The Soul of Shamanism is an academic, postmodern examination of New Age attempts at shamanism, in which Noel proposes some alternative paths for the Euro-American seeker. Noel has an interesting style: he "speaks" to the reader in the first person, as though he is telling a story, and yet, much of the book is a review of literature. The book is a serious attempt to strengthen the connection between imaginal psychology and shamanism. But if we wish to strengthen the practice of what Noel calls an "authentic western shamanism," he leads us in exactly the opposite direction from which we should go. It is presumptuous of Noel to suggest that Merlin should be some kind of spiritual figure for us. He has missed the whole point of universal, organic shamanism. 