

Excerpt

Membranes of Hope: A Guide to Attending to the Spiritual Membranes that Keep Lifecosystems Healthy from the Personal to the Cosmic

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Introduction

A Universe of Nested Membranes

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I am now a diviner¹. After I met Domenica, my great-grandmother, in the cave, she began to teach me the ways of the Strega and led me to a stick divination where I was “claimed.” I write about my journey toward becoming a diviner more fully in my book, *The Amazon Pattern*. It is important that you understand who I mean when I speak of the wedeme and their particular form of divination—stick divination.

¹ A diviner can see into the spiritual dimensions to inform, assist, and heal; a seer.

According to the West African form of divination I am initiated into, the wedeme are the elemental beings² of the wild. In this tradition, to be a stick diviner, one must merge consciousness with one or more of these sweet and lovely beings. This “merge” is carried out in an initiation ritual. The initiation ritual takes place after receiving multiple stick divinations and doing the work that comes through, or is prescribed, in those sessions. This can take anywhere from one-and-a-half to five years. There are many other forms of divination in this tradition but the medicine one acquires when they are merged with the wedeme is stick divination. One literally sits on a stool and holds a stick from a tree. The client sits on a stool across from them and holds the stick as well.

When one comes to a divination for personal reasons, they are told what they most need to know about the beings who are with them in the other dimensions (ancestors, guides, animal allies, elemental beings) and their life purpose. The wedeme look at who they are on a soul level and what is happening in their life currently, and communicate to the diviner how to bring those two back into alignment. Ancestral work is a large part of this system of divination, which is based on the belief that we are a culmination of those who came before us. We need their help and they need ours. Rituals are prescribed for healing and restitution. My great-grandmother led me to this form of divination probably because of its strong connection to the ancestral realms and its intimate relationship with the wedeme. Through Dagara stick divination, I was able to restore my own lineage to myself and my family. And now I help others do the same.

When I am divining, I am listening to the wedeme and translating what they are saying. They are mediators between me and other spirits. They are connectors and weavers. They understand the “warp and weft” of the cosmos and can see where there is fraying. They have an interest in weaving it all back together. They love us humans and wish to help us. And they love the Earth. She is their home and their mother. They see that humans are the ones who can effect change for and on the Earth at this time, so they are pushing for us to reconnect with them and our own lineages at a rapid pace.

After working for a while as a diviner and having a community begin to form around the work, a new style of divination emerged which we call *Group Theme Divinations*. In Group Theme Divinations, a group comes together and listens to what the wedeme have to say about certain subjects

² The elemental beings are the wee folk: fairies, elves, gnomes, and trolls in European lore, known by various names in other cultures. You can learn more about them in chapter 17 of this book, my Tree Medicine Trilogy and at stregatree.com

we wish to learn more about. One person divines (a different one every time) while other diviners actively participate.

For two years, in Group Theme Divinations the wedeme taught us about the importance of tending to the many layers of “membranes” that enclose and protect lifecosystems. Feeding and caring for these membranes is crucial and urgent work for medicine people at this time on the planet. This book will explain what is meant by the use of the word “membrane” and more fully explain this concept.

These membranes span the microscopic and extend out into the galaxy, enclosing other galaxies, other dimensions, other realities, and times. The Holographic Principle—which emerged, surprisingly, from the equations of string theory—points to the unseen presence of layers or “skins” in the universe. The skin itself is intelligent and contains holographic codes and patterns that create what is alive within it. This is a fundamental cosmic reality. These skins act as a sort of barrier, called an “event horizon,” beyond which current scientific instruments cannot penetrate. These are also membranes.

Those of us working in the fields of other kinds of perception (including divination, channeling, psychic reading, ritual, meditation, midwifery, death work, and shamanism) can “see” and perceive these other realities. In fact, it is interesting to think of other ways of seeing as the ability to penetrate the dimensional membranes. Between and beyond the membranes and event horizons are entities that are alive and can be interacted and collaborated with.

The membranes and their health are what this book is concerned with. We can participate in keeping healthy and strong the barriers, skins, and holographic walls that are essential for life to exist.

The membrane is a fractal reality. Fractals are infinitely complex patterns that are self-similar across different scales.

The membrane, as a container and protective barrier holding within it a precious and separate interior, is a self-similar occurrence across all scales of physical and non-physical reality.

Membranes exist at the spiritual, energetic, and physical levels. There are membranes within membranes within membranes. Consider a human body or an ecosystem and all the layers and overlapping membranes held within them. The strength and health of each membrane affect the strength and health of the whole. We need the membranes at each level and scale to

be healthy and strong to keep lifecosystems healthy. Membranes hold all in integrity and wholeness.

Membranes nurture, feed, and inform what is within them as the within feeds and supports the membranes.

We want to keep the membranes elastic and supple and not allow them to become frayed or hardened, as that compromises all that is within them. At this time on the planet, as medicine people, this is our work—becoming aware of these membranes and working toward nurturing and repair. We must learn once again how to keep them healthy and strong to protect the lifecosystems within them. The largest part of a medicine person's work is tending to the membranes, the containers of life, the wombs with wings.