



The Earth Lords of the World : pages 28-31

EDITOR, DESIGN AND PRODUCTION:

Nicholas Breeze Wood

FOUNDING EDITOR:

Faith Nolton

PROOF READING:

Linda Booth, Martin Wilford

CONTACT DETAILS:

Sacred Hoop Magazine
Anghorfa, Abercych, Boncath,
Pembrokeshire, SA37 0EZ, Wales
Email: Nick@sacredhoop.org
Tel: (01239) 682 029
www.sacredhoop.org

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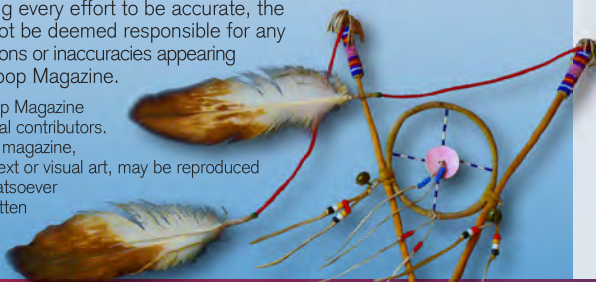
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Britain has long been a place of magic and mystery. Professor **Brian Bates** looks at some of the factors that coloured the landscape, in the minds of the Anglo-Saxon peoples.

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The word weird is a common English word, but wyrd, its root word has a powerful sacred meaning. **Matthew Appleton** shows us how being wyrd is a natural and good way to live.

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In Norse, Mongolian and Tibetan traditions, the world is divided up into areas reigned over by 'Earth lords,' who are like dukes or barons, each responsible for their own areas.

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In Thailand the penis is a major symbol, and penis-shaped amulets are worn, and penis-shaped food is consumed. **David Gamble-Moore** shares his own personal penis-journey.

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Elder and shamanic teacher Hank Wesselman died earlier this year. **Richard Parker** pays tribute, and reflects on his life, his passing and his legacy.

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Creativity and imagination are important aspects of the human psyche, and can also lead to a more connected, richer awareness of life. **Elizabeth E. Meacham** looks at their relevance.

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When seeking a site to do vision quests from **Mark Miller** discovers the story behind a double murder and the death of the murderer, and sets out to do a ceremony for all three souls.

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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)



The Power and Mystery of the Elves : pages 6-43

From the Editor



Sacred Hoop is a 'Spirit-led' affair. A female spirit - a dakini - appeared in a vivid dream a few years before the first issue came out, and literally plopped the whole thing into my hands; and since then it has been a sacred activity far more than a commercial one.

Part of the way this Spirit-led nature manifests, is in trusting the process - which isn't always easy to be honest - both in the finances and the articles that come in; and there is magic and 'serendipity' in both of those. With the articles, I never really plan an issue, but often articles will come in, which all come together to make a theme. This issue is a prime example of that process.

The Land Spirits of Europe wanted to come in very strongly this time, and articles manifested and clustered together. It has been a delightful issue to make ready, and has flowed smoothly, like quicksilver. We have tales of Iceland and Anglo-Saxon Britain, and Hungary too, We have the Norse gods and goddesses, and dragons; and above all we have the Álfar - the Elves. I have been researching Elves for the past year or two, thinking sometime it would be a nice idea to do an article about them, but suddenly, this was the issue, and I was aware of their urgency, their strong desire to come forward; and so, here they are. The issue is also bigger, to enable a reprint of an article by Professor Brian Bates, first published in Sacred Hoop back in 2004, as it seemed such a good fit.

All of this activity happened during the COP26 talks in Scotland, and I really began to understand there was a connection. The land spirits seemed to want to be heard, we need to know about them. And then I came across a quote from a Buryat Mongol shaman which seemed to sum things up so well: *"If you ignore these signs you get sick, but if you don't know the signs how will you know what is wrong?" The knowledge had been lost. Once you know, you can see it... and people have a centre that they can turn to for help and information. We have to educate people..."*

So, this has been a very powerful issue to put together, quite a ride, and I hope you enjoy reading it. I am writing this editorial on the eve of the full moon in Blótmonað - the old name for November - the traditional time for making an Álfablót - an offering ceremony to the Álfar; and so, tomorrow, on the day of the full moon, and also a lunar eclipse, I will perform such a blót - a simple offering ceremony - to feed the land spirits, so that they are remembered. May we all remember them in our own ways as we walk upon the sacred earth during these difficult times.

Blessings to all Beings
Nicholas Breeze Wood