

ON CEREMONY

THE INTENTIONAL PREPARATION AND EXECUTION OF A RITUAL EVENT

WHAT IS CEREMONY?



Ceremony is the **intentional** preparation and execution of a ritual or event.

- It marks the opening or closing of a particular time in life.
- Identifies what was *before* the ceremony, and what will come *after* the ceremony.
- Opportunity to find meaning in the stress of either a planned or unexpected transition.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF CEREMONY?



Ceremonies have been around for <u>thousands of years</u>. Today, we still have ceremony, though often without intention. Examples include:

- Birthdays
- Weddings
- Funerals
- Celebrations
- Commiserations
- Holidays
- etc

Think about these ceremonies & ask yourself:

When they have felt intentional? What made them intentional?

THE DISTINCTION AROUND THERAPEUTIC CEREMONI LEARN. GROW, HEAL, TOGETHER.

Therapeutic Ceremonies are designed to explore inner emotion and experience around this 'portal' between what was, and what will be. Examples include:

- Vision Quests
- Death Lodges
- Fire Rituals
- Night Vigils
- etc

HOW DO I MAKE A CEREMONY FOR MYSELF?



- Start by thinking about important transitions in your life that either:
 - Are coming up / occurring now
 - You haven't felt closure with from the past
- Bring these thoughts into our sessions together and we can design a ceremony that is right for you. Our focus will be on:
 - Therapeutic preparation
 - Intention Setting
 - Creating a proper container

REMEMBER ...



ALL CEREMONIES ARE UNIQUE - YOU GET TO DESIGN ONE THAT WORKS FOR YOU AND YOUR GOALS



REFERENCES



Al-Krenawi, A. (1999). Integrating cultural rituals into family therapy: A case study with a Bedouin-Arab patient in Israel. *Journal of Family Psychotherapy*, 10(1), 61–73.

Allen, K.N., & Wozniak, D. F. (2014). The Integration of Healing Rituals in Group Treatment for Women Survivors of Domestic Violence. *Social Work in Mental Health*, 12(1–6), 52–68.

Campbell, J. (2004). The hero with a thousand faces (Commemorative ed.). Princeton University Press.

Hill, N. R. (2007). Wilderness Therapy as a Treatment Modality for At-Risk Youth: A Primer for Mental Health Counselors. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling*, 29(4), 338–349. https://doi-org.proxy006.nclive.org/10.17744/mehc.29.4.c6121j162j143178

Mercer, J. (2014). Alternative Psychotherapies: Evaluating Unconventional Mental Health Treatments. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Plotkin, B. (1950-). A. (2003). Soulcraft: crossing into the mysteries of nature and psyche / Bill Plotkin. New World Library.

Shapiro, E. L., & Ginzberg, R. (2002). Parting gifts: Termination rituals in group therapy. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, *52*(3), 319–336.

Thomas, V. (2020). Towards a deeper integration of creative methods in counselling: some thoughts about frameworks for practice. *British Journal of Guidance & Counselling*, 48(1), 21–29. https://doi-org.proxy006.nclive.org/10.1080/03069885.2017.1394443