



The Spirit of the Mari Lwyd : pages 34-38



Chief Arvol Looking Horse : pages 42-47

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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.

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BRING A BLESSINGS TO THE ANCESTORS . 20-27

Our ancestors stretch out behind us, and they are essential in many sacred traditions worldwide. **Daniel Foor** urges a deeper connection and explains why.

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Long ago White Buffalo Calf Woman brought the sacred pipe to the Lakota people. **Arvol Looking Horse** is now the keeper of this ancient, most sacred of all sacred pipes. Here he makes a plea for the strengthening of the sacred.

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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 Need for Effective Initiation into Adulthood : pages 28-33

From the Editor



This edition of Sacred Hoop is again eight pages larger than normal, mostly because I wanted to make room for our first article, about the last days of the Standing Rock Water Protector Camps. It's a very long article, but I really felt its story needed to be told. It sets the main theme for this issue of Hoop too, our relationship with the Sacred Hoop of Life - from which of course this magazine takes its name.

Our relationship with Life also includes our relationship with the dead, and our next article is about how to build connections to the ancestors.

We come from the ancestors in crossing the threshold into this 'earth walk'; and begin our path to being human. But becoming an adult, especially in our crazy twisted Western culture, is not easy, so we look at the need for initiation in our next item.

Ancient traditions help with our connection, help us know who we are, give us something to cling to in the sea of changes around us. One such tradition is the magical and mystical Welsh custom of the Mari Lywd, the horse skull dancer of the year's turning.

To many Native Americans, the sacred pipe is the centre of their culture, and so we have a series of articles about the chanupa, the sacred pipe. Arvol Looking Horse is the keeper of the Sacred Calf Pipe, brought to the people by White Buffalo Calf Woman, and he has much to say about the state of the world. We look at the sacred stone used to make the pipe bowl, and then explore the ceremony of the sacred pipe. We finish this section with words from a Diné (Navaho) woman who speaks from her heart about the way humans are letting down their place on the Sacred Hoop of Life, and how this dishonours us at this time.

The path of a human being is difficult, we are not born human beings, we are born two-leggeds, we have to learn to become a human being and the way is hard. The way of a shaman is even harder and our next article tries to give a little reality and sound advice about that particular path.

And we end with a short remembering of two human beings, Chuck Derby, the caretaker of the sacred pipe stone quarries, and his friend the Oglala medicine man, Ed MaGaa.

May we all seek to walk an honourable path with all our relatives.

Blessings to all Beings
 Nicholas Breeze Wood

