



## **Nemenhah Lodge Member Manual**

*My Dear Daughters in the Sacred Sahaptan Healing Way,*

*All women of childbearing age are automatically members of the Council of Mothers of the Nemenhah Lodge in their community or region and also of the General Council of Mothers. This position of importance is a gift given by the Earth Mother in the First Creation and cannot be taken away.*

*The Nemenhah adhere to the ancient custom and policy used by many Native American Tribes all over Turtle Island - that is that the nomination of the Community Councils of the Nemenhah is accomplished by the Council of Mothers in that location. In other words, the Council of Mothers decides when a Community is to be formed by nominating a Community Council from among the members of the Lodge of the Sacred Sahaptan Healing Way in a given area. The members of the Lodge, which makes up what we call the "General Assembly of the Lodge," then affirm the nominations by election or they ask the Mothers to nominate others. When a General Council is needed, the Lodge and Community Councils send representatives from their own council. When a Great Council is needed, the General Councils send members from their own council. In this way, the Councils of Mothers form the foundation for all that the other Councils of the Nemenhah accomplish.*

*Accordingly, I feel it is of the greatest importance that the Women of the Nemenhah become more integrally involved in the movement. As Elected Principle Medicine Chief, I may adopt members into the Band and I may form Lodges. But my work in organizing the Nemenhah stops there. I cannot form any Council except the Peli Council. I cannot really plan any meetings, except the ceremonies and education circles over which I preside, and that is only when I am invited to do so. The important meetings must be organized and carried out by the appropriate Councils, which really couldn't exist without the Councils of Mothers.*

*The restoration of our Band and Traditional Spiritual Path is a relatively new thing and there is much interest in what we are about to do. I am appealing to all the women of our Life Way to come forward and learn their duty and opportunity. It is time for women to be honored and recognized in our society, as they were anciently. I want the Nemenhah to be an example to all the world in this regard.*

*The world has languished in darkness. Yes, we have moved through a dark cycle. But this is not unusual, nor unnatural. Indeed, every year the cycles of the seasons bring a cycle of dark, followed by a cycle of light. On June 21 each year the light cycle diminishes each day just a little until December 21, the shortest and darkest day of the year. It is a natural process and provides for a period of vigorous growth and activity followed by a balancing cycle of rest and renewal. This is part of the Healing Way of the Earth.*

*Cultural and societal cycles follow a similar pattern, with episodes of surging spiritual growth followed by seasons of languor. Whereas, the healing cycles of the Earth Mother happen automatically - rhythmically – predictably, the ebb and flow of spiritual cycles are affected by people. We can bring about a cycle of spirituality, and by consequence, cultural development and growth that may be either lasting or fleeting, depending on our commitment and dedication to good. In like manner, we may shorten or lengthen a period of stagnation and darkness.*

*In 1995 we passed into a period of Light and the days of our spirituality began to lengthen. In that year we saw the return of White Buffalo births, as was prophesied ages ago. It is now our opportunity to either extend or foreshorten this gift of light by the way in which we react to it.*

*This manual is designed to be an assistance to those individuals who choose to extend the light and work to bring about a restoration of the principles that created golden ages of enlightenment in Turtle Island in ages past. It should be used as a guideline, not a litany. It is a rough outline that I suspect will be fleshed out only by the Lodges as they begin to experiment upon it as a model. I do not want this manual to become some sort of dogma and, in the moment that it does, I will certainly be writing a new one to take its place or approving a better one written by you.*

*May all be edified by the work of the Sacred Sahaptan Healing Way.*

*We Walk in a Sacred Manner  
We Talk in a Sacred Manner.*

*Hemene Ot To-oh-yelo Akekt (Cloudpiler)*



## Section 1

### GETTING STARTED

It's time for you to get started with your studies. The first thing that you need to do is review the Catalog of Courses on our website. You will find it by going to [www.nemenhah.org](http://www.nemenhah.org) and clicking on the 'Catalog' button.

Review the Curriculum and make a note of the courses that you have already taken. For example, the Guide Tack of Courses includes work in Anatomy, Physiology and Nutrition. If

you have already completed coursework in those subjects during your life, you do not need to repeat them. Feel free to use the courses provided as a review, but we do not require you to take them over again.

## **MM 101 and MM102**

These courses are required no matter what other course work you have taken. You must complete these two modules before you may move on to any other portion of the Core Curriculum. MM101 prepares you to submit your Bundle Ceremony. This is very important and cannot be overemphasized. In order for you to be defensible under NAFERA, the Bundle Ceremony that you design for yourself must be on file with the Band. Unless it is in the database, you cannot claim that what you do in healing is “Bona Fide Ceremony,” a requirement under the law. This is vital not only for your safety, but also for the safety of the entire Band.

MM102 places you on the same page as Cloudpiler, the Restorer of the Sahaptan Healing Way and the Church, and gives you an excellent example of how to apply the Medicine Wheel Principles to Natural Healing Modalities and Teachings. Again, even if you disagree with the coursework, you are required to complete it. Of course, the Band is not interested in dictating your belief systems, but this information is considered of primary importance, even if only as an example of how to apply Ceremony to your discourse.

## **COURSEWORK / CURRICULUM**

For most of the modules of the Core Curriculum there are questions you must answer and projects you must complete. You will find these questions and projects at the end of each module or course. You must mail in a hard copy of your work for approval. Your completed coursework becomes part of your permanent record with the Nemenhah. Without it, your status cannot be established credibly.

Anytime you complete a module, test or project, please make a copy of your finished work and send the original to:

Nemenhah

P.O. Box 126

Weaubleau, MO 65774

## **Section 2**

### **EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER**

The restoration of the Nemenhah Band is very young and has identified a Unifying Purpose that sets a great deal on our plates. That’s why we declare that every one of our Members is also one of our Ministers - Spiritual Leaders within our Community of Healers. Each person who makes a request for Spiritual Adoption into the Band makes a commitment to achieve the three

designations - Shahaptan Guide, Healer, and Shirt, to support the Nemenhah Program through the Sacred Giveaway, and to work toward creating a Lodge of the Nemenhah in their own area. Every Member shares the same duties as every other.

These commitments are what constitute the sum total of the “Duties” of the Nemenhah Medicine Man or Woman. They fulfill their commitment to obtain the three designations through their diligent study of the materials provided in the Core Curriculum and by actively engaging themselves in the relieving of suffering. They fulfill the Sacred Giveaway when they donate generously to the Nemenhah Program, and also as often as they offer their healing services to those who have nothing to give in return but their good intentions. They fulfill the last of their Covenant Commitments when they open their mouths and tell others about the program and provide places and opportunities for Lodges to form and to meet.

Without exerting some effort toward fulfilling their commitments, the Nemenhah Members could never in good conscience call themselves Traditional Spiritual Leaders, no matter what is printed on their documents. Nemenhah Medicine Men and Women are Doers, not Hearers and they realize that they can do little good by themselves. They Walk in a Sacred Manner and they Talk in a Sacred Manner.

This is why each Nemenhah Member should work diligently to create a Lodge in their area and then to sustain and support that Lodge in all its activities. Each Member ought to be actively engaged in some facet of the Lodge Program and should labor to assist the other Members of the Lodge in their tasks as well. The Principle Stone Carrier of the Lodge will help you do this. We really are in this together.



### **Section 3**

#### **UNDERSTANDING YOUR DUTY**

The best way to instruct you as a new Member of the Nemenhah, as to the best way to fulfill your duty as a Medicine Man or Woman, is to describe how some of our Members have failed. Early on, when the Nemenhah Program had not quite settled down into its present form, many Nemenhah Members thought the program was all about sovereignty and personal rights. Lodges were formed that were built upon that premise. They met with some regularity for a little while and their activities really did highlight their desire only to serve themselves. There was simply nothing unifying in their purpose and they folded quickly.

Another Lodge formed around a charismatic personality. However, the Nemenhah Constitution prevents the creation of Dogma, effectively removing anyone's ability to make the program their own, personal platform. This is good. But the Lodge needs to set a Unifying Purpose that is capable of holding a group of people together in the absence of the charismatic guru. Without such a purpose, the Lodge is doomed before it begins. The Nemenhah Church is not a personality Cult.

Another Lodge could not function without clear lines of authority. It is a sad truth that in America we have trained ourselves to be followers. We require an expert. We cannot move unless the path before us has been declared worthy by someone who is competent to judge. Most people fill this necessity by identifying that person and blindly following along. That type of Lodge is really struggling.

Again, this is only a weekly disguised sort of Self-Service. Usually, the person being idealized and raised to such a lofty position is unaware of it and finds him/herself a sitting duck when he/she can't possibly live up to the expectations of people who are unable to maintain community in a culture based in self.

How is this good advice for those who want to learn and then do their duty as Nemenhah Medicine Men and Woman? Simply this, if you have joined us in order to provide something useful purely for yourself alone, you will become disheartened by the Nemenhah program. I am reminded of one Chiropractor in Georgia who joined the Nemenhah and then tried to use it to regain a faltering position in the eyes of his community. When it failed to be a platform for him, and the leadership failed to provide him with all the right kind of support to sustain his personal agenda, he called them and the program "lacking in integrity" and left.

Another group rushed ahead and formed a Nemenhah Community before they had even established a Unifying Purpose. Each individual had a different view of what the Community was supposed to do. When the Elected Principle Medicine Chief dared to disagree with the popular religion of the area, and give it due deference, the Community collapsed as quickly as it formed. They were convinced that they had the right to dictate everybody's belief system.

How is any of this useful? It is simply to remind you that, to do your duty as a Medicine Man or Woman is to relieve suffering on many levels. You cannot do this if your focus is on yourself alone. You may succeed only on that level where the suffering is fixed on you, but at some point you will graduate out of your own and begin to work with other people. It is good to train yourself early on, so that the transition out of a self-centered ministry is less difficult for you. I suggest that you exercise yourself in the true teachings of all the Ascended Masters. In other words, if you are serious and want to truly attend to your duty as a Healer, set self aside. Serve others. Become associated with a Unifying Purpose that places the good of the group ahead of your personal needs. Of course you should take care not to neglect yourself. But let your association with your Nemenhah Brothers and Sisters be more centered on their needs than yours.

What are those duties then?

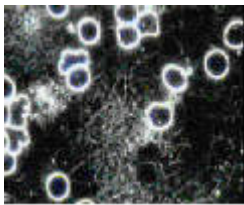
**One** - Study the Core Curriculum. Why? To help you relieve the suffering of others.

**Two** - Sustain the program through the Sacred Giveaway. Why? So that your abundance may bless the lives of those working to provide that program for you.

**Three** - Work to grow the Lodges. Why? So that the Nemenhah Program may bless the lives of Healers, Sufferers, Communities, Society and the Planet. None of these things can really be called Self-Serving, for if you work toward any one of them, you are actually serving others in a way that is very substantive.

Part of the disaster that has become Natural Healing is based in the secularization of the profession. It used to be that one became a Healer more out of a sense of 'calling' than anything else. One felt moved upon by some unseen power to take up the profession. Now, most people are so money-based that they have lost any sense of the Sacred they might have felt. It is frankly your duty as a Nemenhah Minister to work toward restoring that lost sense of the Sacred.

Does that sound like a big task? Yes, it is! And you are equal to it!



#### **Section 4**

#### **STEPS TO FINDING AND FULFILLING YOUR DUTY**

I know that referring to a Sense of Duty might just be enough to drive some new members away from the program. I hope that isn't the case very often. It's just that, it is the loss of a sense of duty that has deprived most Natural Healers of one of the greatest rewards that come out of what we do. I have been there when my children had the AH-HA moments in life and I tell you there is no greater thrill in all the world. The only thing that has ever come close is to be present when someone's suffering is relieved. This particular reward has been more potent for me whenever the idea of gain is absent. When what I stand to gain out of helping someone get well simply isn't part of the equation, I have been filled with what I can only describe in terms spiritual.

Here is a simple formula for successfully finding that sense of duty in your Nemenhah Ministry.

1) Be faithful to the promise you made to yourself in the Application For Spiritual Adoption. Nothing will suck the wind out of your sails quicker than the realization that you are not fulfilling your stated intention.

Study diligently and work to obtain the Guide, Healer, Shirt and Native American Practitioner designation. You are the Leadership of the coming avalanche of Healers who will join the Nemenhah because of what you accomplish in it. Discipline yourself now, so that you will be a useful instructor to them later.

2) Do all that you can do to see to it that a Lodge of the Nemenhah is formed in your vicinity. Tell other Healers about the program and see to it that Cloudpiler, or one of the Roadmen/women of the Nemenhah get out to where you are to establish the Lodge by Ceremony.

3) Leadership in the Lodge rotates appropriately so that every person has an opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the various callings and positions. No matter who stands in leadership, do all that is in your power to ensure that the Lodge remains unified and moving toward its declared purpose.

4) Don't be afraid to step out and try new things. Every bit of this is new to you. Overcome any sense of insecurity you might be feeling. There will be many people who will ask you how to do things and the only way you will be able to instruct them is if you have taken the opportunity to learn how yourself. Remember these wise words, spoken by one of the greatest instructors ever,

***“If there is nothing to lose but everything to gain by trying, by all means - TRY!”***

**– W. Clement Stone**

