

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES, THE PLANETS AND THE DAYS OF THE WEEK

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The seven principles of Hawaiian Adventurer Shamanism form a complete series. They, along with their corollaries, are a complete code of attitudes and assumptions necessary to the work of the modern-day shaman.

Personally, I was drawn by the suggestion to meditate on one principle each day, going through the entire series each week. As a professional astrologer, a thought ran through my head: could the seven principles be equated with the meanings of the seven classical planets in astrology--the Sun, the Moon and the five visible planets--and thereby with the days of the week that they rule? A bit of contemplation showed me that they, in fact, can correspond perfectly, adding a new layer of meaning.

First, some background. Many ancient peoples made use of a seven-day week, a way of dividing the visible cycle of the lunar month into quarters. The Sumerians of the ancient Near East (where some say astrology began) may have been the earliest to see the seven-day week as possessing an astrological significance. The ancient Israelites also made use of a seven-day week, ending on Shabbat, the holy day of rest.

During the reign of the first Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus (27 B.C.-A.D. 14), the Romans adopted the seven-day week, assigning each day to a major Roman deity. Their Sunday and Monday were the days of *Apollo* and *Diana*, rulers of the Sun and the Moon. Tuesday was ruled by *Mars*, Wednesday by *Mercury*, Thursday by *Jupiter*, Friday by *Venus* and Saturday by *Saturn*.

The Romans ruled England, part of the island they called *Britannia*, for four centuries. When they left in A.D. 410, Angles, Saxons and other Germanic-speaking tribes from the north of Germany were already settling there and would continue to do so for some two hundred years. They adopted the Roman calendar and assigned their own equivalent deities to the days. Sunday and Monday were the days of *Sunna* and *Mani*--Sun and Moon. Tuesday was named for *Tiw* (pronounced T'YOO), a one-handed god of single combat and the equivalent of the war god Mars. Wednesday was *Woden's* day (known in Germany as *Wotan* and among the Vikings as *Odin*.) Like *Mercury*--the messenger of the gods--*Woden* was a god of communication, speech and writing and gifted mankind with the runes, the earliest Germanic alphabet.

Thursday and Friday were given the Anglo-Norse or Viking forms of the names. (Parts of England were ruled by Danish kings from the ninth to the eleventh centuries.) Thursday was

Thor's day. Like *Jupiter* he was a powerful god of storms who wielded the lightning bolt and could use it as a weapon. *Freya*, the goddess of love, became the patron of Friday. The Roman god *Saturnus* remained the ruler of Saturday (the Anglo-Saxons having perhaps no close equivalent.)

But it would be an error to view these correspondences as merely arbitrary. They correlate in fact to the actual energetic qualities of the days of the week. Sensitive people are sometimes able to feel these qualitative differences. (I once knew a fellow in Germany who stated in an interview in a newsletter that he could sense the differences in the quality of light on the different days and that the differences equated with the planetary attributions.)

The seven shamanic principles can also equate perfectly with the astrological meanings of the seven planets.

IKE--The world is what you think it is--corresponds to the *Moon*. The Moon rules not only feelings and emotions but also the imagination, magic, the world of dreams (and illusions), memory, habits, the unconscious and the past. Our belief systems are anchored in our past experiences and the memories we retain of them. The more unconscious these core beliefs are, the more they mold us and determine the timeline we follow. Changing these habitual belief systems so that they work for us, rather than sabotaging our efforts, is one of the major tasks of the budding shaman. The magic of belief is what draws our desires into manifestation and imagining new possibilities can be a most liberating experience. Our dream of life changes for the better.

KALA--There are no limits--corresponds to *Jupiter*. The king of the gods brings meaning and significance--the big picture. Commonly associated with expansion, Jupiter enables us to constantly discover new meaning by going beyond the limits we have previously known. *Jupiter* is also associated with faith, hope, growth and optimism--all characteristics of the collapse of limitations and the vision of new worlds to explore. Anything now seems possible.

MAKIA--Energy flows where attention goes--is mercurial in nature. Our capacity for logic and reason, following the thread of an argument or anything else with mental interest, is under the rulership of *Mercury*. He links our thoughts together and enables us to direct our attention. But *Mercury* is amoral--he is also the god of con artists (who have the 'gift of gab') and thieves. It therefore requires consciousness to rightly focus our attention along the proper channels and hold it there, avoiding distractions.

MANAWA--Now is the moment of power--relates to the planet *Mars*. Our energy, our drive and courage are characteristics of *Mars*. He wants what he wants and he wants it now. Healthy aggression, competition, libido, the sex drive--all are *Mars* in action. The determination to reach our goals is activated when we put aside all procrastination, express

our power and act here and now. (A remedy for procrastination: I once met a man whose personal motto was "Do it yesterday!" He was successful in life.)

ALOHA--To love is to be happy with--corresponds to *Venus*, the goddess of love and pleasure. To contemplate things of beauty, to enjoy, to celebrate with others, to show affection--all these are Venesian. *Venus* is "in love with love." And it includes a healthy sense of self-love or self-appreciation.

MANA--All power comes from within--is the meaning of the *Sun*. The *Sun* is our inner core, our vital sense of our Self. (When we define ourselves astrologically we first take note of our sun-sign.) Ideally, we grow through our life-experiences into beings capable of expressing an integrated Self. This inner sense of the Self, characterized by focused purpose, is the source of our personal power.

PONO--Effectiveness is the measure of truth--corresponds to *Saturn*, the Great Taskmaster and tester. *Saturn* is physical reality, laws and rules--the place where 'the rubber meets the road' and everything is tested in the clear light of effectiveness. In the same way that the rings surround the planet, Saturn gives us (agreed-upon) limits and boundaries (and often protects us from our own follies.) To serious *Saturn*, 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating.' He also provides us with the perseverance necessary to reach our goals (and with the disillusionment that enables us to realize that we have to go about things another way.)

Consequently, one might meditate each day on the corresponding principle. In this fashion the qualitative energies of the days of the week will reinforce the meanings of the principles (be in aloha with them, so to speak) and possibly provide new insights.

The plan would thus run:

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| SUNDAY | All power comes from within. |
| MONDAY | The world is what you think it is. |
| TUESDAY | Now is the moment of power. |
| WEDNESDAY | Energy flows where attention goes. |
| THURSDAY | There are no limits. |
| FRIDAY | To love is to be happy with. |
| SATURDAY | Effectiveness is the measure of truth. |

[Note from Serge Kahili King: This very interesting paper shows how flexible the Principles can be, even though the system presented does not correspond at all to Hawaiian culture or traditions. Hawaiians used a lunar calendar and counted the month in nights, not days. They also divided the month into three 10-night periods, and the names of the nights varied by island and district. What's important, though, is that the system described by Douglas Barker is not only workable, but useful. The Principles are not chained to one culture. They are universal ideas, and any way you organize them that benefits you is valid.]