Shamans & Priests
Religious Specialists

Kenneth Feldmeier
feldmekj@lavr.edu
feldmekj.weebly.com
What’s the difference between Shamans & Priests?

- Hard to distinguish sometimes
- Shamans and Priests not always that different
- Sometimes perform the same tasks
Korean Shaman Performing an Exorcism
The Exorcist (movie, OG)
What Makes A Shaman?

- Receives power(s) from spirit world
  - This can happen at a young age via a calling
  - Or later on, maybe through a trance
- Can gain healing powers from:
  - Ability to channel the supernatural
  - Altered states of consciousness
Shamans Role’s in Society

- Has many roles:
  - Healer, keeper of myths, & master of spirits
  - Individual Practitioner
  - Doesn't owe an obligation to a groups within the society
  - Usually considered an equal
Who is the Dalai Lama’s main Dude?
Questions

1. How do the trance states from the Holy Rollers video compare to the Dalai Lama’s Nechung Chung Oracle trance state? Explain the similarities or differences between the trance states we observed in class.

2. Do you believe that trances can give our culture information? Why or why not?

3. In most cases of illness, Westerners visit a physician rather than a religious specialist. What ways does the behavior of a physician resemble that of a religious specialist?

4. Why does our culture fear hallucinations and/or Shamans?

5. Do animistic cultures allow for Shamans to be more excepted by certain societies?
Priests

- Priests authority established by a religious organization
- Specialized training
- Organizes group events — usually rituals
- Uses Authority to bring public in contact with the divine