

MAY THE MYSTERY OF SHAMAN'S "VOCATION" BE UNCOVERED?

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Summary

Using his own original field data collected in Tuva (South Siberia) in 1950-1983 as well as the methods of psychoanalysis and the results of modern psychiatric investigations, the author offers the new concept of the shaman "vocation" which involves the idea of the genetically fixed neurotic deformation of the shaman's personality and explains the mystery of the shaman's self-recovery in course of his cult activity. The presentation of the paper is accompanied by the demonstration of graphic illustrations, photographs and audio records of the shaman magic practices. For the purposes of limited comparison the images of shamans in the Bronze Age South Siberian petroglyphs are presented and discussed.