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The Shamanism Magazine

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Sacred Hoop is an independent magazine about Shamanism and Animistic Spirituality.

It is based in West Wales, and has been published four times a year since 1993.

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We hope you enjoy reading the article. Nicholas Breeze Wood (editor)

Hobro: Buryat Shaman's Horse Staffs

Made from either wood or iron, these are essential tools of a Black shaman, held in each hand while they go into trance and journey to the spirit worlds. They are looked after by a Master Spirit called Khotokhon.

Grandfather Sky loved Grandmother Earth and wanted to marry her, but Grandfather Sky had a brother called Khotokhon who also loved Grandmother Earth. But Grandmother Earth choose Grandfather Sky, and so in dispair Khotokhon fled far away, into the sky, and there a star, far out in the sky, fell in love with him, and taught him compassion and healed his heart. And so Khotokhon returned to earth to help open the roads to the spirit world for all shamans, and he gave them each a pair of horse spirits, called hobro, on which to ride.

My staffs,
My beautiful
Shaman staffs,
You are the master
who looks after me.
Heavenly Master
Khotokhon
Listen to me
Hear me,
I am your
Humble child,
The spirits of the
Hobro supports me
Their great lineage supports me,
Their great love is my beautiful vehicle.
Strong dark wine I offer three times
To the Heavenly Master Khotokhon
Lord of my horse staffs
I dedicate the song of my drum to you
Accept it with joy
Hear it with pleasure

Buryat shaman song

Photo: Buryat shaman with hobro and drum C1920
Inset: Contemporary wooden Buryat hobro in the care of the editor.

