

Enhancing Ayni Between the Community and the Shaman One Possible Future after 12/9

The Ayni Council interviewed Christina to help us formulate an idea about what a healthy Ayni relationship between the shaman and our new LMCommunity will look like. A complete documentation of that “juicy” interview is underway. However, we would like to share some points right now so that we as a community understand how our shaman will be helping us after 12/9.

After 12/9

Christina will be freer to help us with our person and community problems. Her energies will no longer be depleted by managing workshop production and actively leading LMCommunity growth.

As our shaman, Christina is in relationship with everyone in the community until someone walks away from the Cycle work. Her energy is always engaged in our dreams, thoughts, etc. As in traditional cultures the shaman is on call 24 hours a day. The shaman dreams everyone’s dreams. The shaman is engaged in her own and everyone’s NOR.

For instance, after a fire ritual Christina’s OR is in chaos for two weeks. Her dreams are entwined with the ritual participants. After the half moon ritual her OR and NOR energy returns to normal. However, if people have not completed the half moon ritual Christina’s dreams and theirs remain engaged. This is an example of the baseline relationship between the shaman and the community. In addition the shaman is also available when people ask for help.

What Christina will be better able to do after 12/9 is to track and work with each of us in the transformations that are initiated in the workshops. Christina said: “I was only engaged when things went wrong. As a result most workshops, at best and rarely, get completed and integrated at 50%. I would like to see the majority of people engaged in every workshop completing and integrating at 85-90% or more. I would like that to become the norm. This is the most crucial thing we are gaining in this transformation.”

Ayni in our Community

We have an intimate Ayni connection between our shaman, our community and ourselves. We only think of intimacy in relation to love in social and sexual relationships. Christina said: “In shamanism we are engaged in relationships with the shaman and each other that are both ‘spiritually intimate’ and ‘energetically intimate.’ We must learn what both of these mean and tend to the Ayni on both levels. They are not the same.”

It is critical to honor our intimate relationship on both levels with each other. This intimacy will grow even stronger as Christina is free to do her true shamanic work and as our community thrives. Because of this we shouldn’t do anything to each other we wouldn’t do to a lover. This especially applies to how we treat the shaman.

Community members are out of Ayni balance with the shaman and the community when

a member projects their mirror issues onto the shaman, or onto other members. The shaman works to keep in integrity, not abusing power. Community members also need to do this.

We all owe a cosmic debt to the cosmic order. The full pay is to live our soul's purpose. What we are doing forces us to intimately connect. It forces us to be in right Ayni relationship with each other and the shaman.

Reciprocating Ayni

As the shaman is supporting us individually and as a community, how do we reciprocate in a loving Ayni way?

Respecting Christina's time is an important way of honoring the shaman. Before calling Christina for help, ask "Does this question have to be answered by the shaman? Can I journey? Can I do mirror work? Can someone in the community help out?"

If the shaman is needed, emails are an easier way to communicate. If a session is needed Andrea will schedule it. Andrea is instructed to give community members' requests top priority.

In addition, the Ayni relationship of the community in supporting the shaman includes always being aware of what help the shaman needs. For instance New York community members support the shaman on every visit by attending classes and talking to newer people, answering questions, explaining Cycle work and the LMCommunity.

Christina ended the interview by explaining the Ayni gift she is receiving from the community. "When I see you all transforming, it nourishes me. I am joyful about seeing people with the ability to take on responsibilities at workshops, setting up shrines; seeing people do journeys for each other; seeing EYL calls where people help each other do personal work. This affects the container. It honors the shaman's work."

The Ayni Squad
October 2009