

Cambridge Core Shamanism



the way of the wolf

The Signs of a Shamanic Calling

There is a saying that there are three stages of becoming a Shaman: the calling, the training, and the initiation process.

If you are looking into shamanic training, and way of life, it is probably because you have had enough of living a life that is unconnected and has no meaning. Your heart is not singing. For being shamanic in nature, is living a spiritual relationship with all that is. It is a personal journey into a collective experience and an invitation to be what you have come here to be.

To walk a shamanic pathway is to walk a sacred path in love. An opportunity of building inner confidence and finding meaning in all that one does. A time to remember that we are team players, and that spirit is our guide, mentor, and protector. A time to wipe off the rancid make-up of apathy and fear and don the reality of connection and being.

When we acknowledge our calling, it is time to look for our teacher who will with perfect synchronicity make themselves known to us. The training will take place (in both ordinary reality and non-ordinary reality) and if we are ready to pick up the mantle, we will be initiated into the practice of shamanism. Then we go out into the world and do the work constantly developing the sacred trust and intricate relationships with our personal allies on the other side of the veil. And then your students start to knock on your door...

Being Called

We are all born with many creative gifts, to what limit we explore them, is up to us. As we look around the world today and see the hard hearts and minds of those in power, the wars, the starvation, the squandering of resources, the environmental damage, the apathy, and unjustness in life, we can either stick our heads in the sand or decide to do something about it. We are all spiritual beings having a physical experience and if we heed the calling, and consciously open to our inner spiritual senses, we can then choose to walk in the light, shining our love brightly making a difference in this reality and beyond.

Connecting with Nature

Everything on Earth and in Spirit is connected through the web of life. By learning to interact with it, we can heal ourselves, family and friends, our ancestors, situations, and Mother Earth, herself. By understanding our true connection with nature, we strengthen the relationship to all that is. Nature is the visible face of spirit.

The Solitude and the Kinship

Many Shamans were traditionally seen as misfits, eccentric, or strangely different. Preferring a solitary existence until called upon by their communities to undertake work for them. It is the community that confers the title 'shaman' upon you. That is an honour indeed. We might

think of them as the wounded healer or blind seer, someone who is lacking in one aspect but creatively gifted in other areas.

Today in the West, shamanic practitioners from many varied backgrounds are being called into the fray. There is not one of us who does not carry some sort of wound or painful experience. But it is how we respond inwardly that counts. We bring our distinct character, and experiences into play when working with others. We understand what others are feeling and work as a team with our spiritual allies to answer the call of the afflicted. We act as the bridges between this world and the unseen worlds. We bring the perfect balance of energies into this perceived cauldron of chaos.

Experiencing a near-death, out-of-body, or mystical experience

I don't think I have ever met anyone who has not experienced an existential threat to themselves in some form or another and then tried to make sense of their survival. Most of us have had those extremely strange vision-like dreams and not known what to do with them or endured a surreal out of body moment. It is how we deal with these sometimes-terrifying ordeals that the shaman-to-be surrenders their comfort of ignorance for the learned wisdom of reality. To be shaman-esque is to dance the dance of life and death through the experience of shadow and light. To find the perfect balancing act. Learning to live in both worlds more rather than one world less.

Psychic Abilities

Spiritually opened people hear voices, see visions, have meaningful dreams, and interact with the ancestors and spirits from Non-Ordinary Reality. If not trained properly this might lead to a mental health diagnosis. There is much to be said about the way spiritually awakened people are treated especially by those who are ignorant and not opened. Learning to create meaningful relationships with our spiritual allies and having our protection updated regularly are necessary to tread the modern spiritual path. The vibration on this planet is currently changing, ascension is on its way and on target with many energies being manipulated to help us move upwards and onwards.

When training as a shamanic practitioner, we realise that all these skills are completely natural and are there to see what is hidden to normal view. Whether this be illness in other's bodies, spiritual obstacles that need to be overcome and to interact with the ancestors, allies, and inner teachers we work with.

Answering the Call to Help, Heal or Ease the Suffering of Others

Ultimately, Shamanism can be seen as a practice of balancing or self-correcting our relationship with others and the natural world around us. Whenever a Shaman sees suffering, we feel a strong desire to heal it to re-establish that lost harmony within the web of life. The time is coming for us all to step up to the mark and do what we can to help alleviate the suffering in the world and help humanity move into its ascension. This of course, will be of benefit to all life in this dimension and the ones closely linked to it.

Notes:

Shamanism is the most time-tested system of purposeful integration of our spiritual and nonspiritual capacities. It is a very ancient practice, and all our ancestors did this. If we go back to the dawn of time, 40,000 years ago it was unbroken up to the last century, practiced

on all continents. It has been used to find food in the wilderness, in which safe direction to travel, check on what weather is coming, what threats are about, to help with the health and healing of the tribe...

Shamans see existence as three worlds. When you access them (spirit worlds) it is called Non-Ordinary Reality, NOR. If working in this physical world it is called Ordinary Reality, OR.

Upper World: Tutelary spirits here are usually in human form and exist on many levels. The first level is sometimes accessed through some sort of a skin. These teachers are happy to come and work with, guide, and advise us.

Middle World: Interpenetrates the physical world. You can journey to places that exist in the physical world to meet spirits of the place, to heal or have questions answered.

Lower World: Tends to be the domain of the Power Animals, all knowing allies who wish to work alongside us in various ways.

To access these places, we move our awareness out of our bodies into a parallel universe (three spirit worlds). Some dreams can be journeys, but they are not the same as a classic shamanic journey for in these you are in control.

Training

If you are feeling the calling, how do you find the right teacher and training for you. Think about what it is you wish to know and formulate questions. Research who and what is out there. It is important to feel excited about the person who will stand beside you for the next part of your life.

Article Written by Thomas Marty ©Feb 2024

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If you wish to know more about the training, we offer as in courses and workshops I invite you to read the appropriate sections on this website. If you have any questions, please contact me to arrange a chat.

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