

THE SHAMAN'S
SACRED TOOLS

PERFORMING A
FIRE CEREMONY

SHAMAN'S MANUAL





THE SHAMAN'S FIRE CEREMONY

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SHAMAN'S FIRE CEREMONY

As we have come to learn, ceremony and ritual are incredibly important to healing, as well as to growth and development. To a shaman, the fire ceremony is sacred. Fire is a wild energy and helpful ally if we properly respect it. Not only does it represent the rapid illumination we go through in becoming a shaman, it recycles energy! We burn items that represent different issues in our life to transmute the energy into the energy of light and heat, that we may take in and use to nourish ourselves. In indigenous societies, the elders carry on the tradition of gathering around a fire when the moon is full and dreaming of a world that they want their grandchildren to inherit. On that evening, they quietly arrive in a circle of dreamers, knowing that what they have to offer is just a tiny piece of the larger puzzle and that it's important that they show up with love and intent and participate in the dreaming process.

At Serpent level (the physical level), they know that they need to sit by the fire. At Jaguar (the emotional level), they realize that they must bring with them their love and curiosity and connection with all beings, including every other shaman gathered around the fire wherever they may be on the earth. At Hummingbird (the mythic level) they offer their vision without comprehending how it fits into the collective dream. At eagle (the level of Spirit), they see the larger picture before them and understand the totality of the dream without being able to express it or define it. They feel the power and wonder of Spirit. They become the moon and the stars, the fire and the smoke, and each other and themselves, no one and everyone.



HOW TO PERFORM A FIRE CEREMONY

The fire ceremony is done on the full moon of each month.

- ◇ Before coming to the fire circle, prepare Spirit Arrow or Death Arrow, a stick that represents an issue or something you want to let go of. Blow the issue into the stick.
- ◇ Choose a stick to circulate at the fire as an offering for the healing of the Earth, the Pachamama stick (this stick is thicker and more substantial than a personal offering stick).
- ◇ The Pachamama stick is passed around the circle for all to offer their blessing.
- ◇ Open Sacred Space.
- ◇ Prepare the fire.
- ◇ Start the fire. One person should care-take the fire for the evening.
- ◇ Begin the chant to call upon the Spirit of the Waters beneath the Earth (chant is on the following page)



A CALL UPON THE SPIRIT OF THE WATERS BENEATH THE EARTH INVOCATION

Nitchi Tai Tai,
N-U-Y
Oro Nika Oro Nika
Hey Hey...Hey Hey
Ooo Ai.

THE FOLLOWING IS NOT A LITERAL TRANSLATION BUT EXPRESSES ITS ESSENCE:

O Great Mother, Mother of the Waters
We call on you, Waters of our Birth
Waters of our Sustenance
Waters that cleanse us on our death
Take us back to the place of our birth.

- ◇ Feed the fire with olive oil three times: first to the four directions, then heaven and earth, and, last to the circle of beings around the fire, seen and unseen.
- ◇ The moment the fire becomes friendly it changes color and burns in a different manner. This change will come from direct observation and experience with the fire.
- ◇ When the fire becomes friendly, make your offering to the fire (with someone at your back).
- ◇ Each person approaches and silently puts their offering into the fire (with someone at their back). They then pass their hands briefly through the fire drawing the energy of the fire into their belly, then into their heart, and then their forehead. You can touch it lightly or go deeply into the flame. It is not meant to be sensational or dramatic, but rather a way to focus attention and energy upon one's transformation.
- ◇ After all the offerings are made, the oldest or youngest person places the Pachamama stick in the fire.
- ◇ Close Sacred Space
- ◇ At least two people, ideally one male and one female, stay with the fire until it is safe – no water on the fire.



Students are asked to view this information as the “heart” of the ceremony. It is the starting point to find your own unique style to add to this ceremony.

There is a two-week period following a fire ceremony in which “instances of opportunity” appear. These “instances” provide the opportunity to translate your intent for healing into reality. You are advised to think of the fire ceremony not as an instantaneous magical change but rather the start of a healing process or journey. Seize the opportunity to change your behavior in the real world. Then let the universe take care of the details.






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