

SYMBOL INTERPRETATION



AWAKENING WISDOM
DIGITAL DOWNLOAD
BY JANNEKE KOOLE

Symbol Interpretation

Introduction

Symbol Interpretation is an art that we develop over many years of experience and study; in fact, it is a skill worth training our whole life. As we learn, grow, and evolve, we harvest that learning inside memories, associations, body sensations and pre- or non-verbal inner knowing. Each of us has a storehouse of these inside of us; some we are aware of and can articulate; some remain within the deeper layers of our subconscious and unconscious mind spaces.

In addition, we were born into a collective conscious and collective unconscious mind space. We have absorbed these symbols, associations and meanings without awareness and they often remain hidden. They set frames of reference and anchor our unconscious responses to each and every input in our everyday experience (smells, sounds, colors, intonations, gestures, environmental shifts, circumstantial changes, and more).

Many wise and learned men and women have studied symbols across time and within various cultures. Carl Jung and Joseph Campbell are renowned in this field. Many encyclopedias on symbols, dream interpretation and mythologies across time and cultures provide rich resources for personal study.

Before we focus on symbols from within the SMSD perspective, let's take a look at the dictionary and more common meanings:

Symbol

- Something used for or regarded as representing something else; an emblem, token, or sign
- A letter, figure, or other character or mark or a combination of letters or the like used to designate something
- Any mental process that represents some feature of external reality
- Often take the form of words, visual images, or gestures that are used to convey ideas and beliefs. All human cultures use symbols to express the underlying structure of their social systems, to represent ideal cultural characteristics such as beauty, and to ensure that the culture is passed on to new generations.

In Alpha White Lodge, July 1990, Thunder Strikes shared that symbols help us translate the energy of an experience through an awareness of our mind

- Closed symbols verify the dark mirrors of the Star Maidens Circle
- Open symbols reflect what we are willing to look at within our Star Maidens Circle
- Nagual symbols open us to the rainbow of life

Image

- A physical likeness or representation of a person, animal, or thing, photographed, painted, sculptured or otherwise made visible
- An appearance of an object
- A mental representation or idea, conception; the mental experience of something that is not immediately present to the senses, often involving memory
- A mental representation of something previously perceived, in the absence of the original stimulus
- Form; appearance; semblance
- A symbol or emblem; to typify or resemble
- Embodiment or personification
- A figure of speech such as a simile or metaphor
- An idol, illusion or apparition

In Alpha White Lodge, July 1990, Thunder Strikes shared that an image is a circle of power; you become the image; you are at cause within Sacred Law. The ultimate image is “I am the way, the truth, and the light.” This becomes your intent and that is magick.

Sigil

- A pictorial symbol used in ritualistic magic and supposed to have supernatural power
- A seal or signet (which is a small seal as on a finger ring)

In Alpha White Lodge, July 1990, Thunder Strikes shared that sigils are a combination of symbols, which, when used alchemically and ceremonially, establish power in a mini-max manner. Sigils produce a gain in awareness. They are the foundation of all alchemy

Interpretation

- Elucidation
- An explanation of the meaning of another’s artistic or creative work
- A conception of another’s behavior
- An allocation of significance...

Sweet Medicine SunDance language is a shamanic language. Shamans, since always, communicate through symbols, sigils and images. These are tools to get us out of our left brain, into our right brain, and back again, engaging our capacity for circular thinking. In this way, our subconscious mind has a chance to access the knowing of the unconscious mind. As we dream with symbols, sigils, and images, we gain the ability to experience the Wheels and Keys. As we dance with them in this way, the Wheels and Keys will begin to “dream” us and we will unlock ancient memory held within our multi-layered being, the wise one within.

We speak of **symbols** as representations of a communication. Our everyday life is full of symbols that we respond to without thinking: a red light means stop; an orange one indicates caution; green means go. When “something happens”, symbols appear (step one of the Infinity

Movement). It is a symbol (or set of symbols) that we take inside as we sort through our acquired perceptions and experiences of the past to see what in the world it is that is happening and what we can do to respond. Realize that it is the symbol that we take in, not necessarily the full reality of what is happening!

Sigils are several symbols distilled into one expression, containing an entire body of knowledge, experience, and alchemy. Sigils unlock our subconscious mind's interconnection to all forms of all things and have the power to open our unconscious mind, awakening memory.

Images are the constellation of thoughts, ideas, and concepts. See the next section on the southwest of the Star Maidens Circle.

The Nature of Symbols in our Basic Teachings

We do well to revisit the basic teachings of the southwest of our Star Maidens Circle.

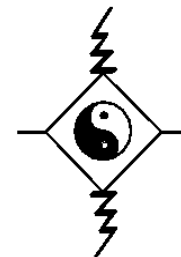
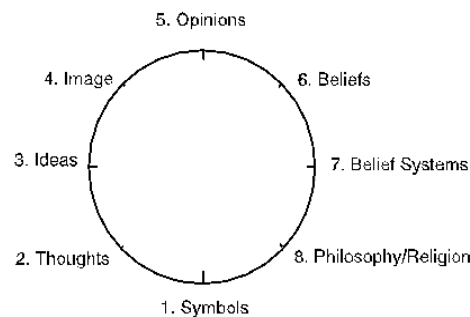
See page 60 of *Shamanic Wheels and Keys, Volume I*:

• SOUTHWEST

SYMBOLS AND PROCESS OF LIFE EXPERIENCE

Space and Distance

Action



In order to understand what the **SYMBOLS AND PROCESS OF LIFE EXPERIENCE** means, we need to know something about how the human mind functions. No matter what, our mind goes through the following first four steps.

1. Symbols gather together to create a thought.
2. Thoughts form into ideas.
3. Ideas merge into an image.
4. Once an image is formed, our perception is either confined and defined by it or we allow the image to expand our perception and increase our imagination.

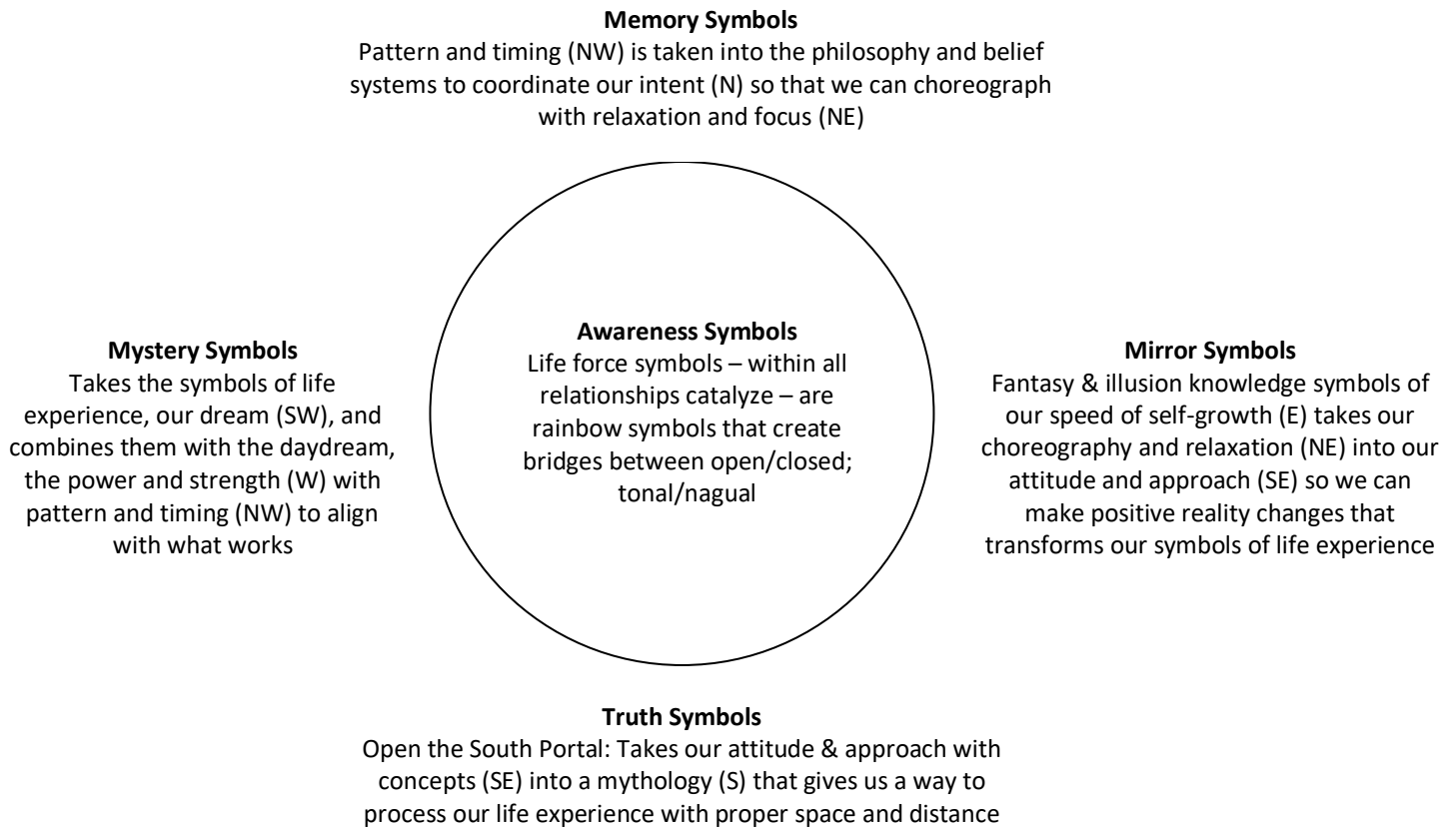
Depending on our level of development, the four steps that follow, can have greater or lesser flexibility and light.

5. Opinions (usually fragments of imagination).
6. Beliefs (a need to feel like you know).
7. Belief Systems (verification of belief in order to stop free thinking imagination).
8. Philosophy, meaning and purpose or religion (we feel trapped in our fate).

Depending on our focus and the impact of any particular stimuli, our perceptual process will open or close the symbols presented to us in our process of simply experiencing life. Our concepts of self, our world view model and our attachment to the familiar story predicate our symbolic interpretation of life. Closed symbols are those experiences which we avoid because they are unknown or threatening to us. We are afraid to enter into the experience. In fact, we are often convinced that there is a monster behind the closed symbol. Open symbols are those experiences that are a natural part of our everyday **action**. Here we know what to expect. When we open a closed symbol and move into that new, feared space, we gain energy, knowledge and find another teacher or teaching about the reality of living. We close the gap between ourselves and life experience.

Five types of Symbols

The Rainbow Bridge Wheel – Symbol Interpretation



Five Types of Sigils

According to SMSD, sigils are archetypal, universal communicators that work in the fifth, sixth, and seventh dimension through our collective unconscious. Five types of sigils have been identified as related to the four levels of dreaming:

South

Death of Shideh Sigils – first and second levels of dreaming

These sigils appear as simple geometric patterns. They relate to this lifetime and show us our myths and pain games. They teach us how to accept death and change.

North

Teaching Wheel Sigils – first and second level of dreaming

These sigils appear as power objects and carry the knowledge we held in our past lives.

West

Cosmic Family (Tungashilah) Sigils – third level of dreaming

These sigils appear as a face with a headband, turban, or headdress. They rarely appear as a full body. These sigils teach us how to interact with our cosmic family.

East

Book of Life Sigils – second and third levels of dreaming

These sigils appear as complex, re-occurring geometric patterns working with us to unlock our past life memory.

Center

Controlled Dreaming Sigils – fourth level of dreaming

These sigils appear as a holographic picture (as real as life) and open us to the specificity of our dharma. They also teach us to develop our larien.

There are several levels of working with these sigils.

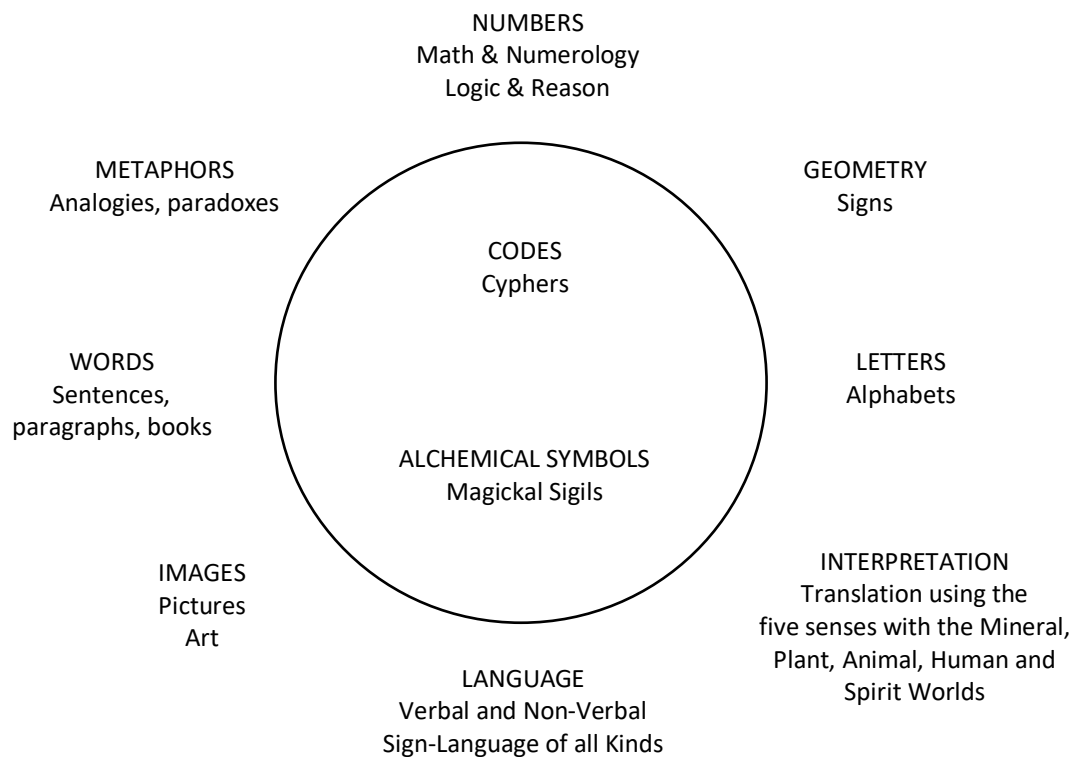
1. South: Observe them without any emotional content as if you were watching television or a movie
2. North: Fluctuate between watching them and being a part of the scene.
3. West: Be in the scene as a full participant
4. East: Be involved to the degree that you are living the past life in the present moment

The Measure Wheel of Symbols

This wheel was shared by Thunder Strikes in his own handwriting – Alpha White Lodge, January 2011. Although the teachings within that longhouse shifted to other topics, this wheel and the next are included here to both honor Thunder Strikes’ legacy and to fill out the contributions from Sweet Medicine’s storehouse of knowledge on this topic.

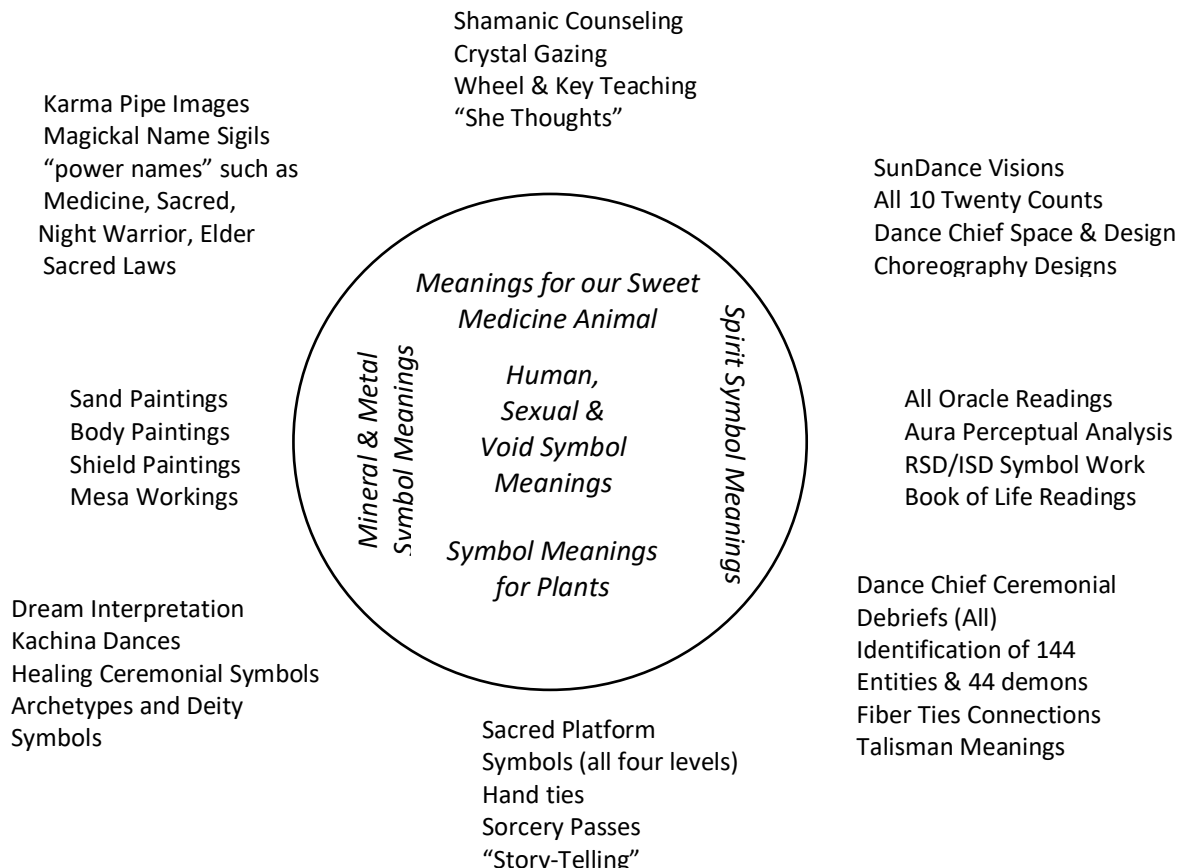
Open dissemination of knowledge, knowledge that works (svaha), is needed to break the polarization through deception, double speaking, and spin doctoring that is used by the dark force agents within our major media channels. Sharing of knowledge that works is best done around the “hearth”, safe spaces for heart-to-heart sharing. We must teach the children and promote multiple ways to understand and then sow seeds of beauty, wide and far.

This Measure Wheel of Symbols offers endless forms of creative communication and sharing integrated knowledge of our SMDS Wheels and Keys.



Sweet Medicine SunDance “Symbol-Paradigm” Wheel

This wheel was also shared by Thunder Strikes in his own handwriting. It is a grand listing of the full range of symbols, sigils, images, wheels, and keys – presented on a wheel to illustrate their inter-relationships with each other and how or where they are key to open our free-thinking mind, explore correlations, and gain insights into the inter-connection, inter-reliability, and inter-dependence of all forms of life.



The Magick of Letters and Numbers

Numbers and letters are themselves symbols that have meaning. Thunder Strikes used to love playing with their magick. One way is to use the following chart.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	Σ

We were encouraged to find the “magickal number” of our birth name, medicine name, sacred name, elder name, night warrior name, etc.

Let’s look at some examples (all fictitious names):

Birth Name: Sammy James Wilson

Sammy: $1+1+4+4+7=17=8$

James: $1+1+4+5+1=12=3$

Wilson: $5+9+3+1+6+5=29=11$

NOTE: (11 is considered a magickal number that is not reduced further to 2)

Total: $8+3+11=22=4$. Apply all you know about this number (Twenty Count, Teachers, BoL cards, etc.) to reflect on the meaning of this name.

Medicine Name: Wind Song

Wind: $5+9+5+4=23=5$

Song: $1+6+5+7=19=10=1$

Total: $5+1=6$. Apply all you know about this number (Twenty Count, Teachers, BoL cards, etc.) to reflect on the meaning of this name and then look for correlations or relationship between the birth name and the medicine name.

Sacred Name: Magick Mirror

Magick: $4+1+7+3+2=17=8$

Mirror: $4+9+9+9+6+9=46=10=1$

Total: $8+1=9$ Apply all you know about this number (Twenty Count, Teachers, BoL cards, etc.) to reflect on the meaning of this name and then look for correlations or relationship between the birth name and the medicine name and then also this sacred name.

Now that you see the pattern, do the same with your names! Calculate the magick of the letters into a single number. Then apply the many references you have for that number. Reflect, look for relationship between the names and “play” (that is, be introspectively spontaneous in associations and connections).

It is also possible to apply this same method to identify the magickal number related to a business, project, title of a book or song.

Personal Applications

The Alchemy of the Give-Away – Using Sigils for Intending Abundance

For this purpose, you will need to calculate three magickal numbers: first, one for your date of birth; secondly, one for your name at birth, and thirdly, the integer difference between these two.

Seeds of Intent

Find the magickal number of your birthdate. Use the numbers corresponding to the name of the month and then add in the numbers of the day and year. This magickal number is called the **Seed of your Intent**.

Intention of your Soul

Find the magickal number of your birth name. This magickal number is called the **Intention of your Soul**.

Cosmic Return

Now calculate the integer difference between the Seed of Intent and the Intention of your Soul. This magickal number indicates where and how you can best unlock the flow of abundance into your life. This magickal number is called the **Cosmic Return**.

Creating a Power Sigil – Intending Abundance

When creating a power sigil out of the letters of a name, for example, this sigil is a condensation of the letters within a word taken down into a sacred image which will hold the orende, the essence of what all the letters in the name mean. All power sigils empower that meaning and become a magickal code for that name.

Teachings Unlimited, Volume 2 contains a full set of teachings on the magick of letters and numbers, illustrating the exact way to draw each of the alphabet letters and revealing the hidden meaning within each.

How to create a Power Sigil

Draw each letter of your name within a circle (viewing the circle as an 8-wheel). Draw them as block letters – each one directly on top of each other. Dream into the overlay to discern the unique pattern that has been created. Allow this unique pattern to emerge out of the overlay. Then play with it until it shows itself as a unique and often simple movement of power that resonates within your being. In this way, the symbol becomes a sigil, a sacred image that will hold the essence of your name and empower your unique individuality.

Creating Three Sigils onto a Triangle of Power

Create a power sigil for each of these (your birth date, your birth name, and the integer of the two). Place them onto a triangle. Place the birth power sigil and number on the top tip of the triangle (Seed of Intent); the birth name power sigil and number on the left side of the triangle

(Intention of your Soul); and the integer power sigil and its number to the right sider tip (Cosmic Return).

Now add up the three numbers (Seeds of Intent, Intention of your Soul, and Cosmic Return) and create a power sigil that will go into the center of this triangle. Draw a triangle around this power sigil and add in the integer number of all three tips using the dot-bar method.

This action and magickal alchemy allows you to catch minimal chance for your intending. In the center of the triangle, write in how much money you require to pay for this month's expenses (bills, debt payments, and everyday living). In the left tip of the triangle, write in how much money you actually made the prior month. In the right tip of the triangle, write in the "measure of your tithe", that is, the amount of money you actually tithed last month multiplied by 10. This is called your "pleasure money".

Sigil Projection Exercise

You can do this exercise with any of the power sigils you have created.

Sit cross-legged in front of a full length mirror. Place a tall candle by your feet so that it is below your eye level. Take your right hand wind finger and rub around your third eye to catch some of the natural body oils from your forehead. If you skin is too dry on your face, try other parts of your body, your genital fluids or natural vitamin E oil. Draw your power sigil on the mirror exactly at eye level. Light the candle. Fixate on this image for a count of 120 (2 minutes). Close your eyes and hold the after-image for a count of 60 (1 minute).

Shorten the length of time needed for your open-eyed fixation on the image while at the same time extending the length of time you can hold the after-image. Mastery of this technique is achieved when you can hold the after-image for three minutes after only a 2 second open-eyed fixation!

The Condition of our Mind and State of Consciousness

The process of symbol interpretation requires that we access more than our conscious, water mind. Our inner dialogue must be still.

Our Wind Element space in the Book of Life is called the "still point on the wind". Use this contract when contemplating the meaning of symbols or seeking to understand a message from the Karma Pipe. Then we will have an open, free thinking mind from within a neutral point of view and with an open inquisitive exploring space. This is considered to open us to a Mind of Power.

The Mind of Power

The following is excerpted out of the teaching on the Warrior's Acts of Power.

The following mini-wheel, the "Internal Process of Experience" wheel, was given to help us understand the Mind of Power. It is like the Mind Maze Wheel. It's how we mentally process experience, or how we process our expression through symbol into knowledge. It describes the patterned, learned thinking induced by our educational system.

Internal Process of Experience Wheel

South:	Stimulus
Southwest:	Symbol
West:	Thought
Northwest:	Idea
North:	Image
Northeast:	Point of View or Opinion
East:	Belief System
Southeast:	Core Belief/Anchor Belief

Five Different Expressions of the Mind of Power

South: Wolf-like Mind.

The Wolf-like Mind uses multiple viewing points. The wolf always knows which path is a safe one, which path has the least resistance and which one will get it from one point to another the quickest. So it's a mind that is quickly adaptable, shifting its frame of reference and viewing point until it sees exactly where it must go. This is essential to be a warrior. It's in the south because it's connected to the heart: you just know you'd better go this way or you're in trouble. It's the mind that prompts instantaneous action (no reaction). It works the *beta brainwaves*-- active, awake, conscious thought. It's considered to be the conscious mind.

North: Wind Mind, Wolverine.

This is the subconscious mind. This mind has no fear; it's pure action. It's also a predator mind. In a societal context, the entire victim syndrome has developed because we think like a prey, not a predator. A wolverine is one of the few animals on Grandmother Earth who will attack humans or anything else without any provocation. They exhibit the territorial imperative to the utmost. They're not afraid of anything. It works the *theta brainwave*. It allows you to get glimpses of the unknown and make it known through rapid assimilation, that is, fast thought.

West: The Mind of the Bear.

It works with the unconscious and *delta brainwave*, experienced in deep sleep. It's an absorbing mind, a contemplative, meditative mind. Use this mind in creating a mesa connecting the symbols to see how it will work. It digests and assimilates, seeing the interconnections and storing these in memory for later use. This is a key reconnaissance mind.

East: Jaguar Mind.

This mind is the collective conscious mind, or Spirit Mind ("one to the many, the many to the one"), utilizing the *alpha brainwave*. It's also the mind of total memory and photographic recall. This is the mind you tap into when you need a source of knowledge and know you haven't been exposed to it in the 3rd dimension but all of a sudden the knowledge presents itself and you're able to access it. It's that instant knowing that always leads to a correct solution. It's also the kind of mind necessary to be a part of the planet's solutions, not its problems. You carry your personal destiny, your fate and your future in that mind. Since it sees solution, it therefore brings pleasure and knowledge. This is the magician/alchemist's mind, used when doing readings and working with the Karma Pipe.

Another aspect of Jaguar Mind is that it is the one you use to deal with emotional shock in order to expand your imagination into extended lengths of pleasure and knowledge. It's probably the least used mind of any of them. We don't understand that our emotions are a form of imagination and that they are a learned response. So it is a crucial mind for spiritual self-growth and development, to get us out of pain states and ignorance. Emotional shock connects us to minimal chance which, in turn, propels us into unlimited imagination.

Center: Void Mind or Dragon Mind.

This mind works with the collective unconscious and universal consciousness. It sees all forms of all things within the everything and our connection to them. It is the mind of non-linearity. It is always able to see the matrix and the crystal matrix of whatever it is observing. It sees the way out of the webs of illusion and the mires of the maze. It teaches us how to solve the maze and get out of the web. They used to call this "spider mind" in the old days because the spider, when it builds its web, always has an anchor line. When the web is no longer of use to it and it's ready, it snips or cuts the anchor line, the web implodes, rolling up into a little ball, and then the spider eats it. So it's always eating of its past, always erasing personal history.

The dragon does the same thing but on a grander scale. The spider and praying mantis are both like the dragon in that they both have an uncanny ability to know when to devour their past, erase their personal history and meet death. The Dragon Mind is like the mind of the Great Spirit and taps into the morphogenetic field.

Symbol Interpretation within our Healing Ceremonies

In our healing ceremonies, translation of symbol is one of the ongoing challenges (and opportunities) for Dance Chiefs. A Dance Chief must be able to:

- Understand the meaning of key words within the apprentice's frame of reference. It matters most how the apprentice interprets the symbols.
- Understand the meaning of letters, numbers, shapes and colors as they appear in the sand and body paintings as well as the images from the Karma Pipe

- Know symbol sigil interpretation, symbol sigil magick and symbol sigil codes so that accurate reflections are given to the apprentice.
- Know the colors of the 8 Great Powers Wheel
- Understand the hierarchy in interpretation: the Thirty Sacred Laws, the life experience of the apprentice (discerned from their intake sheets) and then the deep well of understanding that is held within the womb (a continuous spiral of evolution).
- Remember that the key to healing (the return to before) is a balance of the male/female energies and for this the Dance Chief uses the Star Maidens Circle, Warrior's Attributes, and the Balanced Choreography Wheels.
- There is no correct interpretation of the symbols; it's whatever works to get into the matrix of the apprentice's understanding. Once inside the matrix, a Dance Chief is best able to discern which techniques will facilitate the empowerment of the apprentice, as well as identify the timing for each intervention. If they speed up, speed up the doctoring; if they stall out, insert a shamanic technique (add a chakra painting, do a spinning technique, switch songs, use sound, speak into their ear(s), etc.

The Various Roles of Symbols and Images

Sand & Body Paintings

These teachings and the exercises were taken from the Symbols Workshop which Thunder Strikes ran in Phoenix in March 2005.

The Sand and Body Paintings used within the Blessed Beauty Way Crystal Circle Sound Ceremonies are not traditional Dine or Navajo full blood ceremonial drawings. They are Twisted Hairs paintings we received through Thunder Strikes as taught to him by Grandfather Two Bears, Gus Gray Mountain, Stella Many Names and Ruby Morning Star.

We begin with the Sand Painting, the **10th CHAKRA**. Each grain of sand is like a cell in the body – each carrying the potential for life and the paradox of death giving life. We say that the Sand Painting reflects the healed self. This requires that the apprentice accepts the Hokkshideh's message from the 6th and 7th Energy Mind Bodies, transmitted directly into their Mirror Dancer with pure symbol reflection. Then the Elder Shield communicates this into the language of their Inner Commander Voice. Our inner command goes out to the other Shields so that we take actions to transform our reality. The Water Dancer guides the Child Substance Shield in its transformation; the Wind Dancer guides the Adult Substance Shield; the Earth Dancer, the Adult Spirit Shield; and the Shadow Fire Dancer, the Child Spirit Shield. Our Hokkshideh (19) is in charge as the Commanding General of the Dancers in our Inner Self Army.

9th CHAKRA reflects what the apprentice must now choose to do. In this image we are looking at the eye of the storm. Put yourself inside the Warrior's Attributes (WA) and Star Maidens Circle (SMC) of the direction of this body painting. Glean this image from within the context of that direction (WA & SMC) and ask yourself what does this person need to choose to do? What

is the design, the choice, the choreography, the prioritization of the apprentice? How can they illuminate the illusion that they chose when they chose this illness (lost without the light)?

8th CHAKRA indicates what will be there when the sickness, illness, disease, symptoms are gone. It is the healed body in the before as the Elders say. What will be there when the symptoms are gone if we are willing to take and do and change the pattern or initiate a pattern that is necessary to allow this healed body to be there? What does the apprentice have to change or what new pattern must s/he take on?

7th CHAKRA is painted between the shoulder blades and it shows us the potential dream power and controlled dreaming that we need to take.

6th CHAKRA symbolizes the spiritual perception of what must be taken into consideration in order to change.

5th CHAKRA reflects the inner voice, the communication, from the Mind to the Brain, to the voice box and then out in communication to the external world.

4th CHAKRA is what must be taken into careful consideration in order to remove the emotional pretense from our ability to experience pure energy in motion – in other words, emotional balance and control.

3rd CHAKRA is what we need to do with our Soul Vine, the fibers of life, the life fibers of the Soul Vine, their Fiber Ties, Arrangements, and Configurations in order to not get hooked, arrowed, or sucked upon by others.

2nd CHAKRA is what we must do to dedicate ourselves to a path that leads to a spiritual awakening, a gain in awareness, and to the discipline, commitment and follow through to do it.

1st CHAKRA is what we must do with our sexual catalyst, our soul's life force energy, to increase our individuality, enhance the autonomy of our Genital Sense of Self and be able to access in balance the Four Faces of the Feminine and Masculine Energy in our sexual identity. It also has to do with the acceptance of our artistic originality – what must we do to initiate this artistic originality?

Karma Pipe

Gate Guardians

Gate Guardians are the **keys to the gateway of memory**, like the access code to a computer. Our “computer” is turned on when the 8th chakra is painted – it is the image of this body within a specific spirit personality. The 7th chakra is the symbol field of the spirit personality and thus opens the channel to the council of spirit personalities held within the Soul of the apprentice.

Gate Guardians are called the archetypal empowerers of the mirror of self-reflection. They are 18s, expressions of Dancers that come from the 6th and 7th dimension and work in the 5th dimension. They hold the mirrors of reflection that are in alignment with where that spirit personality's timing is in their overall collective of the soul. They speak to the apprentice through the reptilian brain and guide the apprentice out of their affliction. They also talk through the 20-Count symbols; **they are in fact "who" gives all the images**. They speak in such a way that the apprentice can understand the images and so that the Dance Chief can translate the images for the apprentice.

They symbolize the spirit personalities who sit to the left (NW) and right (NE) hand of the spirit personality that is confronting the issues in this healing. The gate they are guarding is the space between the 7th Energy Mind Body on the left side and the 6th Energy Mind Body on the right side, the space between the antenna.

Chakra Images

The image is the magician inside the apprentice - it describes how they hold their worldview model and self-concept and is a direct reflection of their mirror of self-reflection. The image that comes from the Karma Pipe is a reflection of what is happening with the apprentice, which is reflected in their holographic image computer (their body). Computers run programs, and one of those programs is sickness, disease, illness or death. So the Karma Pipe is functioning as another coded tape inside the computer, feeding back to the apprentice from where they are capable of perceiving, from inside their molding, sculpting, armoring, core personality, body character posture stance. The Karma Pipe is a direct program based upon how far the apprentice is capable of stretching their perception and empowering themselves to see, and how much awareness they're capable of gaining.

The chakra images give the Dance Chief the basics of the pattern in the body.

- Images at chakras 10-8 show the reality of how difficult the healing will be and gives a glimpse into the basic personality of the apprentice in relation to this healing request.
- Images at chakras 7-5 show how the apprentice is running their shideh patterns and gives a presentation of their own view of themselves in relation to this healing request.
- Images at chakras 4-1 reveal the give-aways that are needed from within their perception of self and their molding, sculpting and armoring.
- Images during the doctoring may reveal a fuller pattern of the 8th chakra, the whole body.
- Their choreography is also addressed during the special doctoring, cord-cutting and give-aways.
- The four Layings of the Book of Life refer back to the 10th chakra, and the full measure of how the apprentice met the demand of their healing request.

Layings of the Book of Life

The Layings reflect whether or not and to what degree the apprentice was able to see the cause, rewrite their Book of Life and give away the symptoms. Has the apprentice received a clear, accurate, psychic, and prophetic reflection of awareness?

The Layings of the book are not a reflection of the process but rather a measure of the progress and they alert the Dance Chief to what is needed in the healing as well as give indication also of what could be the apprentice's follow-up. How much empowerment and how much of their Mirror of Self Reflection have they seen? The Dance Chief must discern the degree to which the apprentice was able to see the cause, rewrite the Book of Life and give away the symptoms. Has the apprentice received a clear, accurate, psychic, and prophetic reflection of awareness for him/herself.

The two mirrors are reflections of the 6th and 7th Energy Mind Bodies (EMB) of the apprentice. These EMBs are in the apprentice's inner council at the Children's Fire. These are the mirrors you see in the Layings. What is getting reflected here is the clarity (or lack of clarity) in the connection to the higher self. The Mirror of Self Reflection is our Inner 18, our Magickal Mysterious Character. Cracking the Mirror of Self Reflection happens when we are no longer limited to physical form. This begins with Shield Deaths in all of the 5 aspects. It is reflected in the process of our soul's shield configuration. We are not limited to an identity of the self but are truly connected with the Great Mystery. These Mirrors of Self Reflection are also what reference the portals in the East – *"Portal of Mirrors, especially the mirrors of self-reflection..."*

A mirror casts a reflection of awareness. Therefore, when we look around us in the world, what are the things that reflect? Anything that casts a reflection can be a "mirror" in the Layings.

Free-Thinking – Essential to Effective Interpretation

We cannot do valid interpretation without free thinking – and this has an alchemy of its own – the thinking must be done within Sacred Law, using knowledge that works within the Steps of Creation to open spaces of memory and illumination.

We must apply valid, factual, knowledge that works when we are interpreting symbols – especially those given through the Karma Pipe. These are worthy of extensive and intensive study and exploration:

- The elements
- Colors and powers of the four directions
- Medicine of the Animals
- Star Maidens Circle
- Twenty Count(s)
- Teachers
- Twelve Imaginings

- Thirty Sacred Laws
- Magician's Working Laws
- She Thoughts
- Seven Values

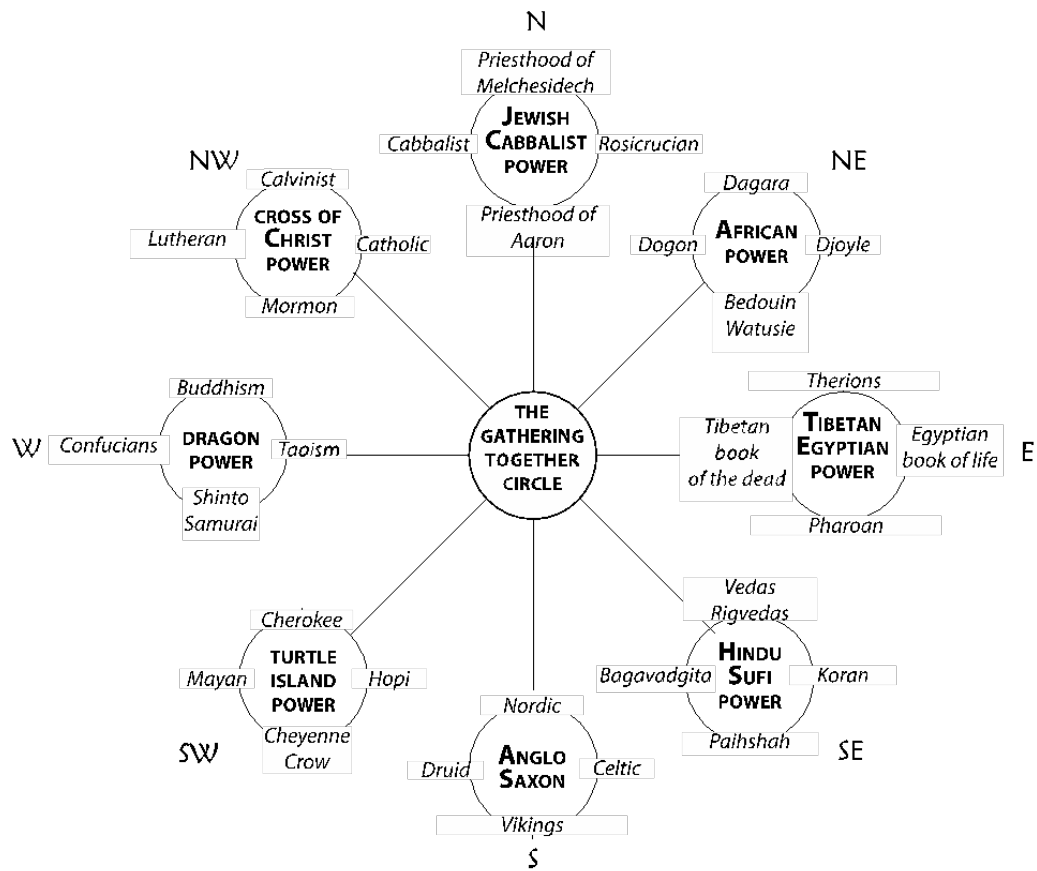
And More to Understand the 18-Pipe

A clear, strong 18-Pipe is coming from the interconnections between at least three other significant lifetimes. The 18-Pipe is connected into the stream of 18 within the Akashic Records. It gives those images that address the soul's choices within these lifetimes as they are related to this lifetime. This Pipe has its vision on the solution to all healings, the potential for change through productive and procreative patterns that create a dharmic lifestyle.

The images through the 18-Pipe will be direct guidance to the apprentice, addressing changes that are needed within their measure of self-acceptance, self-deservement, self-worth, self-love, and self-respect. They may be strongly confrontational in order for the apprentice to accept the healed self-image.

The 18-Pipe is focused on the apprentices' potential for change. It reveals that this affliction is a spiritual opportunity to awaken memory of the sacred image of the apprentice. The images are archetypal messages from the soul. It illuminates what remains outside the awareness of the apprentice. It holds what has been learned from the past and integrated into the memory cells of this apprentice for this incarnation. The 18-Pipe speaks the voice of the apprentice's inner council, their spirit personality that speaks as a dharmic commander within the Natural Self and the Elder Shield.

In addition to the prerequisite knowledge listed above, we must also learn and embrace the symbols of the Eight Great Powers and each of their archetypes.

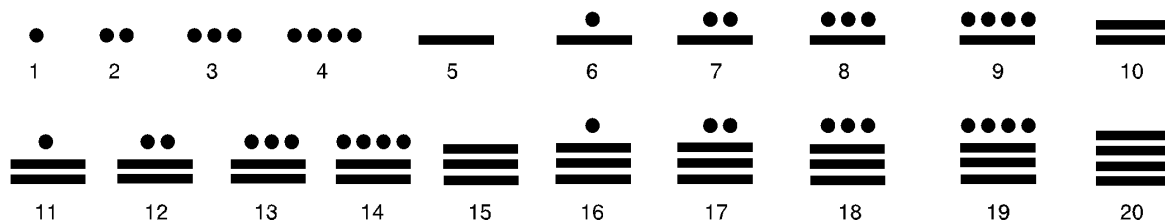


Two More Keys for Working with Symbol Interpretation

The Dot-Bar Method of Counting – a Symbolic Method of Counting

0 is a circle that appears to be nothing. However, it is actually the potential for the creation of all forms of all things. Zero is, in fact, the Everything. The minute zero moves (implodes and explodes or inhales and exhales), the form changes and one is created. 1 is light. Each time light moves the vibration changes and different forms of different things appear.

Using the dot-bar method of counting allows us to represent, assimilate, and see the movement and progress of light-energy. It is a shamanic language that utilizes the dots (fingers) and bars (a closed fist) in counting. The pattern is easily recognizable.



The Seven Steps Applied to the Twenty Count

•	1. Focus	enlightenment, knowledge, pleasure
••	2. Substance	introspection
•••	3. Form	life
••••	4. Determination	balance, alignment
—	5. Understanding	communication
—•	6. Imagination	self-love
—••	7. Freedom	spiritual sexual eros (that is the desire to live)
—•••	8. Pattern	image, pattern
—••••	9. Chaos	choreography
==	10. Completion	artistic originality
==•	11. Cosmic Focus	memory, recall
==••	12. Cosmic Substance	actualized memory
==•••	13. Cosmic Form	the green, Earth Mother (not the planet)
==••••	14. Cosmic Determination	the blue, Earth Father, Father Sky
===	15. Cosmic Understanding	Universal Mind, all matter is us
===•	16. Cosmic Imagination	Enlightened Ones
===••	17. Cosmic Freedom	Dream Teachers
===•••	18. Cosmic Pattern	Magickal Teachers
===••••	19. Cosmic Chaos	Breath of Life, implosion-explosion
====	20. Cosmic Completion	The Great Spirit

Exercises to Develop our Ability to Interpret Images

Creating a Sigil as a Statement of Truth

To create a sigil, a statement of truth, takes several steps:

1. Take a snapshot of the image
 - a. Translate what you see accurately
 - b. Translate what you hear accurately
2. Scan for what is important
 - a. Activate your peripheral vision
 - b. Expand the image
 - c. "Pie" the scene by "slicing" the expanded image into small sections and then scanning each section (slice of the pie) moving back and forth, outward and inward.
3. Break down each component and identify the medicine of each part/element
4. See the interconnection of the parts and simplify the pieces into a whole story
5. "Sigilize" it: get to the heart of the matter or the essence of the message/image
6. Communicate your understanding of the truth you discerned

Engage with others in this process:

- Divide into triads: one does the steps and speaks what is seen; the second does NOT look at the image but hears the communication and "sigilizes" it; the third is an objective witness and gives feedback on what was picked up, translated, and where assumptions or projected pretenses were inserted into the sigil.
Take turns so all three have at least one chance in each role.
- Repeat this exercise but this time add one or more tools to assist in the process:
 - Identify where your 7 and 17 are in your current Book of Life Reading and add these contracts to your Master Contract, Nagual Arrow of Renewal and Trinity of Self prior to beginning the working
 - Put your Pipe together with your intent to learn how to glean into an image and discern the essence of its meaning.
 - Add the conjuring of Saturn (either spoken once or spoken as a set). Saturn projects all symbols, sigils, and archetypes. Guided by Saturn we have the opportunity to interpret symbols and sigils, awaken into our dream with an open mind and access the greater spaces of understanding meaning and purpose. When we conjure Saturn we are asking that all symbols be opened, that images be clear, and that the archetypes show up as teachers for us to learn and grow.
- Engage in dreaming exercises to extend attention, deepen awareness and train your inner eyes:
 - Dream into your monitor skull
 - Dream into a mirror with candles
 - Give yourself Warrior Task Assignments to develop your inner eyes.

A Gleaning Exercise using the Sand and Body Paintings

Preparation

For each direction of the Sand and Body Paintings, prepare the following:

- Symptom and Cause spins
- The four Triangles of the Problem Resolution Triangle
- The Pyramid of Self.
- Highlight the Cause Triangle. Create a simple statement of cause, “it has something to do with....”

For each chakra, note the following question or statement of focus. Consider these to be the “target” of the image.

- 10th Chakra reflects the “healed self”
- 9th Chakra reflects what the apprentice must now choose to do. How can they illuminate the illusion at work when they chose this illness?
- 8th Chakra reflects the healed body in the before; what will be there when they change the pattern?
- 7th Chakra shows the potential dream power
- 6th Chakra symbolizes the spiritual perception necessary for change to occur
- 5th Chakra reflects the communication, which begins within and is then taken out into the world
- 4th Chakra shows what must be taken into careful consideration to remove the emotional pretense and/or to gain pure energy in motion
- 3rd Chakra shows what is needed for the soul vine and fibers to be in proper arrangement and configuration
- 2nd Chakra is what the apprentice must do to dedicate him/herself to gaining awareness and walking their Path
- 1st Chakra reflects what is needed to increase their sexual catalyst and initiate artistic originality

Gleaning to find the “magick image”

A magick image is a proper alchemical ceremonial truth translated as a composite of symbols.

1. Take an image and break it down into raw symbols. Translate the image into symbols that are meaningful to you – as though you are the Dance Chief and it is your job to interpret them. Follow these steps:
 - a. Look at the whole image first before breaking it down into its component parts.
 - b. Scan all the way around the image – go around it clockwise starting south. This is called a “clock sweep” or a “compass scan”.
 - i. Use your fibers and your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd eyes. Your fibers will add your 10th eye.
 - c. Now put the image away. You must be able to be a good critical observer witness of an objective reality occurrence and that means you have to take a photograph of it in your mind.

- i. Draw its essence.
 - ii. When complete, check it against the given image.
 - iii. How accurate were you? This helps you to track how you assemble symbols and process your life experience!
- d. Now summarize the basic gist this painting represents.
 - i. Use no more than 6 sentences. “Sigilize it” – what is the combined energetic communication? What is the message of this painting?
To sigilize it is to take the image back into a story that can be clearly understood by the apprentice in a simple structure. The sigilized message must still have the heart of exactly what is necessary to describe that image in its totality.
 - ii. Even as you simplify the message (that is, as you sigilize) you are also amplifying the independent symbols so that you get to the heart of the matter.
- 2. Cross check what you get against the pure symbol translation that has been used for thousands of years.
- 3. Now adjust your “target”, just like in shooting.

An Advanced Working

1. Create a chart of the Ten Chakras listed according to the 10 Steps of Creation or 0-9 Law.
2. Review the basic teachings of the chakras in the ***Shamanic Wheels and Keys, Volume 1***.
3. Review the section on the Various Roles of Symbols and Images for the Sand and Body Paintings above.
4. Remember, the body paintings illuminate the chakra to reveal the purpose or cause of the affliction. Look up the chakra in each of the directional body paintings and list the key message of these images.
5. Summarize the information you have gathered in steps #2-4 by filling in the chart you created at step #1. Then ask yourself these questions:
 - a. What do you now know about this chakra?
 - b. When the Dance Chief asks for an image for this chakra, what is the “window” through which the Chuluamadahey is speaking this image? What do you now know about this matrix?
 - c. Identify the key words that anchor this chakra for you.
6. Explore how you might articulate this when communicating with various and different apprentices in a healing ceremony.

Training Exercise in Interpreting 18-Images

Identify a minimum of two gods/goddesses from each of the Eight Great Powers and find a simple statement of the essence of their “medicine”. When they appear as gate guardians or inside the image stream, what is the key to their message?

The following list contains BEGINNING samples – it is by no means comprehensive but gives some clues for a Healing Dance Chief or DCiT's personal self-study!

Samples in Each of the Eight Great Powers

South

- The God Thor, the god of thunder whose hammer would crush even the strongest opponent.
- Freyja, fertility goddess who helped the crops grow, provided good catches for the fishermen and came to the aid of women in childbirth. A goddess of magic and riches had a famous necklace made of gold by the dwarfs and a cloak of feathers. She also stood for sexual freedom and was known to have many lovers.
- Cernunnos – the horned one with ears and antlers of a stag, and known to be the lord of the beasts. A god of plenty and fertility, a shape-changer and could take on the form of a snake, wolf, or stag.
- Epona – goddess of the earth, usually shown with a horse (often white and mostly having lots of vigor and strength which was translated into fertility).

Southwest

- Glooskap, the creator and trickster (Algonquin) made the sun, moon, plants, animals and people from Mother Earth's body. He banished evil spirits. Could change shape to fight opponents.
- White Buffalo Calf Woman or Ptesan Win, the bringer of the Pipe to the Lakotas. It was carved with a buffalo calf and adorned with eagle feathers.
- Thunderbird is like an enormous eagle that can swoop down from the sky and carry away any living creature, even something as large as a whale. When he blinks his eye, his eyes make lightning flash, when he beats his wings, it thunders. May travel with a pair of lightning serpents which become his belt and harpoon. Although he can kill in a flash, he is considered a sign of good luck and wealth.
- Changing Woman is the Navajo's supreme creator goddess who created people using a mixture of corn dust and skin from her breasts. She sends fresh breezes and life-giving rains. She represents nature and birth, growing old and then young again in a continuing cycle.
- Spider Woman is a Hopi spirit who brings good fortune. She helps those in peril and advises on healing the sick. She teaches weaving and how to solve problems.

West

- Kuan Yin, the goddess of mercy. In China she is worshiped because she helped childless couples conceive and heal the sick. She is also a patron of travelers and farmers and protects the souls in the underworld.
- Amaterasu, the sun goddess, plunged the world into chaos and darkness when she hid in a cave. She was lured out and the sunshine was restored.
- Dragon Kings – Lung Wang – were gods of rivers, lakes and the four oceans. Dragon kings represented wisdom, strength, and goodness. Protectors of ferrymen and water

carriers, they were said to punish anyone who wasted water. They brought rain, and if angered were said to bring fog and earthquakes.

- Buddha

Northwest

- Not likely to have gods/goddess but rather saints, mystics, and archangels
- St. Francis
- Julian of Norwich
- Women in the Bible
- Jesus

North

- Not likely to have gods/goddess – do have some sacred teachers and symbols

Northeast

- Yoruba, goddess of the earth and fertility. She is often depicted with many children around her.
- Ogun, the god of iron, helped in the creation of the earth. He did not want to be a king, preferring to live as a hunter.
- Anansi, the trickster spider was born a man but was kicked into a thousand pieces. He (with his wife) tricked and captured the python (by tying him to a branch), the leopard (in a pit), the hornet swarm (into a gourd) and Mmoatia, the spirit (tricking her into slapping a doll that they had smeared with gum) so that he could obtain the stories from the supreme god Nyume.

East

- Sekhmet is a goddess with a woman's body and a lion's head. She delivered the punishments of the gods
- Ra (Ra-Atum), the sun god, has a falcon head and sun disk on his head. He emerged from the water or from a primeval lotus flower. He is the Creator.
- Isis wears a crown of cow horns and a sun disk. She created the Nile from her tears. She is the mother of Horus.
- Horus, the falcon-headed sky god whose eyes were the moon and the sun. Horus guided souls in the underworld and protected the pharaoh.
- Anubis is the jackal-headed god of embalming and cemeteries. He presided at the ceremony of weighing the heart of the deceased to find out whether that person had led a good life.
- Thoth is the god of moon and wisdom and portrayed with the head of the ibis whose curved beak represents the crescent moon. He invented many intellectual pursuits, such as astronomy, geometry, magick, medicine, and music as well as inventing writing. He wrote down the names of all the souls and looked after the scales in which the hearts of the deceased were weighed.

- Bastet, first portrayed as a lioness but later as a cat, is the goddess of sexuality and childbirth.

Southeast

- Shiva is the destroyer, an all-knowing punisher of the wicked. He has four arms and a third eye on his forehead from which fire comes, making everyone shrink away in fear. Shiva took many forms: violent yet protective, active yet thoughtful, creator and destroyer.
- Vishnu preserves the universe and is its stability. When the world is under threat from some force of evil, Vishnu appears in one of his avatars (incarnations) to protect it.
- Ganesh is the god of good luck.
- Sarasvati became the goddess of creative arts and language, inventing Sanskrit. She receives all words as the ocean receives all streams. She is the goddess of poetry, music, learning and science.
- Lakshmi is the goddess of good fortune and giver of wealth. A goddess of perfect beauty, she is usually portrayed with two arms but sometimes four arms.

And just for Fun – Stretching our Free-Thinking

Let's look at the North of the Ten Twenty Counts called **"The Sacred Symbol Count"**. See page 100 in *Shamanic Wheels and Keys, Volume I*.

Symbols are the first step in the formulation of ideas into concepts, into images and then philosophies. They form the underlying structure of any and all belief systems. When the Twisted Hairs Elders use the word **sacred symbol**, they are speaking about archetypes, images from the unconscious mind. Symbols by themselves reside in the subconscious mind; sacred symbols are archetypal images from the unconscious mind; magickal symbols are held within the collective conscious and collective/universal unconscious (or void) mind. When the word pure is attached to a power (see the Sacred Symbol Count below), it means that this energy is within Sacred Law. It is, in fact, in absolute alignment with all of the Thirty Sacred Laws.

This Sacred Symbol Count therefore requires the use of our Iarien, and to glimpse each power's meaning we need to utilize free-thinking and open unlimited imagination.

This is the least discussed Count on the path. When the Grandmother and Grandfather Societies do their prophetic dreaming, they conjure through this Count.

The Sacred Symbol Count

0 is named as the Great Mystery.

Experienced by us in 3rd Dimension as

- 1 Sacred Time
- 2 Sacred Quodoushka (spiritual sexuality)
- 3 The Four Sacred Powers of the Four Directions
- 4 Sacred Harmony and Balance

Held within 4th Dimension

- 5 Sacred Invocation and Evocation of Magick

Residing in the 5th Dimension

- 6 Sacred Transformation of Spirit to Substance; Substance to Spirit
- 7 Reality versus Real Symbol to Vision "Actualization"
- 8 Chuluamah to Chulua or Karma to Dharma
- 9 Choreography of all Energy Movement
- 10 Universal Collective Unconscious and Conscious Intellect
- 11 All Sacred Spheres with Human Life (life forms)
- 12 All Non-Life Spheres (non-life forms)

Known as 6th Dimensional Energies

- 13 Receptive-Creative Energy (female force of life)
- 14 Active-Conceptive Energy (male force of life)
- 15 Sacred Thunder and Lightning Spheres (all substance forms)
- 16 Pure Spirit Energies
- 17 Pure Dream Energies

Known as 7th Dimensional Energies

- 18 Pure Magick Energies
- 19 Pure Breath Energies
- 20 Universal Laws Sphere of Pure Orgastic Light

Symbols are the building blocks for us to process our life's experience. They open our experience into finding our meaning and purpose. Symbols, images and sigils open our belief systems allowing us to relate within the world of Spirit and create our own reality through this connecting link with Intent.

Thunder Strikes repeatedly encouraged us to play with the Twenty: add, subtract, multiply, divide, overlay them on any and all other Wheels. Engage with the Twenty Powers in this way and we get to engage with mystery, magick and the secrets of life. See page 108 in ***Shamanic Wheels and Keys, Volume I*** for a sample of this kind of "playful engagement".

The North Count is Understood through the Northeast Count

You will see on pages 100 and 101 in the ***Shamanic Wheels and Keys, Volume I*** that each of the eight counts listed there are partnered: the East Count is understood through the Southeast, the West through the Northwest, the South through the Southwest, and the North (the Sacred Symbol Count we are addressing here) is best understood through the Northeast Count – and vice versa! This is a direct invitation to pair these counts into a relational story.

For example, Sacred Time is understood through the Sun; Sacred Quodoushka (spiritual sexuality) is understood through the Earth, etc. Do this for the entire twenty and see what new insights light up inside your mind 😊. For those who know the Energy Light Movement Wheel, you will also know that this Northeast Count is most often depicted on the Energy Light Movement Wheel's positioning rather than a basic 20-Count wheel. This offers you an even greater opportunity to deepen your awareness of the mystery and magick held within all states of consciousness..

You are invited and encouraged to create your own stories, open your own door to free-thinking, and engage with the Universe as a symbol-dance of creativity.