



Bhola Banstola and Nepalese Shamanism : pages 6-15

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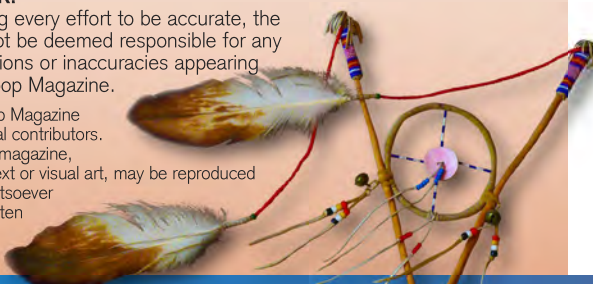
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From the Editor



I'm really pleased to start this issue with an article about my dear friend Bhola, about his initiation into being a shaman in his home, the hills of Nepal.

I think it could be argued that the shaman's initiation is one of the most powerful hero's journeys it is possible to make, but whether we are going to become a shaman or not, we are all still on our own hero's journey - the very act of being born, and walking towards our death, sets us out on the path - and it doesn't matter if we want to go on the adventure or not.

We can blunder about on the path of our hero's journey, not realising we are on one, taking many wrong turns and having to find our right path again. I'm reminded of a poem by William Stafford (1914-1993) that seems to sum it up...

'There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change. People wonder about what you are pursuing. You have to explain about the thread. But it is hard for others to see. While you hold it you can't get lost. Tragedies happen; people get hurt or die; and you suffer and get old. Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding. You don't ever let go of the thread.'

And so, I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Sacred Hoop, with it's articles about ceremony by Sandra Ingerman, Korean shamanism, traditional Amazonian medicine, fairy tales, shaman's holy water, land healing, and death masks. May it be helpful to you on the next steps of your own hero's journey.

Blessings to all Beings
Nicholas Breeze Wood