



Jaguars, Magic and Warfare : pages 6-14

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**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.

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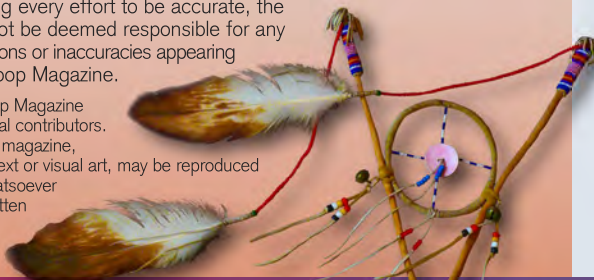
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ISSN 2514-2909

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To the Amazonian Siekopai people, the Jaguar is a mighty spirit. **Nathan D. Horowitz** shares personal encounters and some of their tales and teachings about Jaguar Magic.

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### From the Editor



High summer is happening all around outside my office window as I write this, Britain is expected to reach temperatures of 41°C [106°F] tomorrow. So having an article about working with the Spirit of Fire in this issue is perhaps timely, as is possibly an account of the Hopi snake dance ceremony, where the spirits are petitioned to bring rain in order to help the crops grow. But we start the issue with teachings and stories of Jaguars and of wolves, both sacred animals of power to the peoples who closely connect with them.

There is an element of story telling in other places in this issue too; from the Silk Road in Western China, from Tibet and again from Amazonia. We also have two POP profiles this issue too - as we have missed a few issues lately - so, we have glimpses into the life stories of the people we are featuring.

We populate the sacred landscape - and the physical one - and our lives too - with stories. If you have ever sat with traditional shamans or medicine people, you will have heard them tell stories of magical happenings, or stories of mistakes other shamans made; and what happened to them as a consequence. Stories are the spice of life, they shape us, they are how we learn, they scare and astound us; swing our emotions, engage our minds and capture our hearts. And so, I hope you enjoy the tales that this issue of Sacred Hoop brings.

This issue of the magazine is early this time, as I will be in Mongolia - travelling with shamans and bringing back travellers tales - at the time it would normally be out, at the start of September. Perhaps there will be more about that journey in a future issue, if I have a tale worth telling. But for now, may your late summer - or late winter - be delightful and your hearts warmed by your own life stories, unfolding before you at this time.

Blessings to all Beings  
Nicholas Breeze Wood

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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)