



The Kogi Elder Brothers are watching us : pages 24-33

EDITOR, DESIGN AND PRODUCTION:

Nicholas Breeze Wood

FOUNDING EDITOR:

Faith Nolton

PROOF READING:

Rin'dzin Sér-tsal, Martin Wilford

CONTACT DETAILS:

Sacred Hoop Magazine
Anghorfa, Abercych, Boncath,
Pembrokeshire, SA37 0EZ, Wales
Email: Nick@sacredhoop.org
Tel: (01239) 682 029
www.sacredhoop.org

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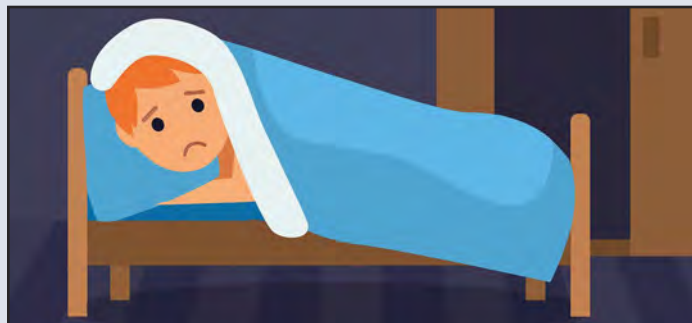
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THE FOUNDING INSPIRATION FOR SACRED HOOP MAGAZINE IN 1993

"Then I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and around and about me was the whole hoop of the world... I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit and the shapes of all shapes as they must live together like one being. And I saw that the Sacred Hoop of my people was one of many hoops that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight and in the centre grew one almighty flowering tree to shelter all the children of one Mother and one Father, and I saw that it was holy."

(From the vision of Nicholas Black Elk Lakota Holy Man: 1863 - 1950)



Escaping out of our life-ruts : pages 15-20

From the Editor



As I complete this 115th issue of Sacred Hoop; where I am in West Wales, the spring is on it's way, bringing a radiance of new life that delights the senses, and Russian tanks are on the edge of Kyiv, bring a sense of doom. Balance in all things it would seem.

One of the themes of this issue seems to be about awareness, keeping it real and being alert; and those are qualities that every medicine person and shaman has to cultivate. We need to be able to feel the lines of connection that go out into the world, and also those lines that go deep within ourselves too. This awareness is something we develop with experience and age I think, although some people are no doubt innately better at it than others.

When we hold space for a ceremony, one in which other people are taking part, we hold filaments of connection, lines of energy and awareness that go out to them, like threads on a spider's web: and so our senses are often in spider mode, sensing that web all the time in order to see what is going on for the people in our care.

But our own inner landscape also needs to be tuned in too, as we all too easily switch off and plod along developed paths which we forged in our childhood; sleepwalking through life. All the real sacred teachings of the world are designed to shake us up, and get us out of our ruts; if a spirituality makes us feel safe and cosy then maybe we need to look at it with critical eyes - as we all need to be stretched and dragged - albeit perhaps kicking and screaming - out of our comfort zones sometimes.

So, in this issue, we look at the Star Maiden Circle, a medicine wheel tool to help us gain self-awareness. We cannot have true medicine power if we don't develop true and deep self-awareness; and in this light we also visit the Kogi in South America. They look at us - their 'Younger Brothers' - and perceive we have little self awareness; as we wouldn't be doing all the awful things we do if we had developed it. I made the issue four pages bigger, in order to republish an article from a previous issue about the Kogi too.

And we take a look at the spirits that delight in our sleepwalking, in our lack of awareness, in our anxiety and confusion and strife and agitation; Lordy, how they must be enjoying the banquet we are providing them at the moment, with some of the ways humanity behaves and things it does.

So, I wish you a blessed and beautifully aware spring - or autumn - may you hold a pristine and clear clarity about what you need in your life, and what steps you need in order to reach it; and may you walk towards a powerful dream that is right for you, and not get stuck in the daydreams of illusion.

Blessings to all Beings
Nicholas Breeze Wood

