

Meeting the Divine Mother in Nature
The Community as Shaman
Universal Worship, April 10, 2022

The primary function of a shaman is not individual healing, but mediating the relationship of the human community to the non-human world. What would a “shamanic community” look like?

HINDUISM:

The world tapestry is woven from three strands:
inertia, balance, and dynamic energy.

These alone are the mundane intoxicants.

From the strand of balance comes self-serving intelligence,
from energy ambitious action, from inertia ignorance.

Drawn sharply between these three,
your soul’s instrument falls out of harmony.

Only the Divine Troubadour can tune you again
with her strong and skillful hands.

From her the poet now receives these lines:

“Never allow the world’s opinion
to dim the delight of nonduality,
nor draw you away even subtly
from Mother’s wonderful intimacy.”

-Ramprasad Sen (trans. Hixon)

BUDDHISM:

By the power of the truth of the words of the Buddha,
Of pratyekabuddhas, arhats, and those on the path of learning,
May those who destroy the well-being of this world
Disappear in this very city!

May all beings and insects,

All spirits and all of you

Enjoy only happiness!

May everyone be pacified of all diseases!

May everyone see goodness

And may none engage in negativities!

Those spirits who have come here,

Dwelling on the land and in the space,

May you have loving compassion towards the humans!

May you also practice Dharma day and night!

-The Noble Sutra on Entering the Great City of Vaishali (trans.
Tenzin Bhuchung Shastri)

ZOROASTRIANISM:

Thereupon the Architect of Creation questioned Truth,
"Who will be the Prophet of your creation? When will you grant her
a ruler as the good shepherd and diligent nourisher of the
universe? Who will be her Lord for her joy and bliss who shall
repel the wrath of the wicked?"

-Yasna 29:2 (trans. Adapted from Bode)

TAOISM:

Therefore, the sage has a place where he wanders, and considers
knowledge as a curse, convention as glue, virtue as a social
grace, and craft as commerce. The sage hatches no schemes, so
what use has he for knowledge? He does no splitting, so what use
has he for glue? He has no deficiency, so what use has he for
virtue? He does no peddling, so what use has he for commerce?
These four are the gruel of heaven. The gruel of heaven is
sustenance from heaven. Since he receives sustenance from
heaven, what use has he for man? He has a human form, but is
without human emotions. Because he has a human form, he
groups together with other men. Because he is without human
emotions, "right" and "wrong" have no effect upon him. How
insignificant and small is that part of him which belongs to
humanity! How grand and great is his singular identification with
heaven!

-Chuangtze (trans. Mair)

INDIGENOUS:

Early in the summer when I came back from across the big water
(1889) strange news had come from the West, and the people had
been talking about it... This news said that out yonder in the West
at a place near were the great mountains (the Sierras) stand,
before you come to the great water, there was a sacred man
among Paiutes who had talked to the Great Spirit in a vision and
the Great Spirit and told him how to save the Indian people and
make the Wasichus (Whites) disappear and bring back all the
bison and the people who were dead and how there would be a
new earth... Before I came back, people got together to talk about
this and they had sent three men, Good Thunder, Brave Bear and
Yellow Breast, to see this sacred man with their own eyes and to
learn if the story about him was true...

These three men all said the same thing, and they were good men...Wasichus called him Jack Wilson, but his name was Wovoka. He told him that there was another world coming, just like a cloud. It would come in a whirlwind out of the West and would crush out everything in this world, which was old and dying. In that other world there was plenty of meat, just like old times; and in that other world all the dead Indians were alive, and all the bison that had ever been killed were roaming around again. This sacred man gave some sacred red paint and two eagle feathers to Good Thunder. The people must put this paint on their faces and they must dance a ghost that the sacred man taught to Good Thunder, Yellow Breast and Brave Bear. If they did this, they could get on this other world when it came, and the Wasichus would not be able to get on, and so they would disappear. When he gave the two eagle feathers to Good Thunder the sacred man said: "Receive these eagle feathers and behold them, for my father will cause them to bring your people back to him." This was all that was heard the whole winter.

When I heard this about the red paint in the eagle feathers and about bringing the people back to the Great Spirit, it made me think hard. I had had a great vision that was to bring the people back into the nation's hoop, and maybe this sacred man had had the same vision and it was going to come true, so that the people would get back on the red road. Maybe I was not meant to do this myself, but if I helped with the power that was given me, the tree might bloom again and the people prosper. This was in my mind all that winter, but I did not know what vision the sacred man out there had seen, and I wished I can talk to him and find out.

-Black Elk Speaks by John G Neihardt, Ch 21 pp145-146

JUDAISM:

And the people spoke against God, and against Moses:

'Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, and there is no water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.'

And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

And the people came to Moses, and said: 'We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that He take away the serpents from us.' And Moses prayed for the people.

And the LORD said unto Moses: 'Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he seeth it, shall live.'

And Moses made a serpent of brass, and set it upon the pole; and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked unto the serpent of brass, he lived.

-Numbers 21:5-9 (trans. mechon-mamre.org)

CHRISTIANITY:

Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

-Acts 5: 12-16

ISLAM:

By love, the bitter becomes sweet
By love copper coins become gold
By love, the dregs become clear
By love, the pain becomes healing
By love, the dead is made living
By love, the king is made a slave
And this love is the result of knowledge
Who, in foolishness, ever sat on such a throne?
-Rumi, Masnavi 2:1530-1532

TRUTH:

The hearts of people are likened to gongs in the temple. Every spoken word strikes them, but by the power of breath one strikes them without a word. It is by the breath that one contracts illnesses, but also one absorbs defects and the depression of others, as well as joy and happiness. The breath of personalities healthy in mind and body is vitalizing. The breath of the spiritual beings, whose love and sympathy goes out to others, is naturally healing.