

# 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.



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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)