The History of Papers

On nowadays, paper is one of the most important things for study and work. Not like pens, papers are invented later than the thing that you write. We can imagine that how is the difficulty of no paper in ancient civilizations, they just can engrave the words on their rocks hardly, so to now a history of papers is very important.

We cannot imagine if our papers are made of sheep or any animals, we also cannot *believe* that papers made of animals droppings, but it was true, our ancestors are trying to find a good material to write. This was a nice try, at a long time of Europe, people used parchments made of sheep skin to write and record things. That time, people just know to take materials from animals. Although the parchments or the paper made of animals droppings can be used, but however, the parchment was very rough, and the paper made of animal droppings were very dark, you can not see anything when you write on it. This difficult situation was keeping until Chinese Han Dynasty.

All Chinese people know, the nation which has the most population is Han, so we can know the Han Dynasty was a dynasty had some greatest achievements. I do not want to tell you all of the inventions of Han like the instrument for know earthquake, I want to introduce a man, he was Cai Lun. Cai Lun was a eunuch, eunuch means a man which has been castrated and send into the emperor’s palace. One day, Cai Lun went to play with other eunuchs, when he was at a river’s bank, he was interested by some things like fiber, and it was white. Cai Lun started to think, can I use that to make something to write instead of the ancient papers? He found out that the fiber was made of tree bars, frayed nets, and been stirred by the river water. He did that in his experiment to find the nice paper. Finally, he made the first clear and white paper in the world, this was an achievement of Earth.

China didn’t keep that secret in a long time, six hundred years later, the troops of Tang Dynasty had been beaten by the Arabian army, the technology of paper went to Europe. After Cai Lun, Chinese people are still trying to make the paper smoother, so when the Arabians got the papers, it was much better than the Europeans’ parchments. The truth was the Europeans still didn’t use Chinese papers, they used their parchments as well, the Dark Ages were parchments, the Middle Ages were parchments, even though the Renaissance were parchments, too. And now, I have to introduce another man, his name was Johannes Gensfleisch zur Laden zum Gutenburg, the Europeans believe that Gutenburg invented the technology of printing, the technology of printing pulls the technology of papers hardly. The Europeans found out their parchments were not the beat paper of printing, so they started to make the Chinese paper better than parchments for printing. In the five hundred years, people were keep adding fiber into their papers, their papers were harder than harder. At last, in the 20th century, our white paper had been invented, it is thicker than the 19th century’s thin paper, so it can used for printing or writing. The best news was the ink cannot go through the paper!

Now, when you used any paper, think of it’s difficult story of inventing. So if you want to respect your ancestors’ invention, then try to not wasting their inventions. This was the history of papers, in the ancient civilizations to nowadays.