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Shaman's LightSM

SHAMANIC INITIATION AND
MENTORING FOR YOUR GENIUS

THE CORE SKILLS NEEDED TO PUT INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE TO WORK IN OUR WORLD

Shamanism, Initiation, & Vision

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PATH

Shamanism is a way of being, a state of consciousness, an evolutionary way of engaging life, action, and vision.

Shamanism is not religion as understood in modern cultures, nor does it provide a lens that fixes vision and perception. What we call shamanism is based in the knowledge that everything in our world of form is actually energy-becoming-matter every moment non-stop. The shaman's way is based in two things – first, knowing through direct experience the power and life force in all things, and second, recognizing this power has a source (not us) that requires our attention.

To help understand the idea of a 'source', I'll borrow a bit from the great German physicist Max Planck and his inspired insight after spending some time with an atom. Let's say you could sit and watch an atom, observing the beauty of the electrons spinning around the nucleus. After a while you'd probably realize how much it looks like our solar system – the electrons like little planets zooming around their atom-sized 'sun'. If you kept looking at this atom you would very likely begin to sense that, like the planets, there is a force that keeps the electrons whirling around in their elliptical orbits. And if you continued observing, really feeling the magic and mystery of the whole thing, it might rise as a deep knowing in you that there's an intelligence that moves the forces that keep all those pieces together, arranged just so, in this thing we call an atom.

That intelligence is exactly what shamans know to be the 'source'.

Through the lens of the modern world, the source is of the 'other world', the 'invisible world' – we have lots of names for it even though we don't feel very connected to it. However, when the source speaks, it speaks our world into being. This is the shaman's understanding of 'reality', the foundation of his power and skill – we are the created, we are the visible form that is constantly arising from and organized by the invisible intelligence that moves the forces of creation.

Yet it's not enough to simply know this; there is more. From the shaman's point of view we are best off if – and it's usually seen as vital that – we have a clear, life-enhancing relationship with this source that creates us. The shaman knows our job is to come into the kind of awareness that can understand the speech of the 'other', the language of the energies we are made of. It's a kind of awareness we are quite capable of when we realize that we are the result of the conversation, not the speakers. With this level of awareness comes a full relationship, not just with the power source, but with our own significant place in the fierce, beautiful scheme of all things and all times, and even better, with the purpose and place for our own unique talents and magic.

The power of the shaman lies in his ability to be consciously aware of what is, right here and now, and how it is arising from the 'source'. This is the key to luminous awareness, a technical ability the shaman must master. It is an awareness of direct sensory experience in which meaning is produced instantaneously. It requires intensive training and skill development in engaging the conscious interaction between perception and awareness. This is the source of real vision – vision that is pure, creative, and collective, and not at all personally biased.

As the master perceiver, the shaman becomes the steward of the knowledge gifted into his awareness. His next step is to stay focused and listen, to stay in direct experiential contact with the information showing up because it will carry its own instructions – the shaman will hear what actions are to be taken, if any, to heal, resolve, or evolve the issue he has been asked to assist with.

To the shaman, this is the height of practicality and efficiency. He is simply listening to and heeding the intelligence that creates the universe. He knows this intelligence is constantly organizing the energies of the world in a dynamic equilibrium designed to produce abundance, encode wisdom in beauty, and create momentum for continued thriving. He believes in what he is given because he is in direct sensory contact with it, and experiences it as truth.

When we look at this through the everyday lens of Western life, it seems esoteric. Perhaps it only seems this way because in modern cultures we work with form, whereas the shaman works with energy, with light.

In other words, the shaman engages the source and we engage the result.

Although we are born 'wired' to understand all of this, we require a strengthening in order to live, awake and aware, in the full power of the shaman's consciousness and abilities. It's necessary for our physical body to grow a bit, and for our psyche to mature and become clear in its personal identity. Then and only then can our energy body be strengthened and informed through the processes of initiation. The result is a fine-tuning of the initiate's body into a true medicine body – one

that engages and responds to experiential knowledge, one that senses and comprehends the language of energy without interpretation, one that remembers and remains conscious of all the powers and energy languages that are making moments happen here in our seemingly ordinary world.

For the shaman, life is a great weaving of processes and relationships – of birth and death, healing and growing, giving and receiving, planting seeds and reaping not just the fruit but creating the momentum for the next generations of fruition. This great weaving honors the cycles of nature and the wisdom of the cosmos, and the shaman is initiated in the ways of stewarding the life force of the evolving weaving.

The shaman also knows that everything, humans included, grows in life through being challenged, that our individual gifts and talents come to life through the power of our challenges.

It is particularly true for modern people that among our greatest challenges are our personal emotional hardships, within which lie the most amazing seeds of human possibility. We are challenged in the very structure of our relationships, in the detail and accuracy of our sensory perception, in the ways we comprehend what is so. All of these are key components in the process of evolving consciousness, and in the initiation of the shaman. If you can crack open these challenges, you will find your shaman's awareness and power.

In fact, the authority of the shaman comes in great part from his willingness to enter this healing process, to turn time inside out, place the past ahead of himself, and walk forward through his unresolved experiences until he is released into their wisdom. His authority also comes from his initiation into the realm of the unseen, and it comes from the nature and depth of his working relationship with the world of energy. A shaman's authority does not come from his personal intellect, emotional reactivities, or thoughts.

Among the big surprises most modern people have with things shamanic is that shamanic initiation does not involve some magical quick fix. It is long-term, challenging work that brings the shaman to such a state of clarity that he is capable of 'performing' what looks like magic to the ordinary eye. The magic is simply the result of an intensely clear, direct, non-personal (luminous) relationship with energy – with the movements, behaviors, and interactions of the energies that are creating our world moment to moment. This relationship can only be grown out of deep, hard work in clearing the personal self, awakening the luminous self, absorbing the teachings, and using the technology in service to others, one skill level at a time, until his medicine body is strong enough and wise enough for the next level of power.

In order to accomplish this, the shaman works to develop his availability to pure sensory experience, the basis of all true vision. As he masters this, he realizes he can trust and believe what he senses because it is not being processed by his personal

self. Direct experiential knowledge is not judged and measured; it just is, and its meaning is revealed through the context of the shaman's inquiry.

In ordinary awareness we say 'I'll believe it when I see it'. The shaman sees because he believes his direct experience with the energies of the world. The shaman knows his initiated sensing skill operates at the level of energy; he knows everything in this world and the other world is energy and can be understood through the shaman's awareness.

Through shamanic initiation and mastery, it is all accessible – the seen, the unseen, the known, the unknown. The possibility exists of knowing what cannot be spoken or seen, but only experienced. The possibility exists of traveling 'through time', working 'ahead' of events to shift outcomes, stepping beyond our concept of time to see possibilities, and call in the never-before imagined. Actually, we do this in our own nervous systems all the time; we are already wired to be shamans. It is the required process of initiation that brings the wiring to conscious awareness so the shaman can master its use.

Initiation and the crafting of vision, for modern people especially, is a training in objective, conscious, sensory awareness. It is a deep study in the opening of the eyes of light and the visionary channels, the experiential remembering of the sensory information that is the language of Spirit (and of your own nervous system). It is a training in releasing into awake, sensory experience so deeply non-personal, that the brain's 'pre-conscious' processor begins to language experience without the use of ordinary neurological pathways. The result is the shaman gains the capacity to communicate messages from Spirit, from nature, from the ancestors, without his personal identity intruding. The result is the speaking of Spirit's vision into this world so states of fulfillment can emerge for everyone and everything.

Experiment with feeling the words in this brief essay, rather than trying to figure out their meaning. The feeling experience itself will begin to shift you, and you may sense a bit of what the initiated shaman knows to be the luminous 'channel' through which the 'source' speaks. The shaman's direct, non-personal experience of the movements, behaviors, and interaction of energy relative to a pure focus in a precise context arises in this world as the speech of the gods, every word a new moment of creation. This is where we are headed in the work of the Shaman's Light™ program.

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