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THE LODGES OF THE REINDEER PEOPLE . 17-22

A long way from anywhere, **Rebecca Singer** visits the Dukha people to spend time with the reindeer herders and witness their changing life and culture.

A COMMON HUMAN HERITAGE 23-25

Shamanism is a part of so many cultures, in all its myriad forms it is part of the core way we as a species relate to the cosmos. **Bhola Nath Banstola** shares some of his understanding as a traditional Nepali shaman.

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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)



The Grounded use of Teacher Plants : pages 39-43

From the Editor



Well, Yule time is the time of reindeers in our culture, and as we head towards the mid-winter festival here in the Northern lands, Hoop seems to be invaded by them. Our first two articles are about the Dukha people (often mis-called the Tsaatan, which is not their real name), the reindeer shamans of Northern Mongolia.

But shamanism can be looked at as a common human heritage, as many parallel animistic and shamanic traditions occur all over the world, which is what our third article argues.

And of course, in all animistic and shamanic cultures, a wisdom and awareness of spirit beings is found, some of which are not very healthy to be around. Generally however, this is because they are in the wrong place, rather than because they are 'just plain bad' - as my old gardening teacher used to put it - 'a rose in a potato patch is a weed.'

But for wisdom to be strong in a culture, we need wise elders who will anchor that wisdom; and that is the theme of our next article. In Native American, and many other cultures, elders are seen as vastly important. What a contrast that is with Western culture where they are often thrown on the rubbish heap, as having outlived their usefulness.

The land gives us wisdom, elders have always known to go and listen to the rocks and the mountains and seek learning in wild places. In our next article wisdom comes from a cave, places our ancestors were spiritually active within, as all the cave art they left us shows.

I have heard it argued that cave art was created in reaction to hypnagogic images induced by 'teacher plants.' Whether this is the case or not, those using teacher plants nowadays need to be grounded in their practice for the wisdoms gained to be of any practical use, and our next two articles explore this.

And finally we end with an article about a Southern Siberian blacksmith spirit - who is also the spirit responsible for machines and all electrical items - including computers - so I thank that spirit greatly for working with the spirit of the Apple Mac in order to get this, our 86th issue, out for you - and I hope you enjoy the read.

Blessings to all Beings
 Nicholas Breeze Wood