

Opening extract from
**The Wizardology
Handbook: A Course
for Apprentices**

Contributions by
Dugald A. Steer

Published by
Templar

All text is copyright of the authors and illustrators

Please print off and read at your leisure.

AFRICAN SHAMANS

Medicine men or witch doctors.

The shamans of Africa are often misunderstood.

THE SHAMANS OF CENTRAL AFRICA have a great love of elaborate costumes, often donning masks, headpieces and other paraphernalia to perform their spells, and accompanying the reciting of the spell itself with all manner of dancing and mumbo-jumbo. This is entirely unnecessary but, along with their unfounded reputation for commanding evil spirits, has led them to be greatly feared, especially by strangers. This often works to the wizard's advantage since he tends to be left alone to hone his powerful healing skills. Instead of being constantly pestered by those seeking magical cures for the most minor of ailments.

Like their counterparts, African shamans often choose a familiar animal to represent them. Leopards are especially popular choices, although elephants, rhinoceroses, and even hippopotamuses have been known. The latter are not to be recommended, however, as the main reason for being unapproachable, coupled with having a very slow bite.



TABLE OF SKILLS

Animation	2	
Transformation	3	
Healing	5	This reputation for being able to heal all illness has led to their alternative name of "medicine men."
Affecting	5	Can affect the behavior of others with ease.
Divination	1	
Familiar		Can, legend, choose occasionally one of the larger African mammals such as the elephant, rhinoceros (rarely).



INDIAN FAKIRS

Among the wisest of all wizards, fakirs avoid all involvement in worldly affairs.

OF ALL THE WIZARDS OF THE WORLD, the fakirs of India are amongst the most mysterious. Little is known of their magic since they rarely speak, often choosing to remove themselves from the everyday world and instead spend months in curious pursuits such as balancing on one leg, or laying on a bed of nails. This helps them to focus their minds and concentrate their wizardly powers so that whenever they do speak it is to utter only words of the purest wisdom.



TABLE OF SKILLS

Animation	1	
Transformation	2	
Healing	4	
Affecting	2	
Divination	5	This tremendous wisdom also helps in the way—if you can get them to talk.
Familiar		Snake, particularly cobra.



GREAT SNAKES

The fakir often shows all human passions, wearing nothing, and wearing only rags. However, as with all wizards, fakirs recognize the value of having a familiar and often choose a snake, particularly a cobra. They are also masters of the art of sphynxancy—a form of divination involving the reading of signs assumed by observing a pit of writhing snakes.

NORTH AMERICAN SHAMANS

The greatest of healers, the vast open spaces of the New World are home to these master healers of the magical world.



THE SHAMANS OF NORTH AMERICA have a deep understanding of the natural world. They can talk to almost all species of animal and know the uses of most types of plant, preparing healing potions and poultices from ancient recipes. Instead of recording their knowledge in books, it is passed down orally. Similarly, these powerful workers of true magic tend to shun the elaborate trappings of modern life, choosing simple stones, bones, sticks or feathers as their magical items, endowing them with enormous power through use of their ancient spellcraft. They are also masters of the art of dream-catching and can control the dreams of others. If you suddenly start dreaming of herds of buffalo you may have been unknowingly in contact with a shaman.



*Round and round the totem pole:
Many shamans focus magical force by dancing
and chanting round a pole, known as a totem.*

TABLE OF SKILLS

Animation	2	
Transformation	5	Able to taking the form of many types of animal, groups of shamans sometimes form herds.
Healing	5	Poultices and potion guides.
Affecting	7	Rarely used for anything other than talking to animals.
Drumming	2	
Familiar		Eagle, crow, owl, hawk or other bird, occasionally bison, buffalo or bear cub.



Feathered Friends:
Shamans often choose birds as their familiars. Eagles, crows, owls and hawks are all popular choices; the newly introduced chicken is also gaining favour, as its eggs are useful for healing.

FITTING SPELL

Cast from a fire three pinches of dried juniperwood, four cloudberries and the tail feather of an eagle who has flown three round the sun and chant:

Fly me to the moon.
Fly me to the sun.
Fly me to the stars.
My long path begins.
You will be able to fly like an eagle when darkness falls.



NORTH AMERICA