

# Its Time to Call the Men to Gather from all Directions First Month in the Direction of the East on the New Moon

*NOMC Retreat \* April 5-7 2019 \* King Arrows Ranch, Hillsdale MS*



## THE ALCHEMY OF ORDEAL AND BLESSING

**Alchemy**—*a seemingly magical process of transformation, creation, or combination*

**Ordeal**— *a painful or trying experience, especially a protracted one*

**Blessing**—*a beneficial thing for which one is grateful; something that brings well-being*

*The blessing of well-being in painful transformation*

Are you facing an ordeal in your life? For example, are you wrestling with a serious disease, a debilitating addiction, a crushing workload, or an oppressive relationship? How can we best support each other through these challenges? Is there a way to find blessing within and through them? How do we find freedom and compassion when we are suffering? Conversely, what do you want to bless in yourself or other men? What is the alchemy of ordeal and blessing? We invite you to follow the paths of these questions and explore the transformations of this inner alchemy in the Spring 2019 NOMC Retreat

Am I willing to be lead into ordeal?

Is this an ordeal or an or-deal?

Is it the fear of ordeal or the fear of being supported and blessed during ordeal?

Am I clinging to attachment or embracing impermanence?

Is Mother Universe sending me the same lesson to learn from?

Is alchemy being allowed?

How can I awaken this alchemy?

What is your unspoken support needed during this ordeal?

Who or what blesses me?

Where is the blessing you may find or offer in the midst of darkness or ordeal?

What is left of me to bless within this struggle?

Where is my freedom? Where is my compassion?

Blesser, can you receive the blessings?

Jacob wrestled with God—The Old Testament

Santiago ventured into new lands to fulfill his personal legend—The Alchemist

'You' sets out on new adventures—Oh the Places You'll Go

Devadatta pushed a boulder from atop a cliff on Shakyamuni in an attempt to crush him. - Nine Great Ordeals of Buddha

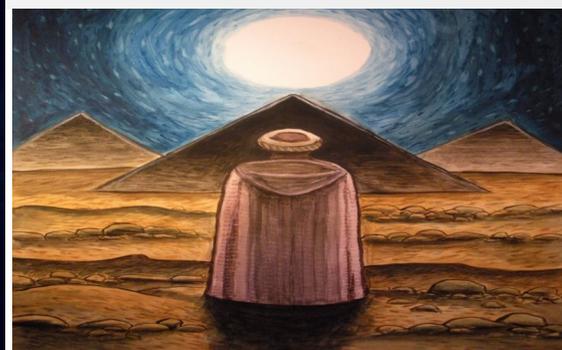
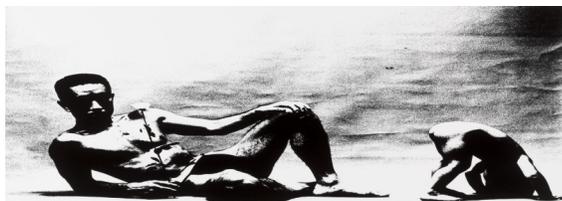
Adolescents are sent on Vision Quest—Native American Tradition

Pilgrimage—embraced by several spiritual traditions

**And you, are you on the same path?**

**Are you aware?**

**You will *never* be the same.**



**THE NOMC SPRING RETREAT WILL BE HELD ON  
APRIL 5-7 AT KING'S ARROW RANCH, HILLSDALE, MS  
WHAT TO EXPECT**

We seek to provide a safe place for men to connect with themselves, other men and the environment. Large and small group experiences as well as some time alone are planned. In our mythopoetic tradition, storytelling, poetry, drumming and experiential learning can be expected.

**PLEASE INVITE ANOTHER MAN TO COME WITH YOU.**

**WHEN**

Arrive Friday, April 5th. On site registration and bunk assignment will begin at 5pm. Please plan to arrive no later than 6 PM. Dinner will be available at 6 PM, and our opening ceremony will begin at 7 PM. You may arrive as early as you wish on Friday to check out the grounds, hike, meditate, etc. The retreat will end after lunch on Sunday.

**WHERE**

King's Arrow Ranch, Hillsdale, MS, just east off exit 35 on I-59 North, 75 miles north of New Orleans and 30 miles south of Hattiesburg, MS. In case of emergency, you can be reached thru the KAR phone # 601-796-3423

**PRE-REGISTER VIA E-MAIL**

We ask that you pre-register by April 1st, so we can estimate lodging and meals required. To register, just reply to this email and let us know you will be there ([info@theNOMC.org](mailto:info@theNOMC.org)). If you do not have email, call one of the facilitators to register. A confirmation e-mail will be sent upon registration. Details will follow (weather, what to bring, etc.). For confidentiality and privacy, information provided for registration will only be available to retreat participants.

**COST:**

The cost of the Retreat is \$130.00 and that fee covers all meals and lodging. You can pay by check or cash upon arrival, Friday April 5th.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

If you need financial assistance, please contact a facilitator.

**NOMC PLANNING MEETING**

At the conclusion of the retreat on Sunday, a planning meeting to discuss the next retreat, as well as planning for the future of NOMC will be held. All interested are encouraged to stay for the meeting.

**QUESTIONS?**

For additional information about the retreat, contact a facilitator.

Francis Coolidge 504-390-2947 ([bigphilnola@yahoo.com](mailto:bigphilnola@yahoo.com))

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**VISIT THE NOMC WEBSITE**

Type into your browser the url: [www.thenomc.org](http://www.thenomc.org)