



Seeking Authentic Shamanic Training : pages 6-13

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Empowering Ritual Objects: pages 14-22

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Shamanism is big business, but how can real teachings emerge and what responsibilities do shamanic teachers have to their students. **Aimee Shaw** reflects of the situation

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Ritual objects need to be 'blessed and awakened', dedicated to their sacred work. **Nicholas Breeze Wood** shares some basic ideas and tips about how to empower your sacred tool kit.

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Ancient Egypt had an amazingly elaborate system of magic which they called heka, with the goddess Isis at the core. **Foteini Fotoula Adrimi** introduces some of their ways of working

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The magic of Ancient Egypt still affects the way we view all magical traditions today. A classic reprint on the subject, from the early C20th Egyptologist **Sir E A Wallis Budge**.

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS 36-42

How did our Neolithic ancestors practice their spirituality? **Sam MacLare** looks at their possible worldview and ways of practice, and offers suggestions we might utilise today.

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Fascism and the Far Right are on the rise in these times of change. **Susannah Ravenswing** shares how a group came together with a blacksmith, in order to work magically against it.

THE GREAT BLACK ONE 50-53

In the shamanism and Buddhism of the Himalayas, Mahakala is a mighty spirit being, called upon for powerful protection and healing work. We explore his many different forms.

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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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Neolithic Spirituality : pages 36-42

From the Editor



Where I live in West Wales, summer is getting old, and the magical month of September is almost here... The light has changed, the seasons march on.

September always reminds me of Harvest festivals, berries and apples, and harvest time in general; timeless, repeating things, which our ancestors treasured; golden light, and a golden time, before the dark and cold of winter.

Our ancestors lived in connection with the natural world, in far deeper ways than most of us can imagine, and that connection gave them insights and awarenesses that we are struggling to get back to, in these changing, whirling times.

So, take a moment to connect, to be still, to feel the harvest - or the spring, for you 'downunders' - and reflect on the ancestors, their dreams, joys, struggles, lives and loves... We will be ancestors one day, and our forebears might think and wonder about us, and make us offerings too if we are lucky...

Blessings to all Beings
Nicholas Breeze Wood

