

SHAMAN WISDOM CARDS

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INTRODUCTION

The Shaman Wisdom Cards are tools for your journey towards being in touch with the Inner Spirit, the One within. They are based on North American Indian tradition, wisdom, and religion. Use the cards with great respect, and they will provide you with valuable assistance in your daily walk in both worlds: spiritual and physical.

Native American Shaman use plants, animals, minerals, and other objects as allies, helpers, and guardians in their work. You will find that these cards act as guides, showing you the way to your own inner truth and leading you on your sacred path to inner knowledge and personal wisdom. They will be your reminders of Mother Earth and Father Sky, of the balance we must achieve and maintain in order to heal, of the love we must have and share in our life and work. They are symbols of life and the worlds around and within us. Use them to develop your own medicine, your own power. Let them help you make deci-

sions. Allow them to guide you in the best direction. Permit them to council you in your choices. Listen to what they tell you and remember what they teach you.

The term “All My Relations” is used by the Native Americans to tell of the interconnected belief that they hold of nature. Everything and everyone is related as brother, sister, father, mother. These cards are more than representations of your relations; they are your relations. Thank the cards for the messages they give you; use the cards with respect; cherish the cards. Become the cards. It’s your dance.

SAMPLE ASPECTS

The Native Americans believe that all in nature is connected and interconnected. This relationship with all that is gives significance and symbolism to everything. Every action is deliberate, every deed a conscious act. Everything has intention and purpose.

While other cards appear normal or inverted, showing only two aspects, the Shaman Wisdom Cards have many aspects that must be considered when interpreting and understanding their essence, meanings, and messages. Because everything is

related, these cards connect to one another and to you. We are all brothers and sisters in this life.

The Moon Tribes, the Animal Sisters, the Plant Clans, the Tree Brothers, the Sacred Stone Societies, and the Seven Great Directions all have elemental aspects that should be considered when interpreting arrays:

EARTH: (Rock) Stable, secure, home, confining, physical, attainment, achievement, abundance, and dependability.

AIR: (Green) Gentle, mild, clear, knowledge, mind, uplifting, exhilarating, freedom, and expansion.

FIRE: Assertive, forceful, primal, illumination, change, spirit, purification, and power.

WATER: Smooth, uniform, rebirth, emotions, healing, protection, and flowing.

Animals, Plants, Trees, and Stones all have directional assignments that can be included in your interpretation of an array or spread. If two or more cards have the same direction consider their significance:

EAST for beginnings, new starts, perception, clarity, higher self, communication, or creativity.

SOUTH for protection, security, nurturing, trust, relationships, love, or confidence.

WEST for endings, emotions, transformation, inner self knowledge, visions, or sacred dreams.

NORTH for connections, duties, responsibility, truth, change, health, insight, or wisdom.

ARRAYS

Choose the spread or array that is appropriate for a particular situation. For an easy question, choose fewer cards; single questions can be answered with just one or two cards. Because difficult matters often require greater input, to add further detail, choose more cards. If circumstances are aggressive, confrontational, combative, or hostile, choose the War Path array to help form a battle plan from an honest heart.

Be sure to select your array carefully, considering just what it is that you are asking for assistance.

METHODS OF CARD SELECTION

Gently shuffle the cards by carefully cutting them as you would cut playing cards. Seven is a good number of times to cut the cards to ensure that they are properly mixed. This transfers your energy into the cards; you become the cards and they become you.

Choose a method of selection that is comfortable for you. Here are some suggestions to consider:

1. Take the cards from the top of the deck, one by one, and place them in the array.
2. Spread the cards out in a fan in front of you and select cards that attract your attention.
3. Go through the deck, one by one, looking at the pictures and select the ones that you find interesting. This is a good method for someone who has never used the Shaman Wisdom Cards.
4. Spread the cards out in front of you, close your eyes, and move your hand slowly over the cards about one inch above the cards. Stop at the card that you “feel” is right. The right card may feel warm, or there may be a slight tingle, etc.

If a card falls out or otherwise indicates itself to you while you are shuffling the cards, read the message on this card; it is important. After all, the card chose *you*.

Card of the Day – 1 Card

This is done first thing in the morning to give direction and guidance for the day. Shuffle the cards and select one as your guide or guardian in a particular situation.

Poles – 2 Cards

Poles are opposite ends of a given situation. This can be a relationship, business situation, a personal matter, or any circumstance requiring you to look at contrasting points of view. Place the first card drawn in front of you and the second card above the first. The second card is the contrasting card. Always consider both sides, both points of view.

Taking the Sacred Path – 3 Cards

This versatile spread or array may be used to determine outcomes of situations involving two concerns and a third solution. This can be used for relationships: personal, family, community, or business. Select the first card and place it directly in

front of you, the second card above the first, and the third card above the second. They can be read as beginning, middle, and end; as starting, continuing, and finishing; or as question, insight, and answer.

War Path – 3 Cards

The War Path is used for a confrontational, combative, aggressive, or assertive situation when solutions are required. You are the first card selected, the second card is the opponent, adversary, or opposite of a given situation. The solution to the question is the third card drawn and that is placed in the middle position. Read the cards and use their messages to reach a final solution to the question. Always approach this array with an honest heart for the proper resolution.

Following Your Path – 7 Cards

Each card in this array represents a day of the week starting with whatever day you choose and continuing for one week. Place the cards in order as you select them, from left to right. Each card will provide insight, information, or direction for the particular day the card appears. The knowledge you gain from the cards will provide guidance

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