



The Sacred Tiger Spirit of Tibet : pages 2-47



Dreamers of the Thunderbeings : page 6-14



Carved Spirit Guardian Figures of Korea : pages 39-41



Honouring the Lakota Heyoka : pages 15-19

**EDITOR, DESIGN AND PRODUCTION:**

Nicholas Breeze Wood

**DESIGN AND EDITORIAL CONSULTANT:**

Faith Nolton

**PROOF READING:**

Linda Booth, Faith Nolton, Janey Verney

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

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

**PUBLISHING POLICY:**

SACRED HOOP seeks to network those wanting to learn the spiritual teachings of indigenous peoples as a living path of knowledge. Our contents cover the integration of both old and new ways, and insights that contribute to a balanced and sustainable lifestyle in today's world.

We honour all paths and peoples and do not include material from, or give support to, any individual or group which seeks to oppress or discriminate on grounds of race, lineage, age, sex, class or belief. Nor do we knowingly publish any material that is inaccurate.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor.

ISSN 1364 - 2219

**DISCLAIMER:**

Whilst making every effort to be accurate, the editors will not be deemed responsible for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies appearing in Sacred Hoop Magazine.

© Sacred Hoop Magazine and/or individual contributors. No part of this magazine, either written text or visual art, may be reproduced in any way whatsoever without the written permission of the Editor.



# Contents

**THUNDER DREAMERS . . . . . 6-14**

The heyoka - the Lakota tradition of the sacred clown - is deeply connected with the Thunderbeings and is a very important tradition within Lakota culture. **John Fire Lame Deer** tells of their role and importance.

**IN HONOUR OF THE HEYOKA . . . . . 15-19**

Throughout Lakota history there have been very important heyoka, such as Chiefs Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse. **Wambli Sina Win**, granddaughter of John Fire Lame Deer, shares some of this history.

**WAKANYEJA - LITTLE SACRED ONES . . . . .20-24**

The Lakota children of the Pine Ridge Reservation are in crisis, with chronic poverty, alcoholism and drug abuse in their homes, many are suffering greatly, often killing themselves. Lakota Grandmother **Barbara Dull Knife** talks **Michelle Easton** about her plans to help them.

Website: [www.sacredhoop.org](http://www.sacredhoop.org) ★

Facebook: [www.bit.ly/Hoop-FaceBook](http://www.bit.ly/Hoop-FaceBook)



**The Path of the Sacred Clown : pages 26-33**

**ON WINGS OF THUNDER. . . . . 25**

High above the clouds live the Thunderbirds. Found in traditions all across North America and over into Asia these giant birds have long been in the dreams of humans.

**MYSTERY, MAGIC AND MIRTH . . . . . 26-33**

The sacred clown is a tradition found in many cultures.

**Rachel Caine** looks at the role of the clown in the West and shares some stories of her own life as a sacred clown

**CHILDREN OF THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT . . . . . 34-38**

In the hi-tech land of South Korea, there is still to be found an ancient tradition of shamanism. **Brian Lee** looks at how shamanism has managed to survive there.

**JANGSEUNG. . . . . 39-41**

In Korea it used to be traditional to place carved wooden or stone guardian spirit figures outside villages, and along roads, which are called jangseung. We look at this tradition.

**TYGER-TYGER . . . . . 42-47**

Tigers are considered a sacred animal in many traditions. In Tibet they feature widely, both within Buddhism and also within the countries shamanism. **Nicholas Breeze Wood** explores why they 'burn so bright' in the imagination.

**BOOK AND MUSIC REVIEWS . . . . . 48-50**

**PEOPLE ON THE PATH EVENTS DIARY . . . . . 52-55**

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)



**Lakota Children in Crisis : pages 20-24**

*From the Editor*



For many people, the inspiration of the Native Americans, and especially the peoples of the Plains, such as the Lakota, are very important. So it is a great pleasure to bring some articles about Native American traditions into this issue of Hoop.

We start with John Fire Lame Deer, a heyoka holy man, who tells us of his life, and the role of the sacred clown in Lakota traditions, and we follow it with an article by his granddaughter, who honours many of the famous heyoka who have shaped Lakota history in recent times.

However, the Lakota are a suffering people - white oppression and cultural genocide have left a huge legacy of despair amongst the people, which greatly affects the welfare of their children, and so our next article looks at the realities of Lakota life today.

But the Thunderbirds still fly high above and look down on the people and pity them, so we look at these cross-cultural flying giants in our next article.

The heyoka are just one of the clown traditions found within Native American culture. Europe also has a tradition of clowning and so next we look at these sacred clown traditions.

In this hi-tech world there is a tendency to throw out the seemingly redundant sacred, but in Korea, shamans can still be found among the culture's modern silicon chip glitz and dazzle, and so we have two articles looking at aspects of these ancient traditions.

Tigers feature quite heavily in Korean shamanism; they feature even more in Tibetan shamanism and Buddhism, and so we explore the sacred tiger spirit and how it weaves its magic.

Precious tigers, precious children, precious teachings and traditions. The world throws away precious things at its peril. We need to hold on to the precious - like a seed bank - for a time when it will be needed. I was taught that: 'All things are born of woman (the female)' and 'Nothing must be done to harm the children'- two sacred laws showed to me as part of 'the medicine.' And those laws do not just mean human children, they mean all the children of all things - the children of tigers - the children of ancient sacred traditions - and even the children of the Thunder Beings - electricity and nuclear power.

Blessings to all Beings  
 Nicholas Breeze Wood