

# THE WORLD OF RELIGION AND MAGIC

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## DIFFERENT BELIEFS

- **RELIGION**
  - A SET OF ATTITUDES, BELIEFS, AND PRACTICES PERTAINING TO SUPERNATURAL FORCES, WHETHER THAT POWER BE FORCES, GODS, SPIRITS, GHOSTS, OR DEMONS
- **THE SUPERNATURAL**
  - POWERS BELIEVED NEITHER TO BE HUMAN, NOR SUBJECT TO THE LAWS OF NATURE
    - SUCH BELIEFS CAN VARY GREATLY FROM SOCIETY TO SOCIETY

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## ANOTHER UNIVERSAL ELEMENT

- **HOMO SAPIENS' BURIAL SITES SHOWED EVIDENCE OF A BELIEF IN THE AFTERLIFE**
- **THE UNIVERSALITY OF RELIGION MIGHT BE EXPLAINED BY FOCUSING ON FOUR HUMAN NEEDS:**
  - THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND
  - A REVERSION TO CHILDHOOD FEELINGS
  - HUMAN ANXIETY AND UNCERTAINTY
  - THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY

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# VARIATIONS

- **TYPES OF SUPERNATURAL FORCES**
  - "MANA" AN IMPERSONAL FORCE
  - "TABOOS" THINGS UNTOUCHABLE
  - "ANIMISM" A BELIEF IN SOULS
  - "ANIMATISM" A BELIEF IN IMPERSONAL SUPERNATURAL FORCES WHICH PRECEDED THE CREATION OF SPIRITS
- **SUPERNATURAL BEINGS**
  - GODS
    - BEINGS OF NONHUMAN ORIGINS
  - SPIRITS
    - BENEATH GODS AND CLOSER TO PEOPLE AND OFTEN REMAIN UNNAMED
  - GHOSTS AND ANCESTOR SPIRITS
    - SUPERNATURAL BEINGS WHO WERE ONCE HUMAN

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## CHARACTER OF SUPERNATURAL BEINGS

- THE SUPERNATURAL WORLD OFTEN PARALLELS THE NATURAL
  - GOD AND "FATHER" AND HIS "CHILDREN"
- THE SUPERNATURAL HIERARCHY
  - MONOTHEISTIC NOTIONS
    - BELIEF IN A "ONE GOD" SYSTEM
  - POLYTHEISTIC NOTIONS
    - BELIEF IN A "MANY" GODS SYSTEM
- INTERVENTION OF GODS
  - HUMANS OFTEN TURN TO GOD OR GODS WHEN ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN THE UNEXPLAINABLE
    - A PERSON MAY SEARCH HIS OR HER MEMORIES TO FIGURE OUT WHEN HE OR SHE VIOLATED SOME TABOO TO BRING SUCH BAD LUCK UPON A FAMILY
  - HUMANS OFTEN REQUEST DIVINE INTERVENTION
    - WEATHER, SICKNESS, SAFETY IN TRAVEL, AND SO ON ARE OFTEN CONCERNS TURNED OVER TO A GOD OR GODS
- LIFE AFTER DEATH
  - MANY CHRISTIANS DIVIDE THE DEAD INTO TWO DISTINCT GROUPS:
    - THE "SAVED" AND THE "UNSAVED"
    - LIFE AFTER DEATH STUDIES IN THE WEST DEMONSTRATE SIMILARITIES IN REPORTS

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## RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

- **PRAYER**
  - ASKING FOR SUPERNATURAL HELP
- **PHYSIOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE**
  - DOING THINGS WITH AND TO THE BODY AND MIND
  - USE OF VARIOUS DRUGS TO BRING ON VISIONS
- **SIMULATION**
  - MANIPULATING IMITATIONS OF THINGS
  - "DIVINATION" IS A TERM THAT REFERS TO THE FACT THAT HUMANS TRY TO GET SUPERNATURAL FORCES TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE
- **FEASTS AND SACRIFICES**
  - EATING OF SACRED MEALS THAT CARRY GREAT SIGNIFICANCE
  - SACRIFICES MAY RANGE FROM ANIMAL AND HUMAN TO PERSONAL SACRIFICES AS WAS TO BARGAIN FOR INDULGENCES



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# MAGIC

- **MAGIC**
  - THE BELIEF THAT HUMAN ACTION CAN COMPEL THE SUPERNATURAL TO ACT IN SOME PARTICULAR AND INTENDED WAY
- **SORCERY AND WITCHCRAFT**
  - SORCERY INCLUDES THE USE OF MATERIALS, OBJECTS, AND MEDICINES TO INVOKE SUPERNATURAL MALEVOLENCE
  - WITCHCRAFT ACCOMPLISHES THE SAME ENDS THROUGH THOUGHT AND EMOTION ALONE
    - THIS MAKES WITCHCRAFT VERY DIFFICULT TO PROVE OR DISPROVE
- **TYPES OF PRACTITIONERS**
  - SHAMAN
    - PART-TIME SPECIALIST WHO HAS FAIRLY HIGH STATUS IN THE COMMUNITY AND IS OFTEN INVOLVED IN HEALING
  - SORCERERS AND WITCHES
    - LOW STATUS IN COMMUNITY AND CAN BE FEARED SINCE THEY ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE SOURCE FOR ILLNESS AND DEATH
  - MEDIUMS
    - ASKED TO HEAL AND DIVINE WHILE IN TRANCE-LIKE STATES
  - PRIESTS
    - OFFICIATE AT PUBLIC EVENTS

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## TECHNIQUES USED BY HEALERS

- **THE NAMING PROCESS**
  - IF A DISEASE OR SITUATION HAS A NAME, THEN IT IS CURABLE AND THE PATIENT REALIZES THE DOCTOR UNDERSTANDS THE CASE
- **THE PERSONALITY OF THE DOCTOR**
  - THOSE WHO SEEM TO SHOW EMPATHY, NONPOSSESSIVE WARMTH, AND REAL INTEREST GET RESULTS
- **THE PATIENT'S EXPECTATIONS**
  - THE PATIENT LIKES TO SEE THOSE THINGS THAT INDICATE SUCCESS BE IT A LONG TRIP TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE, OR CREDENTIALS HANGING ON THE WALL AND HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT
- **CURING TECHNIQUES**
  - VARIOUS TECHNIQUES CAN BE USED OR CALLED UPON TO HELP CURE THE PATIENT
    - FROM THE LAYING ON OF HANDS TO HAVING AN M.R.I.

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## RELIGIOUS CHANGES AS REVITALIZATION

- **REVITALIZATION MOVEMENTS**
  - EFFORTS TO SAVE A CULTURE BY INFUSING IT WITH A NEW PURPOSE AND NEW LIFE
    - RETURN TO TRADITIONAL WAYS OF WORSHIP
  - THE SENECA AND VISIONS
    - RULES TO REFORM BEHAVIOR
      - TEMPERANCE
      - PEACE AND SOCIAL UNITY
      - PRESERVATION OF TRIBAL LANDS
      - PROACCULTURATION
      - DOMESTIC MORALITY
  - THE LAKOTA SIOUX AND THE GHOST DANCE
    - REVITALIZED THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OLD WAYS AND THE ANCESTORS WITH THE LIVING MEMBERS OF THE TRIBE

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