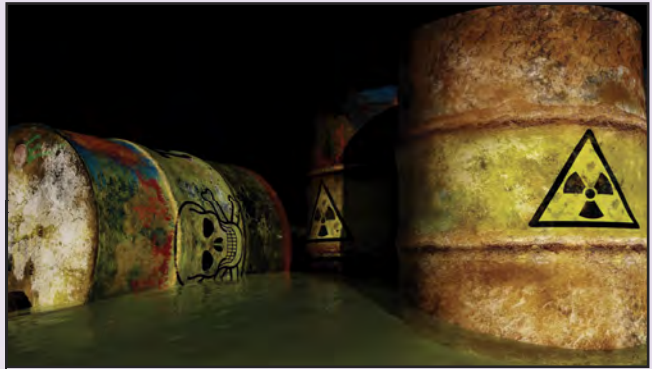




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THE FOUNDING INSPIRATION FOR SACRED HOOP MAGAZINE IN 1993
“Then I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and around and about me was the whole hoop of the world.. I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit and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

From the Editor



Welcome to the 123rd issue of Sacred Hoop. I hope you enjoy the issue.

Stories, in different ways, seem to be the theme of this issue. We each of us create stories about ourselves, in an attempt to give ourselves shape, and we do the same for all the aspects of the world; the landscape around us, the animals, the plants, even the stars above us at night. We live within a story.

But stories can be lost, and stories can be poisoned to make them affect people badly and cause great damage; stories are double edged swords, and we need to be very careful about them.

They can become ‘gossip pollution,’ and when spread deliberately can be used as a curse. But on the other edge of the sword, stories can empower and bring beauty and enrichment..

All sacred traditions are stories - they are like ‘road maps’ which try to describe the territory, but they are not the territory itself; and so we tell stories - whether of a formal religion, or a deeply magical sacred tradition. None of them are ‘true,’ they are all just the clumsy ways we use to describe the undecipherable.

So, what is your story? Is it one which empowers you, or one which limits you? Is it one that binds you and makes you little, or one which helps you fling your arms open to the great unending wonders of the world?

We can not escape stories, we cannot live without them, be it the story of the Four Directions, the story of living stone friends, the story of our family, of our culture, our sexuality. All we can do is look hard at our stories, with the keenest of eyes, and ask ourselves “Does it serve me? And if it doesn’t, ask; “What new story shall I wrap myself within?”

Blessings to all Beings
Nicholas Breeze Wood