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The Shaman: Patterns of Religious Healing Among the Ojibway Indians (The Civilization of the American Indian Series)

John A. Grim
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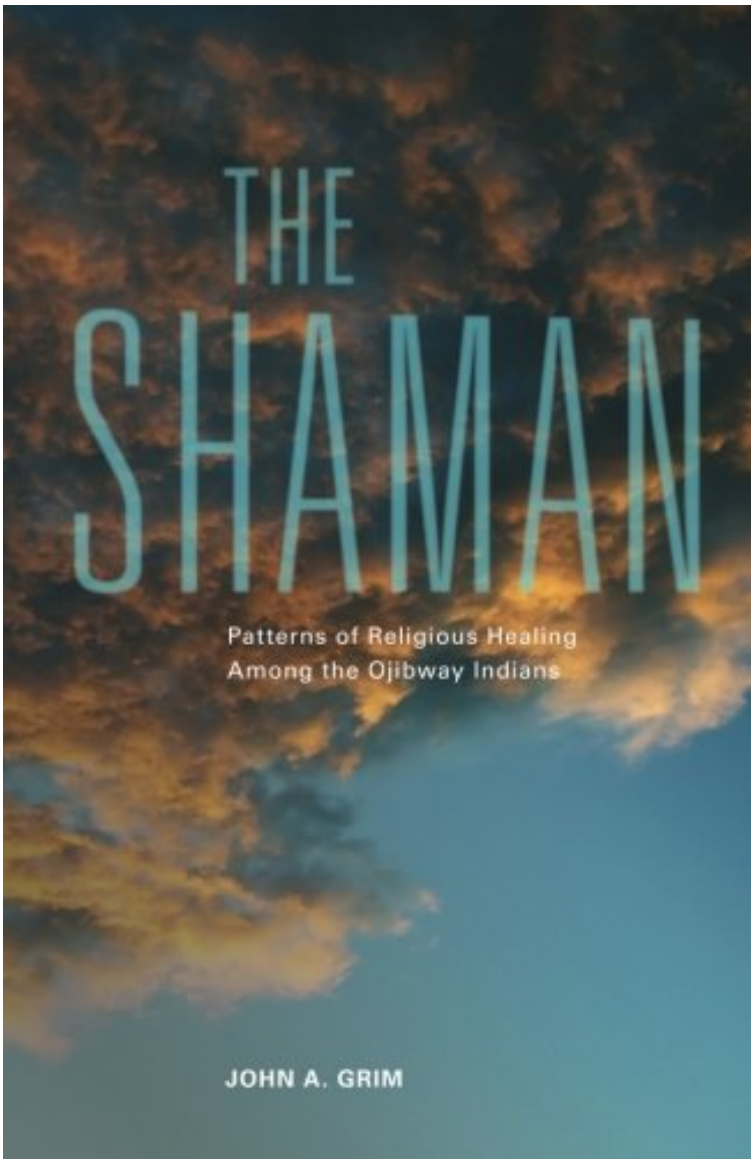

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John A. Grim : The Shaman: Patterns of Religious Healing Among the Ojibway Indians (The Civilization of the American Indian Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shaman: Patterns of Religious Healing Among the Ojibway Indians (The Civilization of the American Indian Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. EXCELLENT STUDY ON SHAMANISM !!!By jormaThis is a very good study of Ojibway Indian Shamanism. The author lays out his outline, and study intent, and then follows it. (something that is becoming more rare these days) This book is also a very good comparative study with Siberian Shamanism as well, and offers a great perspective of the two cultures, displaying their differences and similarities. Mr. Grim handles the subject matter with the respect it deserves, and has done his research well, as the extensive notes section and bibliography will attest to. There is also a comparative with World religious figures, ie: Priest, Sage, Yogi, and Prophet, and his explanations, although in an anthropologist view, are highly understandable and readable. There are first hand accounts, illustrations, and historic photographs, all interspersed nicely in this comprehensive study. Although not a how-to guide, this fully documents procedure and beliefs, and is an important volume in my library.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A great research aid to Ojibway shamanismBy Scott BakerThe Shaman was a very helpful and personal description on what it means to be a shaman, historically and in later Ojibway culture. The first hand accounts are concise and direct. I found the pictures of the midewiwin and petroglyphs particularly helpful when I was wrting my own novel, Neitherworld Book One Akiiwan. If the casual reader has trouble understanding the ancient Ojibway (or Ojibwe) culture after reading the shaman it is not the author's fault - it is instead because paleo-American culture is really so foreign to later Euro-American culture. Remember while reading the Shaman, that the Shaman's power derived in large part from the belief of his audience in him/her. Without that, the stories are detached and even unsatisfying. It is thus in every culture, of course, including ours.14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Excellent synopsis of the shamanic practices of the Ojibwe.By A CustomerThe author wisely places the practices of shamanism within the cultural context. At no point does the author make the mistake of reducing the shamanic practices to deities and such but correctly emphasizes the "forces" and movements of nature of which the shaman is an "expression." Excellent read for anyone generally interested in shamanism or specifically in the Ojibwe practices of the Mide society.

Tribal peoples believe that the shaman experiences, absorbs, and communicates a special mode of power, sustaining and healing. This book discusses American Indian shamanic traditions, particularly those of the Woodland Ojibway, in terms drawn from the classical shamanism of Siberian peoples. Using a cultural-historical method, John A. Grim describes the spiritual formation of shamans, male and female, and elucidates the special religious experience that they transmit to their tribes.Writing as a historian of religion well acquainted with ethnological materials, Grim identifies four patterns in the shamanic experience: cosmology, tribal sanction, ritual reenactment, and trance experience. Relating those concepts to the Siberian and Ojibway experiences, he draws on mythology, sociology, anthropology, and psychology to paint a picture of shamanism that is both particularized and interpretative.As religious personalities, shamans are important today because of their singular ability to express symbolically the forces that animate the tribal cosmology. Often identifying themselves with primordial earth processes, shamans develop symbol systems drawn from the archetypal earth images that are vital to their psychic healing technique. This particular ability to resonate with the natural world is felt as an important need in our time. Those readers who identify with American Indians as they confront modern technological society will value this introduction to our native shamanic traditions and to the religious experience itself. The author's discussion of Ojibway practices is the most comprehensive short treatment available, written with a fine poetic feeling that reflects the literary expressiveness inherent in American Indian religion and thought.

About the AuthorJohn A. Grim holds the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Fordham University, Bronx, New York; and the B.A. from Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota. He is Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion, Elizabeth Seton College, Yonkers, New York. He has written several articles on shamans and American Indian philosophy and has traveled extensively in east and southeast Asia researching shamanism.