
FRONT COVER:

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Foreword

In various human societies these days, there exist some individuals whose job is to supplement those religious practices of other people. These individuals also exist to guide people in such religious practices. These individuals are really skilled at influencing and contacting supernatural beings as well as manipulating some supernatural forces. Such individuals are called Shamans and they are actually practicing what is commonly called Shamanism. Get all the info you need here.



Shamanism

Inside The World Of The Shaman

Chapter 1:

Introduction

Synopsis

Shamanism is an ancient spiritual belief of the Turkic and Mongolian peoples living in Siberia, Central Asia and in the far west part of the Easter Europe. In Mongolia and Siberia, this is also usually called “Tengerism” since it also means “honoring of spirits”.

The practice of shamanism is not a religion, it is actually a method. This practice coexists with a lot of established religions in various cultures. In Siberia, you will find shamanism that coexist with Lamaism and Buddhism, and in the country of Japan, it coexist with Buddhism.

It is true that many shamans are mostly in animistic cultures and animism means that individuals believe that spirits exist. It is also important to remember that Shamanism is neither an exclusionary nor a system of faith.

The Basics

Shamanism was actually first recognized by the Western observers who are working among different herding societies in northern and central Asia and it's from the language of one of such societies, Siberia's Tungus-speaking peoples, where the term "shaman" was derived.

The word is "saman" in the Siberian Tungustic which means "one who is raised, excited and moved," and it also refers to persons who, during their a state of trance, are visiting the realm of various mystical beings in order to communicate and interact with them, and during the process, obtain mystical power. So, in the original language of Tungus, shaman refers to an individual who is making a journey to the non-ordinary reality.

The primary functions of shaman who are practicing this method, or shamanism are assisting the dead towards the afterworld, who acts as medium between the dead and the living.

They are also determining from the right kind of medicine to heal their patients from those mystical beings. In some regions, Shamanism does not really involve a power to heal or cure a certain illness, but also determine the cause of the disease of malady.

Many people, especially in the present days do not really know what shamanism means. There are a lot of terms such as sorcerer, witch doctor, witch and even wizard that have their own ambiguities, preconceptions and connotations associated with them. Though the term shaman comes from Siberia, the method or the practice of Shamanism has started to exist in various inhabited continents.

Most of the time, Shamans are also referred as “people who know” or seers in their own tribal languages since they are involved in a particular system of knowledge that is based on firsthand experience. It is important to note that Shamanism is not really a belief system.

It is actually based on some personal experiments that are conducted to obtain information, to heal and to do some other things. As a matter of fact, if these shamans do not get results, then they will no longer be used in their tribe by people. If you are wondering how you could recognize if an individual is a shaman, it is actually very simple. Know if they are able to perform miracles and if they journey to the other worlds. Shamanism is also a way of life and a way to connect with the entire creation and the nature.

Chapter 2:

The Roles Of The Shaman

Synopsis

The social role of a shaman may be defined through a set of interrelated rights, obligations and behaviors as conceptualized by individuals in a certain social circumstance and an expected behavior in an individual in their social position and cultural and social status. Today, there are a lot of misconceptions related to shamans and their roles.



The Roles

Healer

A shaman has various roles in the society. Shamans may actually serve the role of a healer in various shamanic societies. They obtain their knowledge and their power to heal through accessing the world of spirits. They make their journey into the realm of spirits and obtain their knowledge in it. Most of the time, they acquire or has one or more assistant or helper entities in the world of spirits. These entities are mostly spirits in the form of an animal or spirits of healing plants. Sometimes, such entities are also those who departed shamans or some of their other ancestors.

In their way of healing, they are entering the body of the sick individual in order to confront the spirit that causes the patient to get sick. They heal their patients through banishing that infectious spirit. Also, there are a lot of shamans who are knowledgeable about the plant life within their area. They also use herbal regimen to heal the sick.

Mediator

Shaman also acts as mediators within their culture. Shamans are viewed as individuals who communicate with the some spirits on behalf of their community, which include communicating with the spirits of the dead. In various cultures, their role as mediators can be well illustrated through some of their symbols and objects. Shamans mediate between religious entities and ordinary people. In some

cultured, they are also referred to as seers or soothsayers, astrologers, mediums, palm readers and many other diviners. They have different roles in the society and in some societies, they are able to perform great miracles.

Other Roles of the Shaman

As being practiced by Siberia's Reindeer Tungus, shamans are also those individuals who have amazing power to control some mystic entities such as spirits. They can also prevent such spirits from causing any harm to people and on some occasions, they serve as mediums for spirits.

The Tungus shamans, who can either be men or women, are using some special tools of paraphernalia like tambourines, mirrors, costumes and so many other equipments. As being said, they make journey in the world of spirits and do some function for their individual clients and even groups as a whole. They are also able to find lost objects, determine the cause of one's illness, confer a special power in some conflicts and predict some events in the future.

The primary role of shamans is actually to maintain and restore balance in their community. They are conducting rituals of protections, blessings, divination and hunting magic. They are also curing illnesses with spiritual causes like spiritual pollution, spiritual intrusion, curses and soul souls. Shamans are also referred to as caretakers of the traditional culture. Due to their knowledge with regards to ancient tradition, throughout various ages, their counsel has actually been sought by many people.

Chapter 3:

Shamanism Beliefs

Synopsis

Shamans interact with spirits and deities not only through prayer but also through offerings and rituals and by direct contacts with those spirits themselves.

They have also been found in each period of history all over the world and they perform different functions that are essential to the society of community where they belong. There are also some shamanism beliefs that all shamans all over the world hold in common. These core beliefs are really important because these give comfort, wisdom and meaning to many people from the different parts of the world.

One of the most common shamanism beliefs is that everyone and everything is part of a certain pattern and thus, they are all interrelated. Things around us are connected with each other. Shamans also believe that an alternate reality exists. This is often referred to as the dreamtime of the spirit world by the traditional individuals or as nonordinary reality by the modern mystics..

The Beliefs

Shamans likewise believe that some individuals have the ability to obtain the transcendent state of consciousness and to enter the alternate reality for healing of self as well as others and for problem solving. Such belief is mostly accompanied by a powerful and really strong desire to experience personally an alternate reality.

Also, one of the most evident shamanism beliefs is the existence of spirit teachers and helpers who live in an alternate reality. Though most modern mystics do not tend to affiliate with some organized religion, they regard Jesus of Nazareth as a powerful spirit teacher.

Most of shamans also profess their belief in various forms of supernatural godlike beings and consciousness. Also, for them, everything, both inanimate and animate is imbued with soul or a personal supernatural essence.

Another shamanism common belief relates to the existence of a vital force or an impersonal power that is pervading in many things and is being expressed as a life force in some inanimate beings – the chi of the Chinese, mana of Polynesians, prana of yoga, Baraka of Muslims and the num of Kalahari bushmen.

They also believe that a personal energy body exists and it can be perceived by others as an aura. This can also be improved through some energy that centers inside it which is called meridians and chakras in the Eastern thought.

Shamanism is actually base on a principle that our visible world is pervaded by spirits or invisible forces which create great impacts in the lives of human beings. Shamanism also requires special abilities and individualized knowledge and it operates outside those established religions. There are also different variations of shamanism all over the world and some of the most beliefs are also shared by the entire forms of shamani.



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