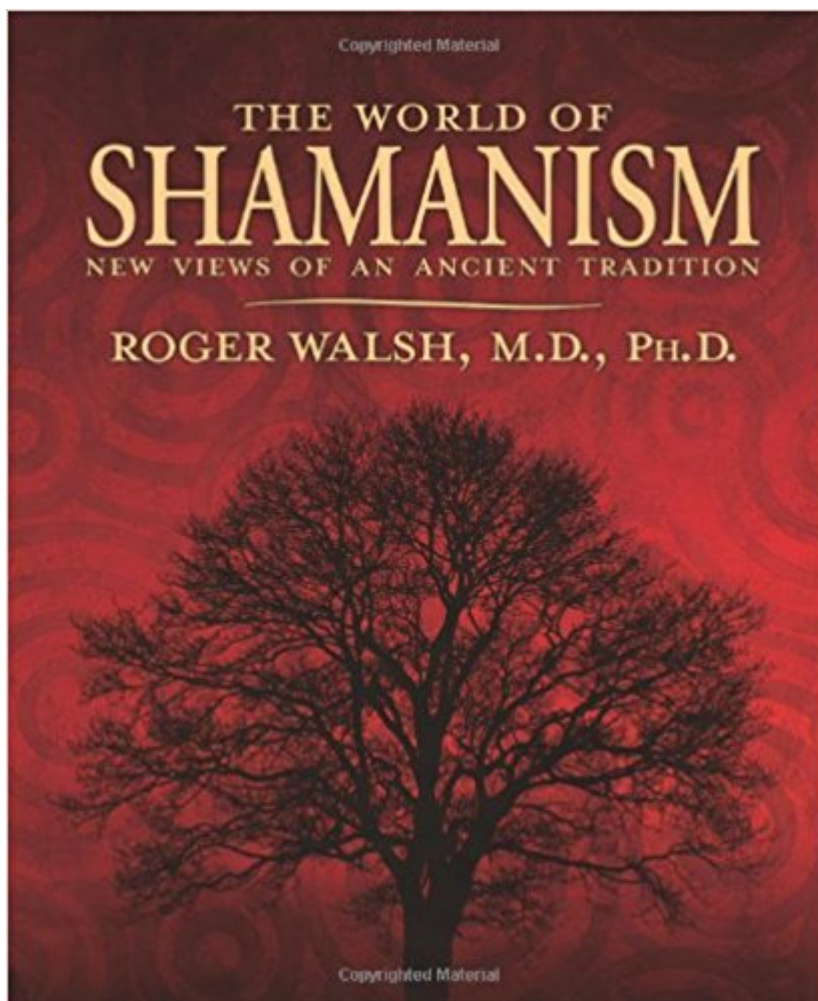


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# The World Of Shamanism: New Views Of An Ancient Tradition



## Synopsis

Fascinating, comprehensive, and eminently readable, this guide explores shamanism—the world's most enduring healing and religious tradition—in the light of modern medicine, psychology, neuroscience, consciousness disciplines, and religious studies. Praise for *The World of Shamanism* "As if on cue, just when I am beginning to think that shamanism is the ground from which all religions spring, along comes this book. I cannot imagine a book that would be more helpful to me in thinking through this important subject." —Huston Smith, author of *The World's Religions* "...Unquestionably the most rounded compact introduction to shamanism, particularly the inner world of shamans, available today. A door-opening book for students of consciousness and spirituality." —Georg Feuerstein, Ph.D., M.Litt, author of *The Yoga Tradition* "A splendidly clear and timely survey of shamanism." —Jean Achterberg, Ph.D., author of *Imagery in Healing* "Quite simply, this book is a major step forward in understanding the vital phenomenon of shamanism. I recommend it highly." —Charles Tart, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Psychology, University of California at Davis, author of *States of Consciousness* "...Eminently useful and inspiring. A brilliant integrative work that pushes the frontiers of consciousness in insightful, practical, and powerful ways." —Angeles Arrien, Ph.D., Cultural Anthropologist, author of *The Four-Fold Way* and *The Second Half of Life* "...Unique in bringing together the full range of anthropological, psychological, and psychiatric literature on this vital subject. It does so with admirable scholarship yet still manages to be sensitive and clear." —Christie W. Kiefer, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, University of California at San Francisco

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"As if on cue, just when I am beginning to think that shamanism is the ground from which all religions spring, along comes this book. I cannot imagine a book that would be more helpful to me in thinking through this important subject." --Huston Smith, author of *The World's Religions* "The World of Shamanism is unquestionably the most rounded compact introduction to shamanism, particularly the inner world of shamans, available today. A door-opening book for students of consciousness and spirituality." --Georg Feuerstein, Ph.D., M.Litt. Author of *The Yoga Tradition*

Roger Walsh, MD, PhD (California) is a professor of psychiatry, philosophy, and anthropology, and also adjunct professor of religious studies at the University of California at Irvine. His publications include the books *The World of Shamanism* and *Essential Spirituality: The Seven Central Practices to Awaken Heart and Mind*. He is also coeditor of the books *Paths Beyond Ego: The Transpersonal Vision* and *Gifts From a Course in Miracles*.

This is an excellent book, for the many reasons others have described, including the wide-ranging scope, the clear language, the objective analysis, and the exploration of so many intriguing questions and issues related to Shamanism. I have a few quibbles, but they do not detract in any significant way from my overall assessment. I would have liked to learn a little more about the basics of how Shamans fit in to their societies, for example, how many do there tend to be in relation to the size of the tribe, do they work full time as Shamans, and so forth. In one section, Dr. Walsh seemed to suggest that the journeying of the Shaman was the only vehicle through which they helped to heal their tribe. I would have thought that their expertise in herbal medicine would have played a significant role here, but I do not recall him covering this topic. Walsh provided an analysis of whether or not Shamans did in fact journey to other realms, or whether such travels were all mental. Here, he looked at various sorts of relevant phenomena and research. He seems to be agnostic on the issue, but the fact that it has been well documented that some people who have near death experiences have knowledge of events that they couldn't have taken in through their normal senses suggests to me that at least in that situation, some type of actual journeying has been demonstrated. I also would have liked to see some discussion of Michael Newton's important research on *Life Between Lives*, but that was nowhere to be found. Walsh seems to greatly discount all information revealed through a hypnotic state, though I find Newton's evidence to be compelling.

This is an expansion and updating of Walsh's *The Spirit Of Shamanism*, which is my favorite book on the subject. The lower rating for this version is for two reasons:(1) The updating is just enough to

justify a new ISBN, which means that people can easily be fooled into buying both. (Before anyone cries sour grapes at this review, I knew that when I bought it; I wanted to compare the new version to the original.) (2) The updates are mostly to the comparisons between shamanism and other spiritual practices, and are repetitive. They also aren't of much interest to me; if they are to you, add a star. The one positive aspect of the updates is the expanded and modernized bibliography, which is quite useful. Unless you have a need for that information, though, I'd recommend the original.

This is a genre expanding work. Dr. Walsh has written an intricately detailed work on all things Shamanic. The author views the subject matter through the eyes of a psychiatrist, philosopher, and anthropologist. These obviously western viewpoints are also influenced through the eyes of a believer as well, and are treated as such with respect, integrity and truth. Although he may not be a Shamanic practitioner, you will not likely find a more accurate, unbiased account of the continuing phenomena of Shamanism. I have not read his earlier work on the subject, but this volume here is a readable, scholarly, all-encompassing treatise. This is not a how-to guide, although it kinda makes me wish he would write one! HIGHLY RECOMMENDED !!!

This is a great blend of scholarly writing and personal experience. I couldn't put it down. It is an up to date work and cites foundational sources on Shamanism while giving current perspectives.

A thorough investigation into the topic, backed where possible by real research. A valuable read on this subject.

Arrived on time and in excellent condition. Just starting the read, but based on a quick glance, it offers an understanding and history of different cultural views to those appointed as religious leaders.

This book is a great overview of Shamanism. It provided me with the information I needed in a clear, concise way.

This Book is "Pretty Cool". Good to know the Nuts and Bolts Of "What Makes Shamans Tick ?!", " Bravo-Roger Walsh

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