

A Shamanic Calling

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There exists a yearning deep within many of us to reconnect to the natural world. It is a call to a life lived in balance and awareness of spirit, of nature and of self. We all know there is more to know and experience in life and we are ready. This desire has led many to the practice of Shamanism, which has been reintroduced to us over the past thirty-five years. Indigenous cultures are resurfacing their ancient identities after being suppressed for many decades and longer.

The word Shaman refers to a man or woman of medicine who is called by the spirits to a path of service. The term originated with ancient Siberian lineages but is currently used in the West to refer to all types of medicine people, reaching commercial status. An abundance of classes teach shamanism in a weekend, an evening or even over several years. People have come to confuse familiarity with some of the tools of the Shaman with being a Shaman. This belief is not only mistaken but also dangerous.

A SHAMAN OR PERSON OF MEDICINE IS CALLED TO SERVICE

One does not choose to be a Shaman; the "spirits" call you. Some are called through their lineage from their birth family. Some are called, initiated and trained by teachers and guides in spirit and/or flesh from childhood. Some are born into an average tradition only to discover they are ancient Shamans returning to do their work again and assist in this time. This explains why their lives and perceptions have always been so unique. These people hold a deep knowing of the ancient knowledge and truth beyond the everyday world. All three of these progressions are signs of true Shamans.

The role of Shaman is a ministry like the priest, guru, monk, minister, lama, sheik, rabbi, nun or other orders of spiritual service. You renounce your life, as you know it, to live in service to the people. Being a Shaman in today's world is much overrated. You walk the razor's edge of sanity working with the seen and the unseen, bringing the darkness to light. It takes precision, knowing and sight. It demands a daily commitment to relinquish attachments in order to heal and work from a neutral space. Yet it is easy and natural when it is who you are, in total balance and alignment with your soul. Living the work means trusting, letting go and allowing life to unfold in its own way. If you want to be in control of your life, you are not answering the call of the Shaman.

In its truest form a Shaman is a calling of spiritual and healing mastery. It requires you to work with the forces of darkness and light as healer, teacher, messenger, magi, guardian, warrior, executor and manifestor as required. A Shaman remembers the knowledge in their bones of truth, beauty, health, happiness and light. Some of the work is seen in the world but most of it is in the unseen. A Shaman who does not answer the call to action or one who acts outside of natural and cosmic laws may pay the price in unhappiness, illness and even death. If you call yourself a Shaman you had better be trained, abilitized and prepared to work in the dark and the unseen.

HISTORY OF SHAMANISM

Legend tells us that Ancient Shamanic Lineages began, as did all peoples and religions, in Siberia and surrounding areas from Afghanistan to Tibet. Peoples became nomads and moved to all corners of the world taking unique pieces of ancient knowledge with them. Each tradition has some of the gold. Each has also acquired manmade rules and practices that separate us from each other and nature. This has created division and power over people and is not natural. Now, it is time for our joining to heal the world and her people.

Because of this diffusion and adaptation, there is now much confusion about the correct way to do certain practices. Many different groups or indigenous peoples have their own rules and beliefs. Many say their way is the only way and all else are incorrect, sounding much like traditional religions. Many tribes and ancestries have special words and ceremonies that are best not copied. Without the proper training, you are doing something you know little about and may create true problems for yourself and others.

Drugs are also suspect when used by Shamans. Be aware and safe. People die and can become damaged by hallucinatory drugs. Under professional care these drugs can break you free from your stuck perceptions. However, masterful Shamanic training does not require drugs but teaches you to reach these states and to do powerful work with the spirits by precise training and progression, safely, simply and easily.

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Americans are big business to Shamans, Gurus, Lamas, Sheiks and more from around the globe. Not all are authentic. As a layperson, you would be wise to ask questions and use discernment, trusting your body and perceptions. People from other traditions mesmerize many people in our culture. We have allowed it and it is time to wake up. Work with someone who teaches you to find your own beauty and gifts inside instead of manipulative ways to give them your power.

It is time for us all to live in the unity and oneness that each tradition speaks about. Many people hunger for their natural connections to all of life, healing and happiness. I applaud the many teachers who assist people to find their natural connections and the ways that work for them. No lineage or tribe owns the circle or the directions or the elements. New Seers, Time Travelers and Shamans are coming forward with authentic ways of working that are unifying all traditions and not of only a single group or tribe. These pioneers are working towards bringing all of the pieces back together.

NOT ALL WHO PRACTICE SHAMANISM ARE SHAMANS

You may train for years with teachers or groups and never become a Shaman. Many are called to Shamanic practice and perform Shamanic work daily. There is no certificate or degree that makes you a Shaman, although many people offer such things. They may be trained to do soul retrievals, healing journeys, drumming and rattling, crystal and herbal healings, work with the elements and use powerful ways to work with the spirits in healing. An initiated Shaman doing their work for at least ten and better twenty years, with excellent results, will then maybe acknowledged as a Shaman or Man or Woman of Medicine.

Many are called to do the work of healing the earth, others and themselves through Shamanic practice. This is important work in this time of earth changes. The more people who answer this call to live and work in harmony with spirit and nature, the more we will recover our earth, personal healing and world order.

THE WORK OF THE SHAMAN AND SHAMANIC PRACTITIONER

Our current excitement and commitment to healing the earth has many people practicing spiritual healing inappropriately due to inadequate training and innocence. They are opening others, the earth and themselves to greater light but also to infiltration by toxic dark energies. This is why many teachers and healers are getting sick. People do not know what they do not know. Practitioners need the tools and training to develop more clarity and awareness to work safely.

Our ancestors lived a simple life in harmony with the natural world. They knew it could be dangerous to participate in rituals and ceremonies that they were not in full understanding of. They also knew that travel to worlds and beings beyond your everyday sphere may allow your power to be given to others unknowingly.

As clients and practitioners, please use your deepest knowing in your telepathic body to discern appropriateness while you are participating in spiritual and Shamanic journeys, healing, ceremonies and rituals. Spiritual healing is safe and very effective when done with responsibility, knowledge and awareness. A good heart is not enough. Shamanism and spiritual healing are important in our time. Use caution and awareness as to who and what you allow to affect you in your life and in healing groups and sessions.

SHAMANIC LIFE FOR EVERYONE

Go take a walk and play and relax in nature. Discover your own nature and love your own body and honor yourself. Be aware of the environment and stop polluting the earth. Honor other people, the animals, trees, water, air, fire and everything on this earth and beyond. Be responsible for your actions. Learn and act with unconditional love. What you say and do affects everyone and everything as energy. What you put out comes back to you many fold. Have fun and learn to live in beauty, truth, health, happiness and light.