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Facing Climate Change with Ceremony : pages 6-15



The Need to Preserve Shamanism : pages 30-35

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PUBLISHING POLICY:

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ISSN 2514-2909

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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)



Shapeshifting and Shamanism : pages 36-41

From the Editor



Are you initiated? Are you powerful as a person? Are you capable of changing your shape, and thus being the post powerful person in the room? Because if you are stuck, holding your concretised perceptions of yourself, you are rigid, and when the wind blows rigid things break, but flexible things bend.

We live in a time of great change, and there are hard winds blowing all around, winds which will, I suspect either bend us or break us. And we can not isolate ourselves from those winds either, any illusion of shelter we have is simply that - an illusion, and a temporary one at best. The winds will blow us.

Humans have always adapted, they have had to. When we look at the deep DNA record of our species, we know that in the past we have nearly become extinct several times. One day we will; we will be no more - both individually and collectively. But until that day, are you initiated, are you flexible, will you survive another day?

In this issue of Sacred Hoop we look at Climate Change; shamanic initiation; the role of the shaman to bless; the need to preserve shamanism for future generations; the shaman's ability to shape shift; the need to be in wild places; and how to work with power, combined with our spirit animal helpers. Oh yes, a little divination too.

I think these are all things we are going to need in the times to come. We are going to need to be initiated - if not into shamanism, at least into life - need to be able to bless and hold onto knowledge, need to be comfortable within the wilds of nature, and with our power, and we will need to be able to shift our shape - and a little skill in rune reading won't go amiss either.

So here we are. What are we going to do about it?

Blessings to all Beings
 Nicholas Breeze Wood

