that.

Today we have a permanent outhouse fit for a Queen and her people. Rather than design a double seater, we created a sitting area next to the single elegant toilet seat. This area serves as a place for changing baby or having company. There are shelves for extra TP, flowers, facial tissue or landing pad for accessories. There is store bought toilet paper on an easy to reach rod-iron country tp holder. Just. For. You. There are hooks for jackets, baskets with refreshing sprays and other supplies. There is a bucket with fresh sawdust, a waste basket and inspirational wall hangings for timely contemplation. Screened air vents are extra large on the east and west walls allowing for wasp and fly free air flow. We have had no complaints of foul smell. The gently slanted roof allows for rain and snow run off. There is a three way lantern for easy use at night. The floor is beautiful. Come see. Come sit.

Steps leading up to a porch with a tin roof overhang make it possible to wait your turn and stay out of the rain. If you look up, you will see a weather vein on the roof with a wolf howling at the moon. Regal.

To aid in the duties of composting toilets, there is a hinged trap door in the back with a space for three buckets. One bucket has extra sawdust. One is a fresh trade out while the used bucket is being emptied and readied for the next round. We thought of everything so you don’t have to do the potty dance for long.

Adjacent to the PS Station is a Changing Chamber. Open to the sky above, the three walls have a flow space at the bottom allowing for double use as a solar shower. There are hooks for clothes, a bench for sitting and a Mennonite Strong He-Bear hook for a hefty, solar water bag. The hinged door allows easy access and secure closure.The rose pavers lined with pea gravel create perfect drainage. Companion or individual use welcome.

Those same pavers wrap around from front to back creating a walkway from the porch to the Changing Chamber to the trap door for clean out.

We are wimyn of prominence and so there are gardens, flower basins and a cairn by the front door. At night the twinkle lights adorn the roof, disseminating beauty from glen to meadow, like a beacon of light and hope to the queen in need.

If you are here for a personal, private, blue moon or group retreat, be welcomed to our simple and sacred outhouse. You will be instructed on how to take care of your business as the Elimination Crew only serves at group retreats.

Here She Be.