



Ulchi Shamanism in Siberia : pages 6-19



Animistic Ethics : pages 31-33



The Sacred Landscape of Ireland : pages 20-25

Contents

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THE PEOPLE OF THE TIGER 6-19
The Ulchi people live in South East Siberia and have a deep connection to the spirits and animals of their lands. **J. Van Ysslestyne** shares some of their traditions

IN SEARCH OF THE RED HAired GIRL . . . 20-25
Ireland has been a place of myth and legend for millenia. **Finndyror Silverstars** looks at how the ways storytellers have lived and responded to landscapes and how we can.

ENTERING THE SILENCE 26-30
The Aborigines of Australia have an understanding, called dadirri - by which they enter the silence and gain wisdom. **Hank Wesselman** explores dadirri and its relevance to us all.

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When a people rely on the wilds for their survival, they need to develop a code of ethics. **Arseny Popov** looks at the ethics of the native peoples of Russia and Siberia.

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Native peoples live close to the land and observe nature. **Samaria Nancy Cardinal** shares wisdom teachings from her people, discovered by watching the animals.

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From the Editor



I'm writing this on a winter's day in February, when the outside temperature is around 22° C (71° F). That is unprecedented in recorded memory, and while it's beautiful to have clear blue skies and warm sunny days, day after day, in the normally wet, cold and grey lands of a Welsh winter, it does give one pause for thought.

Many of the articles in this issue of Hoop, have some thing to do with life in hostile environments, places where an awareness of nature, and a way of ethically living in balance with her, are essential; be that in the forests of Siberia, the bush of Australia, the wet bogs and mountains of Ireland, or on a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific. You won't get very far without a healthy respect for your environment, and an awareness of the subtle - and not so subtle - forces in play around you.

One of the ways this awareness is developed is by observing the way things are where you live, then building on that knowledge and passing on the wisdom to the young, so they will pass it on in their turn. But what do we pass on to our children, except, all too often, knowledge about how to live surrounded by concrete and technology, in cities so lit up at night that even the stars are hidden.

But life is a balance, if you live in a city you need to know how to live there, just like the Ulchi have to know how to live in the Siberian forests... But at what cost is that knowledge of city and concrete bought? What is the cost, both for the individual who lives there, and the whole of the wider - global - interconnected circle of life we live within? How do we learn, unless we are still and quiet in nature and - like all indigenous cultures do - enter a state of dadirri?

Blessings to all Beings
Nicholas Breeze Wood