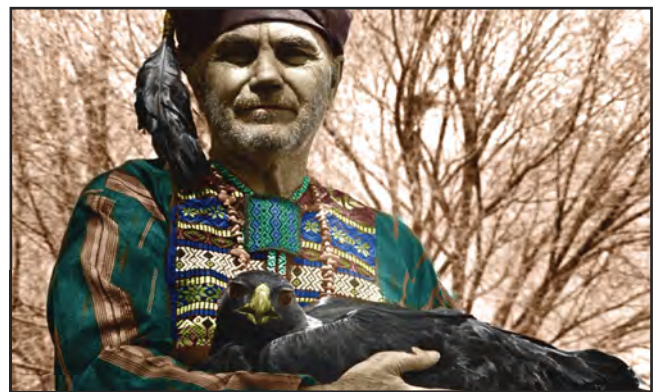


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PUBLISHING POLICY:

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ISSN 1364 - 2219

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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)



Amazonian Tobacco Snuff : pages 31-33

From the Editor



My, my, but it's a stormy old world out there at the moment isn't it. I dare say many of us have an urge to batten down the hatches, put our head under the duvet and hope it all goes away. Well - unsurprisingly - I don't think that is a very good plan, as I think anyone with half an insight knows that it's not going to go away any time soon. So I think a better plan might be for us all to pick up our shamanic tool kits, and rough weather gear, and get working to people the barricades and especially climb up into the watchtowers with our eyes peeled.

Welcome to the 95th issue of Sacred Hoop, I really hope you enjoy the range of articles you will find in its pages. Our main theme this time is about shamanic activism, because I don't see how anyone can avoid acting at this time - because any option for 'business as normal' is rapidly receding into the distance.

The social-media-o-sphere is full of news reports - real and fake - about socio-eco-spiritual dramas, such as the recent eviction of the Water Protestors from the Oceti Sakowin - Sacred Stones Camp - at Standing Rock and the global mass binding spell cast against Trump and his cronies, which was put out by some in the Pagan community.

So I have been reminding myself about something my friend Jonathan Horwitz teaches - that power has two forms - 'macht' and 'kraft' - or to put it another way, 'power over' and 'power for.'

Macht - might - is power over, and is a very slippery slope. The binding spell, and out-and-out cursing that some are putting on Trump, is macht. Whereas ethical power 'for' - kraft - is strengthening.

So yes, let's do lots of shamanic work - lots and lots and lots of ceremony, prayer and shamanic activism. And love. Let us strengthen the spirits of our land (wherever we live), strengthen the spirit of our nation - knowing it is joined in one big circle with all nations, and we are all related. Let us work to strengthen the beauty of the people (two, four, six and many leggeds, as well as the swimmers, flyers, tree nation, stone people and all the rest), and make them strong, so they are resilient to those who wish to diminish them. Let's encourage ourselves and the world - and let's not seek to bind or curse parts of it because we fear it.

Blessings to all Beings
 Nicholas Breeze Wood

