



Shamanism and Environmental Activism : pages 6-21



Daur Mongol Shamanism in China : pages 22-28

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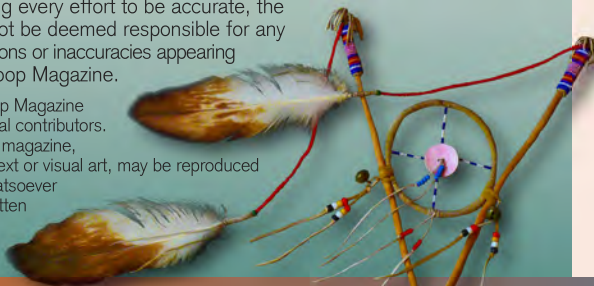
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THE FOUNDING INSPIRATION FOR SACRED HOOP MAGAZINE IN 1993
"Then I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and around and about me was the whole hoop of the world... I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit and 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)



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From the Editor



When I started working with Native American elders and medicine people in the 1980s, they were all warning of the 'Earth Changes' to come; they warned about pollution and told us how Grandmother was going to change things, and that humans were like fleas on her back, and if we didn't watch out She would scratch. Well, from where I stand, it looks like she is starting to do just that... big time.

Shamans know if we dont have the 'right relationship' with the natural world and the spirits that inhabit it, we will get badly bitten by them, but our material, consumerist, exploitative 'dead-matter-thinking' Western culture has seemingly forgotten and ignored that little inconvenient fact.

So, we start this issue with two articles about magical ecological activism; as we have all been born 'here and now,' right bang at this moment of crisis and opportunity, and we have to know what we are we going to do about it besides ducking when the shit hits the fan.

And, having been born, we are all going to die sometime relatively soon too, and what are we going to do about that, in terms of passing on our ritual objects - and our life experience too I would add - as we move on to become ancestors.

Ancestors are hugely important in shamanism, in Traditional shamanism they are the spirit helpers of the shamans, and the ancestral spirits are fed and cherished, as you will see when you read the article about shamanism in Northern China.

And we also take a look at the practice of chöd too, which feeds disruptive spirits, so that they calm down and stop causing aggravation... maybe we need mass chöd ceremonies to right the damage we have done to the spirits of the land, and water, and air and fire; and we also need to become wise ancestors for those who are to come too, so they can learn from our mistakes.

Blessings to all Beings
 Nicholas Breeze Wood