

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

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# 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 reading of the spell itself with all manner of dancing and music-jambos. 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 western counterparts, African shamans often choose a familiar animal to represent them. Lions, leopards, crocodiles are popular choices, although elephants, rhinoceroses, and even hippopotamuses have been known. The latter are not to be recommended to any but the most experienced since they have a reputation for being uncontrollable, coupled with having a very short life.*



## 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		Lion, leopard, crocodile, occasionally one of the large 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 work if you can get them to talk
Familiar		Snake, particularly cobra



## GREAT SNAKES

The fakir often shuns all human possessions, 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 hypnotism—a form of divination utilizing 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 *hobbits* 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 pole you go!*  
Many shamans focus magical force by dancing and chanting around a pole, known as a *totem*.

## TABLE OF SKILLS

Animation	2	
Transformation	5	Ability 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, or usually like 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 into a fire three pinches of dried turbotweed, four cloudberries and the tail feathers 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 bones will be gone.

You will be able to fly like an eagle when darkness falls.

