

Singing the Song of Our Unsung Heroes



The process of creating and working with this ceremony, On the Shoulders of Heroes, speaks deeply to me. Its elements are simple, yet in essence it is a powerful act of practical and sympathetic magic.

The Thunder Song apprentices each journeyed, and together were guided by spirit, to bring this ceremony to the community. What was shown to us was the need to inspire each other to engage in persistent acts of everyday heroism. This ritual provides us a physical manifestation which represents the impact that our continued actions, no matter their size or seeming significance, have on the world around us. You can find additional information and all the specifics at <http://circleofgreatmystery.org/ceremonies-of-outreach/>

Heroism, even the word sounds daunting. I found myself contemplating what does it actually mean, and how could such a thing become a daily practice? The reality gets obscured by fantasy, myth and Hollywood. Let's think instead of the unsung hero. Isn't he or she the real definition

of what heroism is all about? An act of selflessness, being unafraid to take a stand, to not take the easy way out, to live by principle regardless of the outcome. Have these things become a rarity, or do they just go unnoticed and underappreciated?

For myself, I know I can get discouraged. It is too easy to feel that my actions don't matter, or fail to make a difference in the grand scheme of things. I forget, and take for granted the sacrifices that have been made for me. When I do wake up I find myself having been swept back into the path of least resistance. I need to remember. Seeing something tangible reinforces to my subconscious that even small choices collectively create a powerful effect.

Finding four stones to represent the heroes on whose shoulders I stand is the easy part. Choosing who those stones represent is hard. Thinking deeply about the people who have guided or inspired me fills me with gratitude. People who I look up to, those who have taught me, or influential figures that without their passion, my life would be very different. Something as simple as words of encouragement or a congratulatory pat on the back could easily have been the catalyst which sent my life in an entirely new direction. I am sure they did not know what a difference they would make in my life. Looking back, I am deeply thankful.



Choosing who would represent the two cornerstones for my bloodline was the hardest for me. My immediate family is not that close. I know they have made sacrifices for me, and I for them. And yet we have grown apart as we began to disagree on things at a fundamental level. I don't know any heroic stories about my family. I would probably have to go way back. Those stories are lost to history. I wish I had more pride in and connection to my family. At times I feel upset with some of the choices they failed to take charge of, which cost our family dearly. I try to forgive and not to judge harshly, but I find little heroism to aspire to. I can however, learn from their mistakes. I need to remember.

It is my turn to create the future now. Spending some time to write my intention and commitments helped me to clarify the myriad of thoughts. Folding up the paper placing it between the cornerstones, setting the

capstone which represents me, purifying with salt, and pouring the libations of wine and milk was a potent and profound moment as I acknowledged and accepted the sacrifices made for me. The future rests in my hands. I am held by these stones, these heroes. I've committed to this process, and I am excited about it.

Building up this mighty cairn starts with a first stone and the acknowledgment of a heroic act. This first stone represents a specific ongoing commitment to myself which I started almost two years ago. While holding a bone in my left hand I acknowledged the sacrifices that have been made that have allowed me to be able to follow through. It's interesting to consider the seemingly insignificant events that were crucial to leading me here, to this moment. Being here now in the present, I link the past and the future. My actions, my risk, create many ripples that will change everything they touch. It's easy to forget how each moment directly impacts the future. With these thoughts I placed this stone upon the cairn.



The act of carrying this bone for the next thirteen months symbolizes my acceptance of the heroic sacrifices that have been made for me by others. The carrying of a stone will remind me of my commitment towards a specific heroic action. Once that action is complete, I will place that stone with the others on the cairn. Then I will choose another stone to represent another action or commitment. At the end of the 13 months the bone will be broken and interred in the cairn as I place the last stone. I look forward to that proud moment a year or so from now when this magic is done. I wonder who I will have become, hopefully a more patient, wise and loving man.

I challenge you to join us in singing the song of our unsung heroes, to keep their deeds alive, to sacrifice for a future which we will not know.

Tad Seymour – Thunder Song Apprentice

