

ABSTRACT

A Quest for the Intangible: An Analysis of the Shamanic Journey in Wilson Harris's *The Guyana Quartet*

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This study, 'A Quest for the Intangible: An Analysis of the Shamanic Journey in Wilson Harris's *The Guyana Quartet*,' argues that Wilson Harris employs aspects of the shamanic quest to portray characters' path to psychic integration and healing since the 'cosmic/psychic' journey parallels significant and discernible stages of the shamanic visionary quest. The study is guided by Harris's theoretical views of fiction, Jungian psychology and the perspectives of experts in the field of shamanism. The findings are organised into three chapters, each corresponding to a major stage of the shamanic quest. The first chapter demonstrates that the preliminary stage of the characters' psychic journey is akin to the initiatory pattern of the shaman's spiritual journey and Jungian individuation. The second shows that the initiate shamans in *The Guyana Quartet* must endure the traumatic sacrifice of their ego-consciousness in order to attain psychic renewal and spiritual wisdom. The final chapter illustrates the ways the protagonists are 'cured' or achieve psychic integration and become healers in their communities.

Keywords: Shareed Mohammed, Wilson Harris, Carl Gustav Jung, shamanism, psychic integration, crisis, quest