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PHOTO EFFECTS

Create a Devastating Twister With Photo Manipulation Techniques

by Shardul   9 Apr 2010   💬 59 Comments

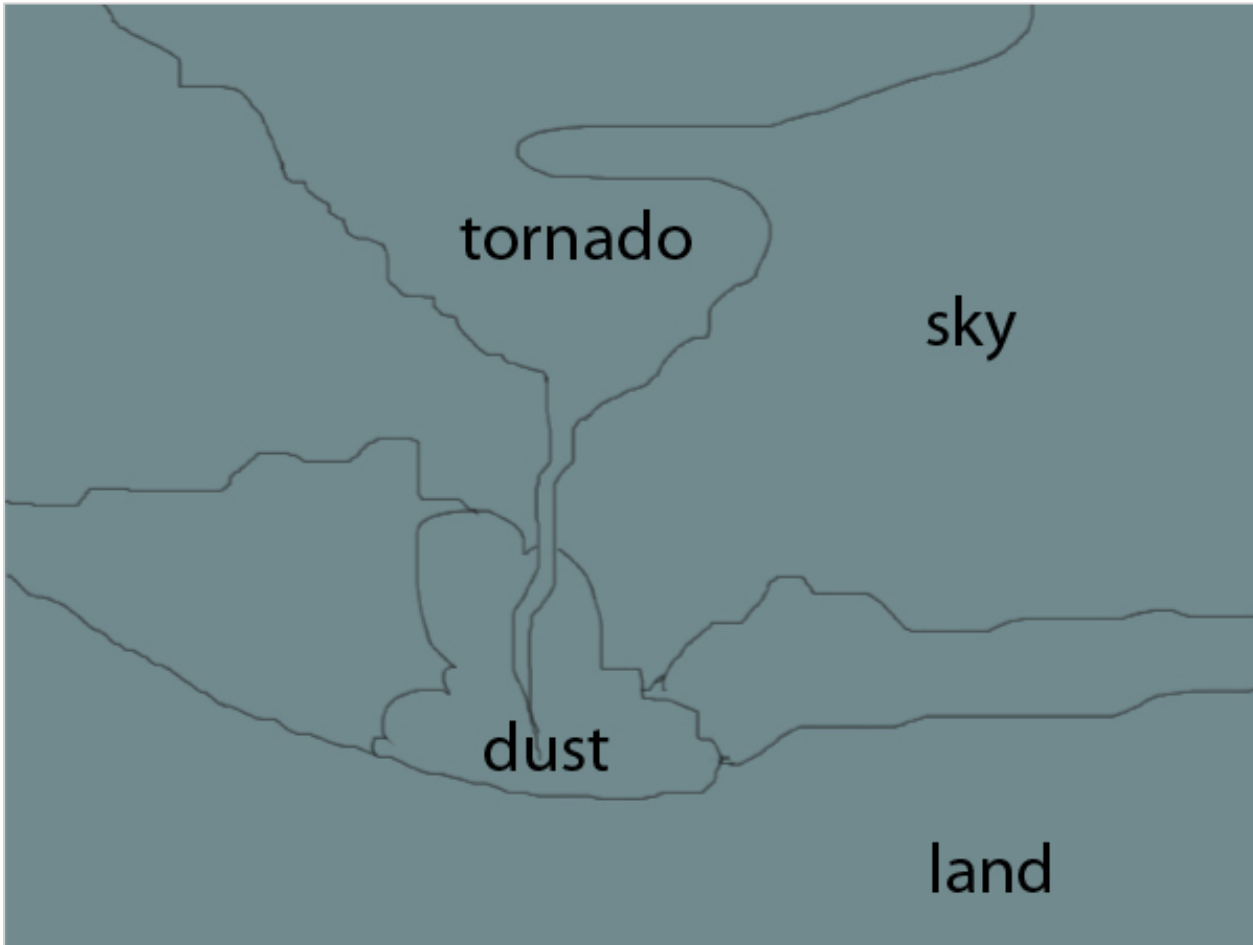f 4   🐦   g+   📌

If you're looking to create a really nice photo manipulation, often you will have to combine several photos and apply a few effects to get your desired look. In today's tutorial I decided to combine a few photos that I took while I was traveling to create a devastating tornado consuming everything in its path. Okay, let's get started!

Introduction

To create images like this, I recommend you to gain a bit of knowledge of perspective, focal point and vanishing point etc. It helps a lot while bringing together various images into one final plate. Okay, let's get started.

Step 1

First, create a new document in Photoshop and name it tornado. Create a layer and fill it with some color and come up with a rough sketch of your composition.

Step 2

Open up your images in Photoshop. Use the upper image for the sky and the lower one for the land.
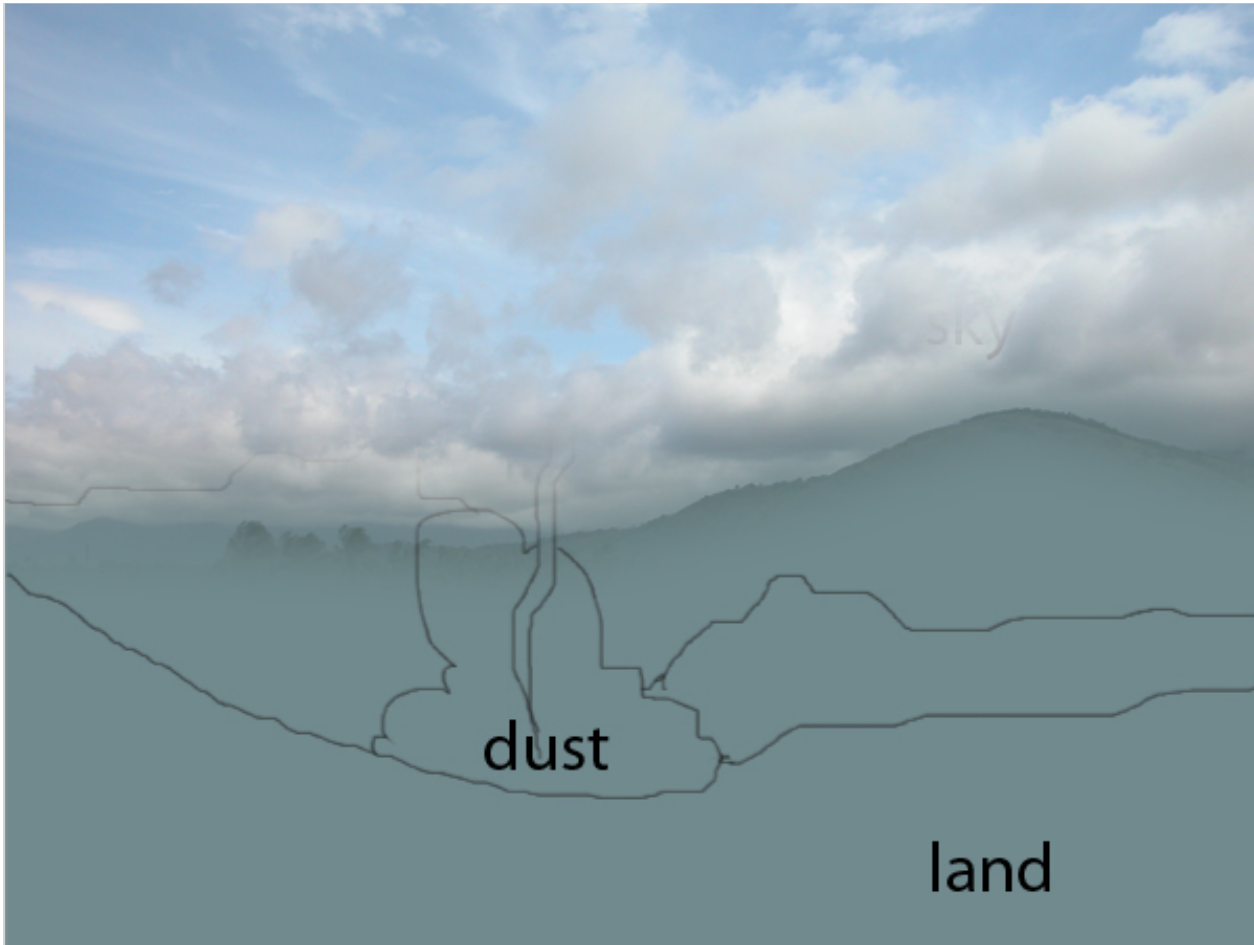
Step 3

With the help of the Lasso tool and a 20 px feather cut out the sky and paste it into your tornado document.
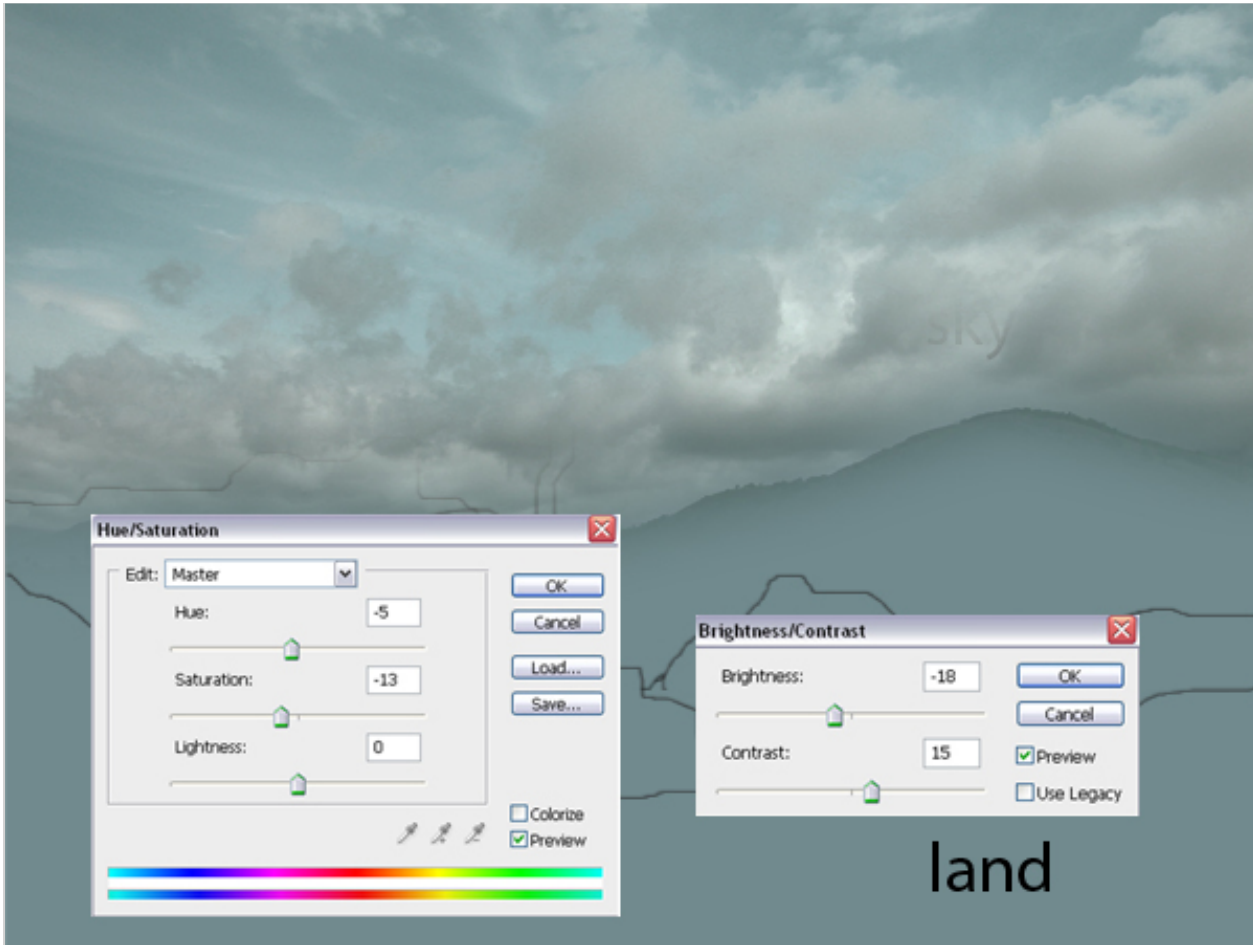

Step 4

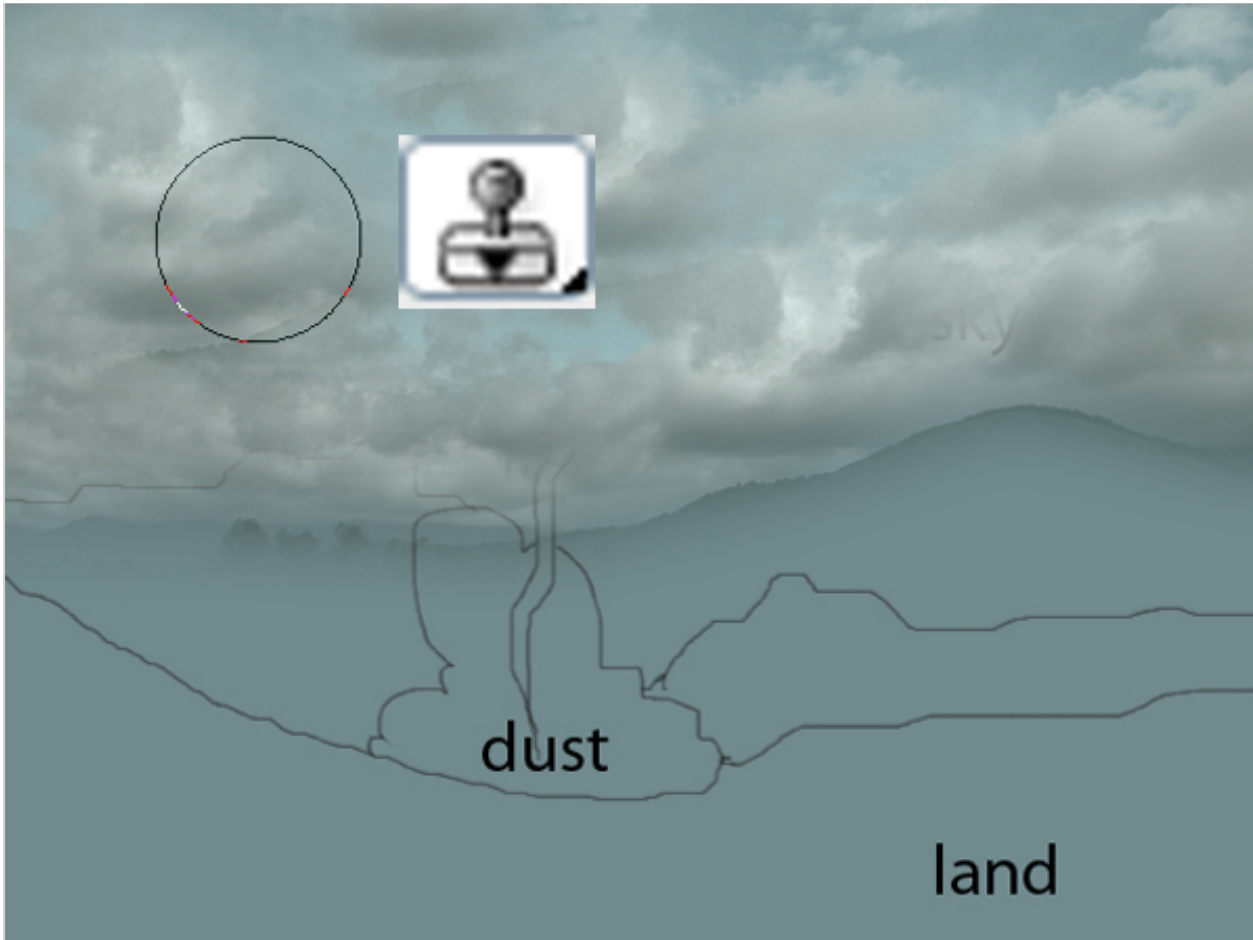Now that the sky is ready, our next job is to make the sky look cloudy.

Step 5

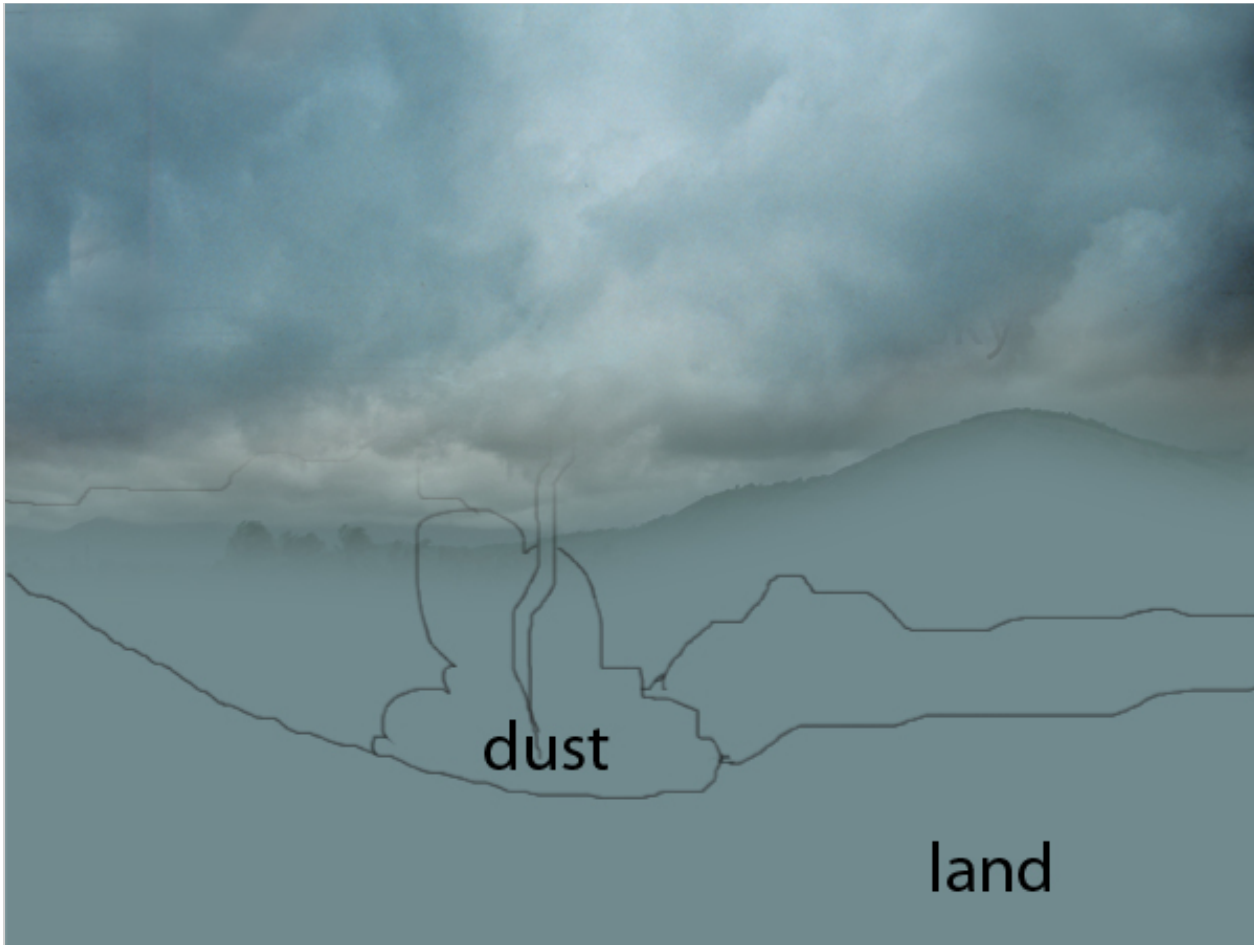Make some adjustments the image's Brightness/Contrast and Hue/Saturation.

Step 6

Use the clone stamp tool to help spread out the sky.

Step 7

Use the clone stamp tool to change the shade of the clouds.
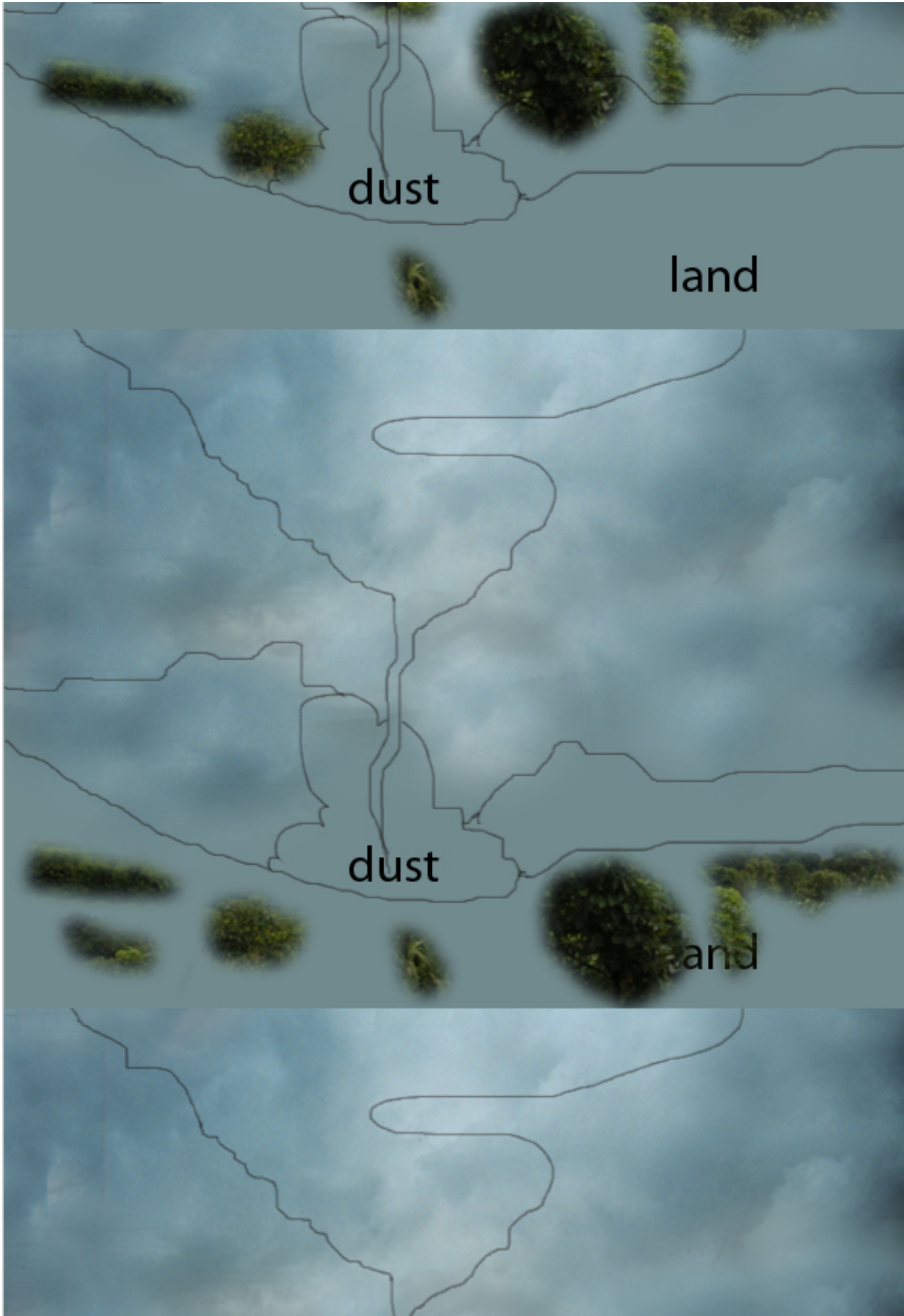
Step 8

Open the second image and select some portions of the grass and vegetation using the Lasso tool (5 px feather). I used multiple selections of the ground for my image.

Step 9

Now paste the vegetation fragments of my image then bring them together. Use the lasso tool to spread the vegetation across your canvas.
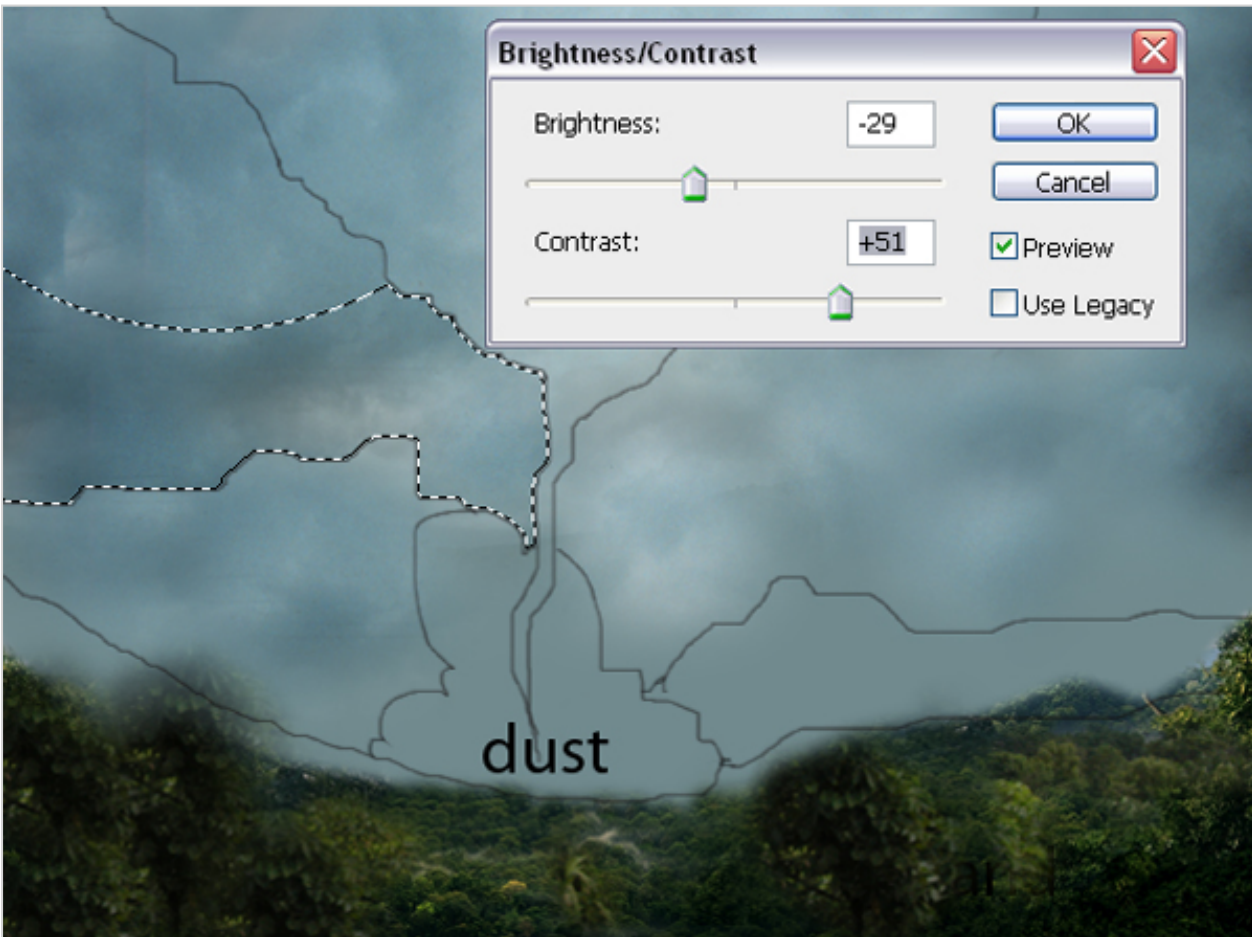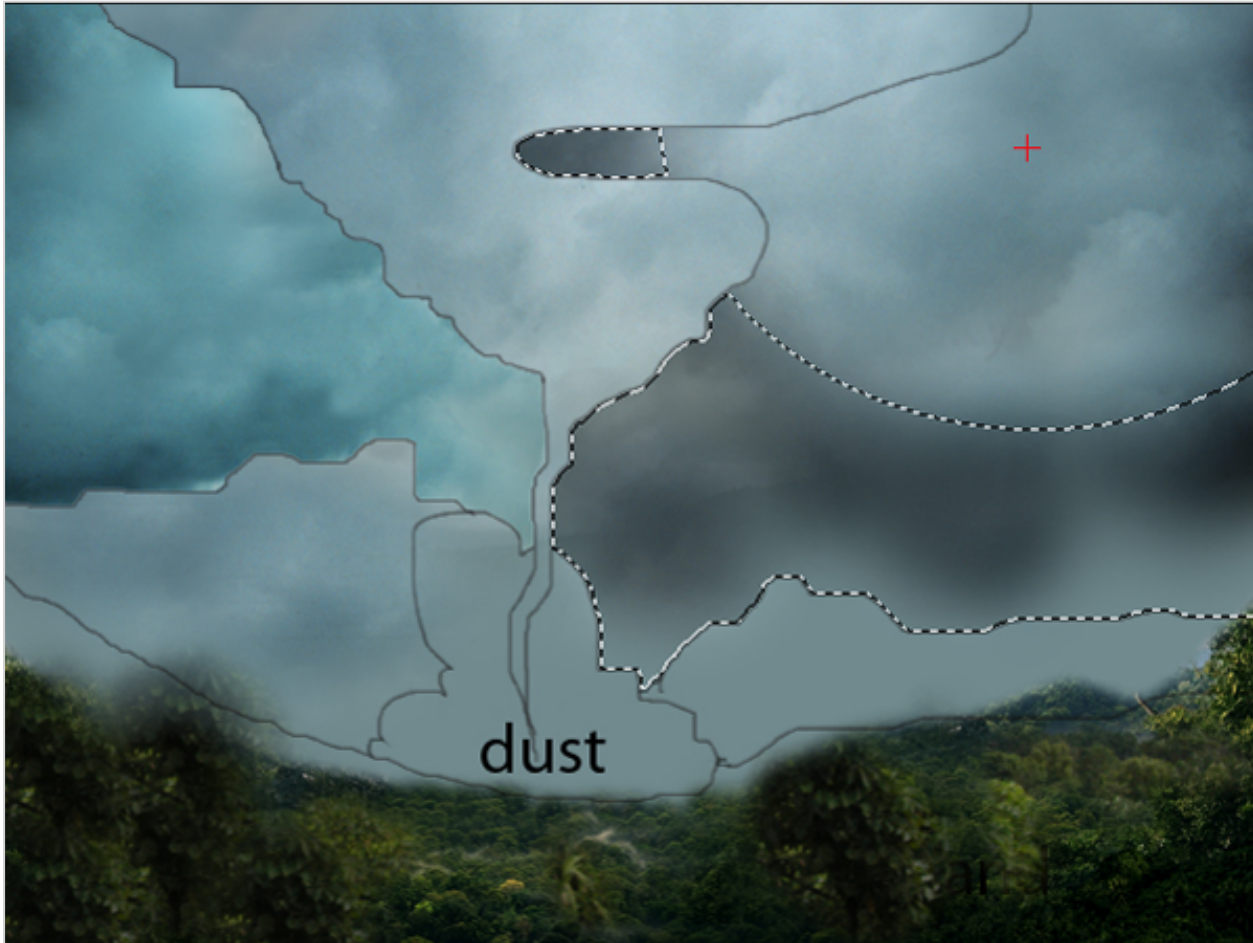
dust

land

dust

and

Step 10

Start selecting portions of the sky and play around with the brightness and contrast just to give it some variation.
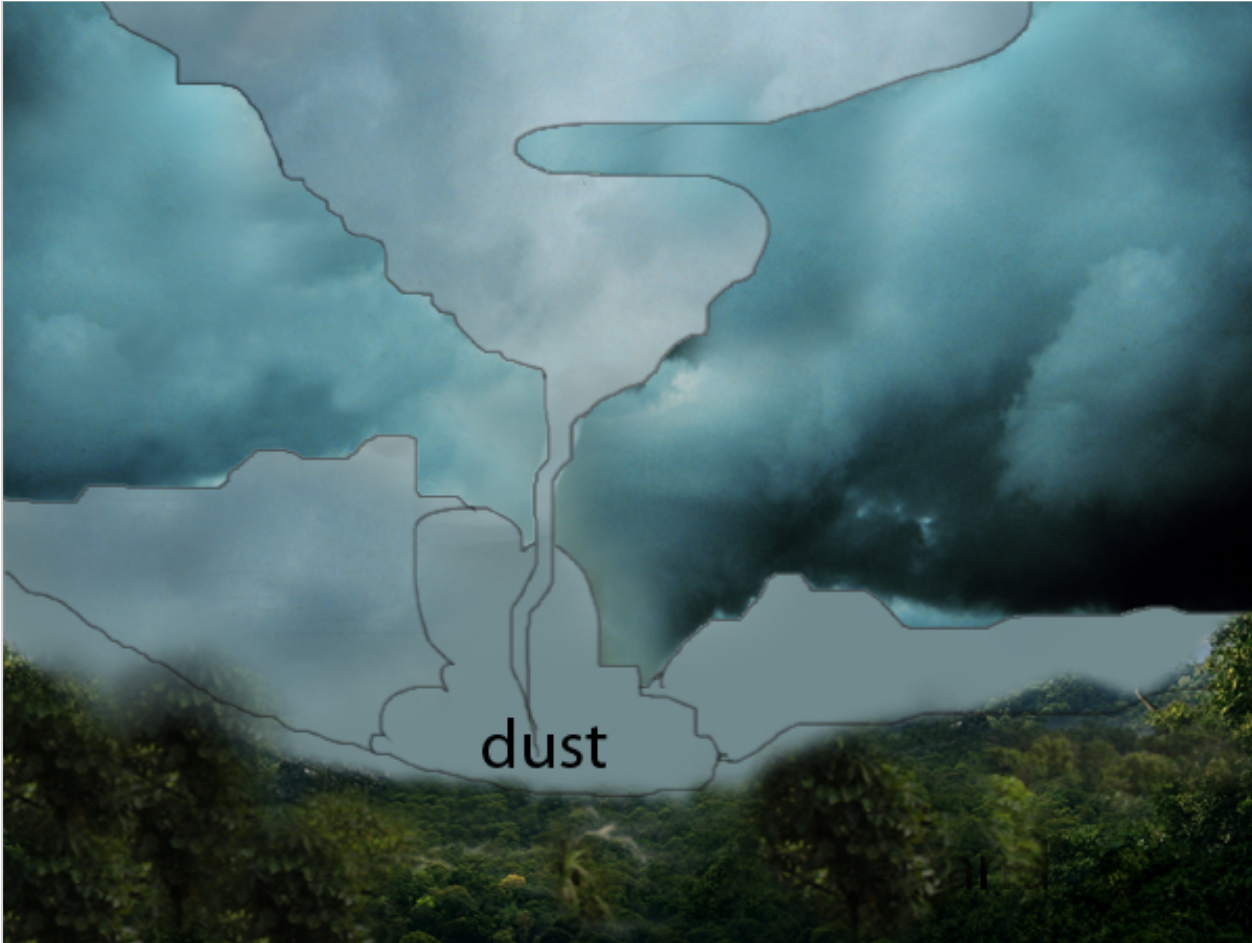
Step 11

Use the same technique with other parts of the image as per my sketch and change the shade of the clouds in those areas.
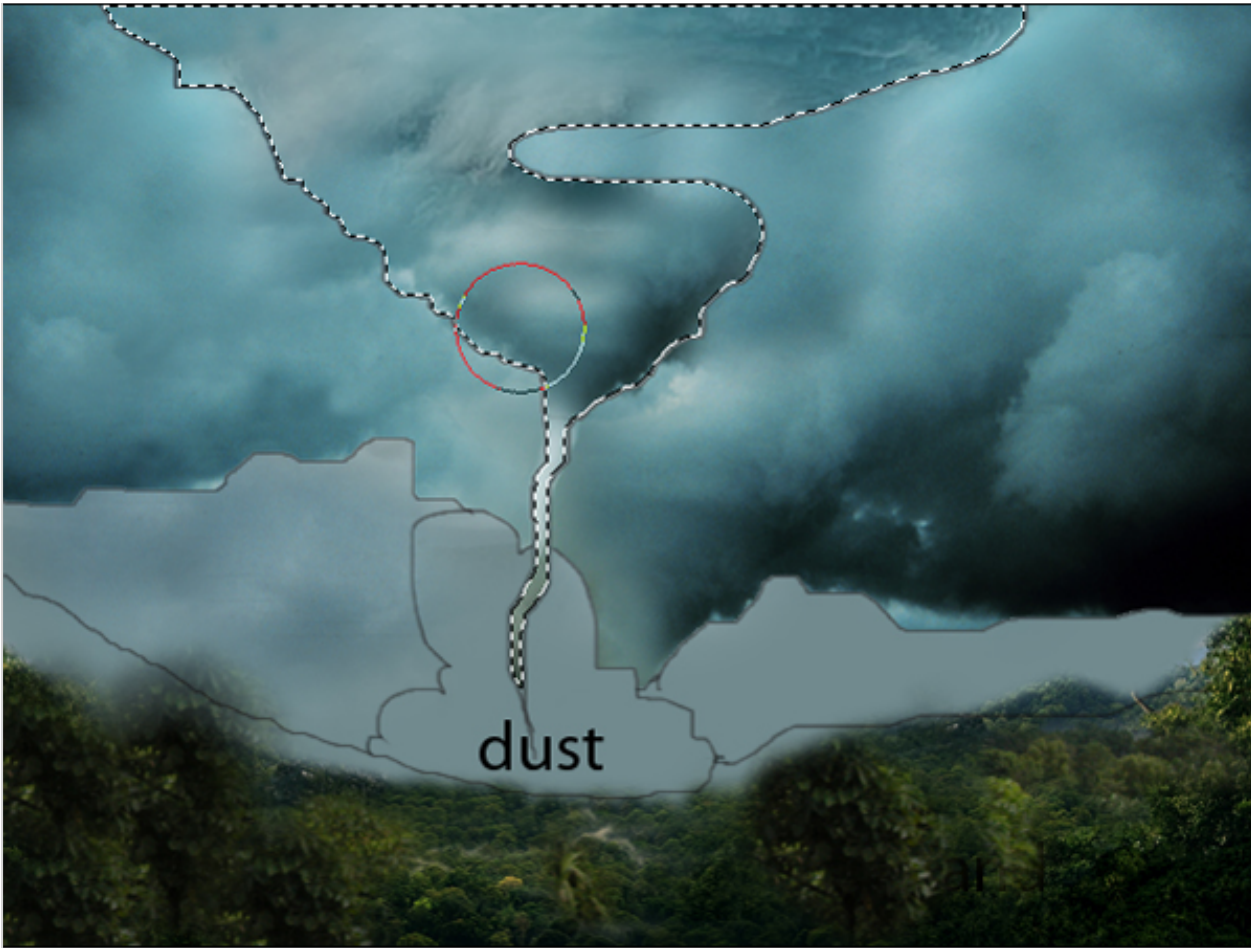

Step 12

At this point it's time to start laying out the tornado.
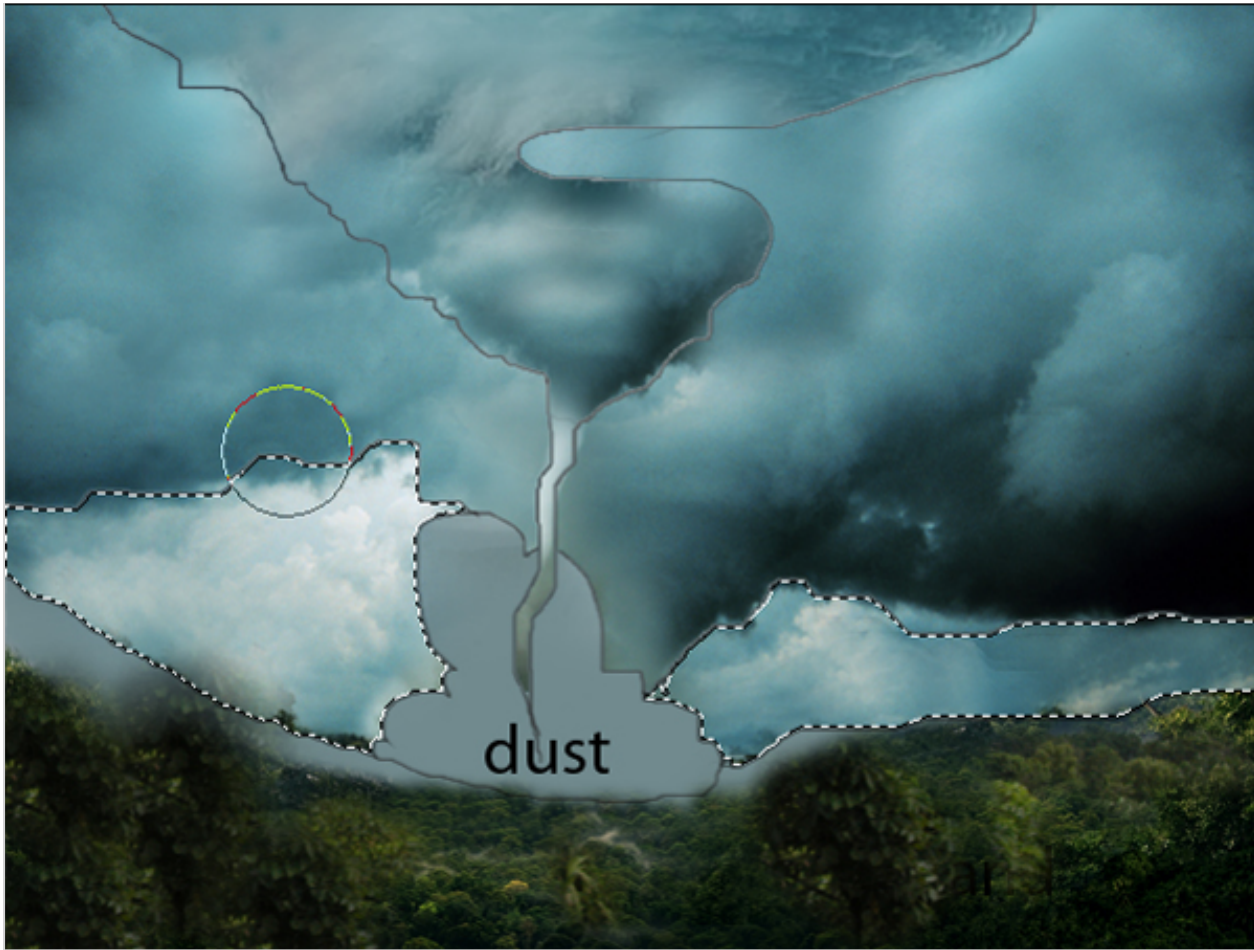
Step 13

Use the clone stamp tool to spread the tornado out in the selected area of the drawing.

Step 14

Repeat the same process for the other selected areas.

Step 15

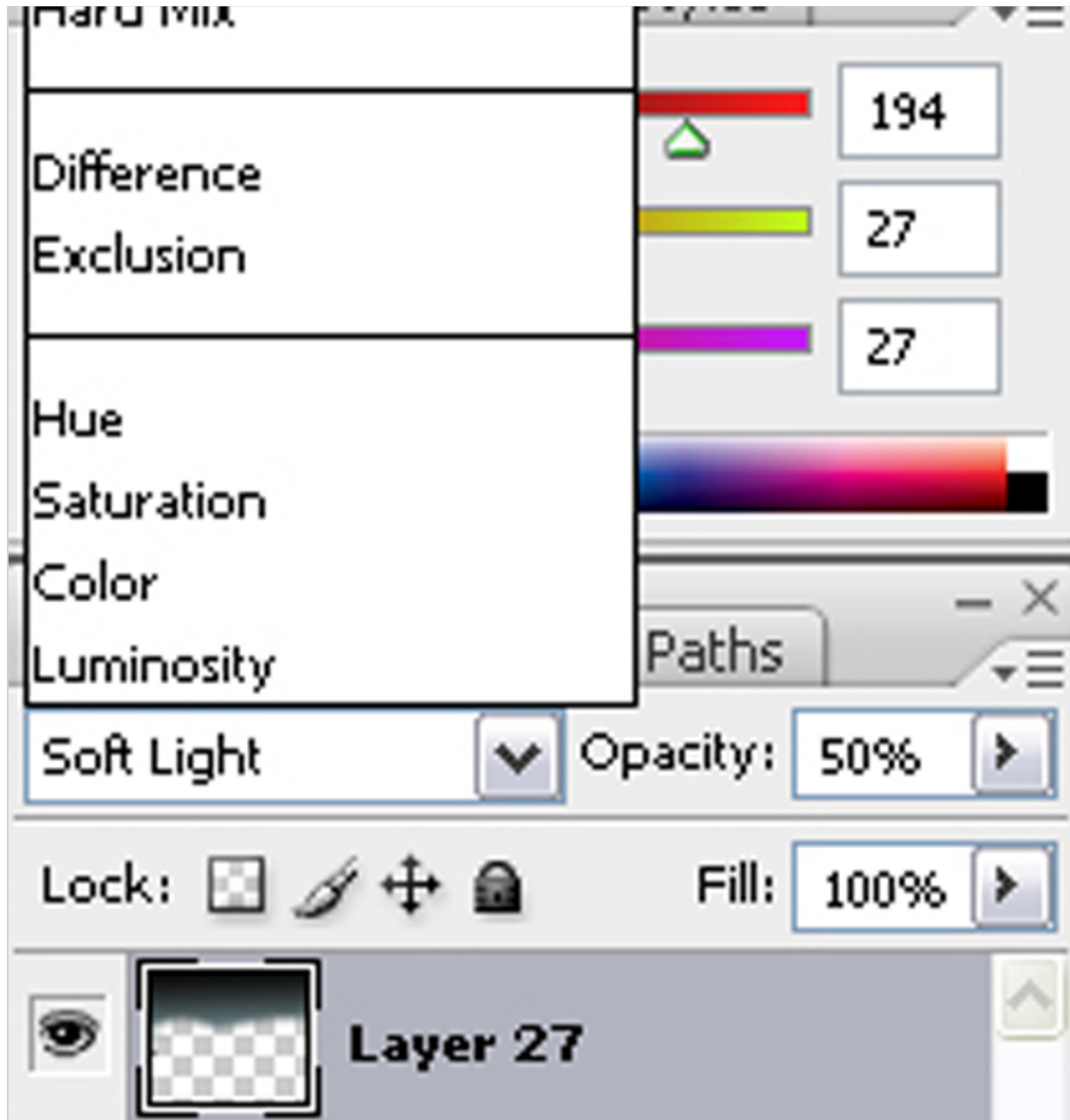The dust can be created by cloning portions of the sky and by changing its shade.

Step 16

Use the clone stamp tool to create a smooth transition between the various elements in the composition.

Step 17

To enhance our image we now need to create a new adjustment layer with a black to transparent gradient. Set the blending mode of this later to soft light. The purpose of this step is to enhance our image so that the upper edges look darker and that the viewer's focus is directed to the center. Repeat this step in one more layer if you want more variation in shading.

Step 18

Now it is time to shade the outer areas of the composition. Do this by drawing a rectangle with the rectangular marquee tool (with 0 px feather) in a new layer and fill it with black color. Use the lasso tool to cut the layer as shown. After this, set the layer's blending mode to 'soft light'. The purpose of this step is to darken some areas of the image to shift the focus towards the center.

I want the focus here

Step 19

Now let's play around with some color variations. Make sure that, you do it in adjustment layers so that if you don't like it you can just delete the layer.

Conclusion

That's it. I hope that this tutorial helped you learn a little about photo manipulation techniques. Good luck!

Difficulty:

Intermediate

Length:
Long

Categories:
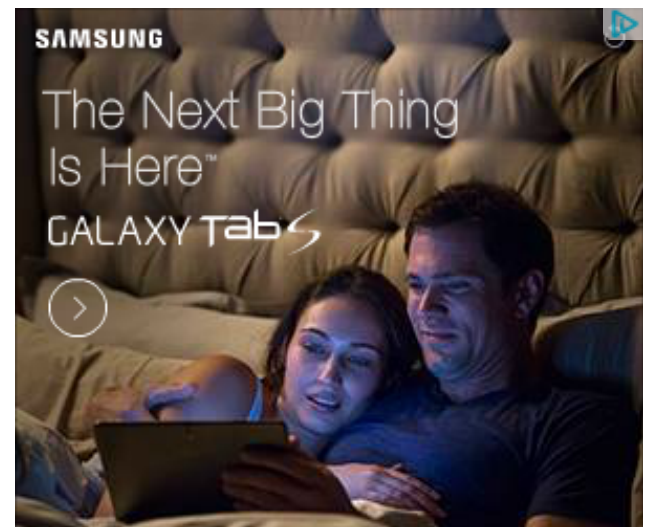
Photo Effects

Adobe Photoshop

Translations Available:

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About Shardul

I am a freelance designer and marketer based in India. In addition to owning my own marketing blog, I have also designed several websites. You can follow me at @sharduldoshi on Twitter.

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