

Beyond Rites and Rituals: Understanding the Essence of Korean Shamanism in Contemporary Society

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ABSTRACT

The world of Korean shamanism is made up of ancient rites and practices that serve as the foundation for its age-old customs. This study explores the origins, evolution, and rituals that are woven into the fabric of shamanistic rites, identifying their significance in spiritual healing, communal cohesiveness, and the preservation of Korea's cultural legacy. Within the field of Korean shamanism, rituals and practices facilitate powerful spiritual experiences, promoting both individual and group healing, strengthening ties to communities, and preserving Korea's cultural heritage. The objective of this study is to conduct a thorough analysis of shamanistic rituals to reveal the consequences of accessing spiritual worlds, building communal resilience, and maintaining Korean culture. The implications of this study contribute to understanding the complex ways in which shamanistic customs continue to influence Korea's spiritual and cultural identity today.

Introduction

Korean shamanism, often referred to as "Muisim" or "Mugyo," is a fundamental aspect of Korean culture and spirituality, with an extensive history across the Korean peninsula. Its origins date back to ancient Korean historical records and combine elements of Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism with native beliefs. Because of its syncretic character, Korean shamanism embodies a distinct fusion of ancestor worship, heavenly respect, and animism. Today, shamanistic rituals continue to exist in Korea despite its numerous historical and social changes, serving as a living example of Korea's resilient culture. The exploration of Korean shamanistic ceremonies is crucial to revealing multiple facets of Korea's cultural fabric. These customs act as channels for maintaining the nation's identity while also offering insights into the spiritual aspects of Korean values. As Korea continues to change in response to modernity and globalization, shamanism reflects its past and present. Its rituals hold significance beyond religious and spiritual spheres; they affect interpersonal relationships, communal cohesion, and individual well-being.

This study methodologically investigates shamanistic traditions to shed insight into the influence that certain rituals and practices within Korean shamanism have on spiritual healing, community cohesiveness, and cultural preservation. This research project also aims to establish a link between tradition and modernity by evaluating the applicability of shamanic activities in light of the contemporary issues and dynamics that Korea experiences. Within the rich field of Korean shamanism, rituals and practices facilitate powerful spiritual experiences, promoting both individual and group healing, strengthening ties to the community, and preserving Korea's cultural heritage. By conducting a thorough analysis of these rituals, this study reveals the importance of accessing spiritual worlds, building resilience, and maintaining Korean culture.

Historical Context of Korean Shamanism

Origins and Evolution

According to Jinsoek (2019), “Shamanism is usually perceived to be a form of belief, a mixture of animism and totemism, thus given a variety of appellations such as paganism, a national religion” (p. 28). Korean shamanism’s ancient origins trace back to the Korean peninsula, existing even before its written history. Based on archeological findings, it is possible that shamanic rituals developed spontaneously in prehistoric Korean societies as individuals attempted to communicate with the spirits they thought to be present in the natural world (Kendall, Yang, & Yoon, 2015). Korean shamanism became formalized when these animistic ideas came together to create an organized system of rites and ceremonies. Shamanistic traditions changed and developed throughout the years, incorporating aspects of Korea’s cultural and historical heritage.

The Impact of Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism

The development of Korean shamanism is closely linked to the rise and fall of external influences, most notably the significant influence of Taoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism—which migrated to Korea from China. The emergence of Confucian ideas and indigenous shamanistic rituals during the Three Kingdoms period marked the beginning of cross-cultural, trans-religious interactions. Buddhism’s subsequent expansion influenced ceremonial manifestations and brought fresh insights into the divine sphere, further molding the features of Korean spirituality (Kendall, Yang, & Yoon, 2015). Shamanism incorporated ideas from various intellectual traditions in a nuanced dance of syncretism, creating a rich and intricate fusion that defines its modern practice.

Throughout Korean history, shamanistic rites resonated with Confucianism’s focus on societal peace and respect for ancestors, fostering harmonious cohabitation. In a similar vein, shamanistic rituals incorporated Buddhist ideas of transcendence and meditation techniques into their ideologies, leading to levels of reflection and symbolism (Lee, 2015). Shamanistic views of the unity of spiritual and material domains were influenced in part by Taoism, with its emphasis on natural order and balance. Rather than weakening the core of shamanism, the melding of varying religious views enhanced shamanism’s flexibility and continued applicability.

Social and Cultural Dynamics

Korean shamanism is a dynamic force ingrained in the social and cultural dynamics of the Korean people, not a static artifact from the past. Shamans have traditionally served as community leaders, healers, and spiritual advisers. Their impact penetrated multiple facets of everyday life and went beyond the spiritual sphere (Lee, 2022). Shamanistic rituals became essential as they were deeply intertwined with monumental life events such as marriages, births, and funerals, establishing a place for the common people within their cultural spectrum. Shamans had powerful roles in Korean culture as intermediaries between the spiritual and material worlds. Their function as intermediaries between the spirits of nature and ancestors aided society’s pursuit of harmony and balance. The cohabitation of the visible and invisible was welcomed in the shamanic worldview, which promoted a comprehensive comprehension of the human condition.

Moreover, via the rituals and ideas that individuals shared, Korean shamanism served as a social glue. Celebrations and festivals developed into platforms for group expression that strengthened feelings of connection and identity. Shamans’ presence and direction often affected the social dynamics of villages and communities, resulting in a spiritual undercurrent that ran parallel to daily life (Lee, 2022). The role of shamanism changed as Korea encountered the implications of globalization and industrialization. While some view shamanism as a nostalgic tradition, others find a source of cultural resilience in it. In recent years, a cultural renaissance that aims to honor and conserve Korea’s

spiritual legacy has been highlighted by the emergence of Korea's revived interest in its ancient rituals. Essentially, Korean shamanism is still a live practice that influences modern Korea's culture and has endured through the decades—as both a positive and negative entity. As Kim (2022) states,

Korean society in present times has paradoxical views on shamanism. On the one hand, there is the perspective of shamanism being a deceptive superstition. On the other hand, shamanism is perceived as a representative cultural archetype; this positive perspective of shamanism has emerged relatively recently. (p. 139)

As a largely Protestant and Catholic society, Korea's complex relationship with shamanism reflects sentiments that have existed for centuries. Perhaps because of the cultural influence shamans embody, Korea's numerous religions have always harbored resentment of its superstitious nature. Superstitions, however, continue to persist despite resistance.

Types of Shamanistic Rituals

Within the complex fabric of Korean spiritual practices, shamanic rituals take on several shapes, each with a unique function and meaning. Park (2017) observes that Korean shamanism refers to a “Korean folk religion” that was structured toward “helping people solve human problems” via rituals that invoke spirits (p. 109). As a result, this study incorporates an exploration of three basic types of shamanism rituals: divination practices, ancestral rites, and healing ceremonies.

Divination Practices

Spirit Communication

The deep act of spiritual communion is at the heart of Korean shamanistic divination rituals. Shamans, also called “mudang” or “mugan,” serve as a bridge between the world of the dead and the world of the spirits. Shamans enable connection with spirits, ancestors, and holy beings via complex ceremonies that include chanting, rhythmic drumming, and trance-like states (Lee, 2022). The messages that are sent during these encounters give directions on a wide range of issues, including personal, communal, and even broader social challenges. They are also thought to offer valuable insights into the spiritual world.

Role of Shamans as Intermediaries

The shaman has a crucial role in Korean shamanism as a go-between for the worlds of the living and the dead. The shaman enters a trance during divination rites to create a direct link with unseen powers, going beyond the limits of the physical world (Torri, 2016). This communion is more than just a ceremonial practice; it is ingrained in the idea that shamans can enter and exit worlds that are closed off to ordinary people, instilling them with singular powers. As a result, a community's decision-making processes benefit from the spiritual direction obtained from these divination rituals.

Ancestral Rites

Honoring Ancestors

In Korean shamanism, ancestral ceremonies create a mercurial connection between the living and the dead. These rites, which are rooted in a deep regard for one's ancestry, include the adoration of ancestors via ceremonies performed

at ancestral altars, or "jesa." Paying respect to one's ancestors is more than just following cultural customs; it symbolizes a spiritual connection and acknowledges the deceased's ongoing impact and presence in the lives of the living (Park, 2017). Offerings are carefully organized to express appreciation and preserve a peaceful connection with the ancestral spirits. These include food, drink, and symbolic offerings.

Rituals for Ancestral Guidance

Ancestral ceremonies are not just an act of respect but also a means of utilizing past knowledge to advise the present. Shamans perform ceremonies to speak with ancestral spirits in their capacity as intermediaries between realms. Seeking the blessings and counsel of ancestors is deemed essential for key life events like marriages, births, and crucial choices, which is why these ceremonies remain especially significant today (Park, 2017). The idea that ancestors are still actively involved in their descendants' lives emphasizes the importance of family ties in Korean shamanic rituals.

Healing Ceremonies

Spiritual Healing

In shamanistic healing rituals, physical and mental health are inextricably linked to spiritual well-being. Shamans use a wide range of rituals, including exorcisms and cleansing rites, to rid individuals of evil spirits or other negative energies that they think are the source of their illnesses (Park, 2017). Shamans traverse the spiritual realms to find and treat the underlying causes of disease using trance-like states and ceremonial instruments. The holistic approach to treatment emphasizes the connection between spiritual and physical domains and takes into account the needs of the individual as well as the larger community.

Herbs and Traditional Medicines

Herbs and medical procedures are often used in Korean shamanistic healing rites in addition to spiritual treatments. Shamans are healers who use ancient medicines and herbal cures. They were reputed to have knowledge of both the physical and spiritual worlds. A holistic view of health that acknowledges the complex interactions between the physical body and the spiritual self is reflected in the mix of spiritual rituals and herbal remedies (Pecic, 2020). The flexibility and practicality ingrained in Korean shamanic traditions are revealed through this integrated approach to healing. Essentially, the many shamanistic practices underscore the essential function of shamans as intermediaries, healers, and defenders of cultural continuity in addition to reflecting the complex and multidimensional character of Korean spirituality. This study investigates the roles played by ancestor rites, healing ceremonies, and divination techniques in Korea's spiritual, social, and cultural fabric.

Recognizing Spiritual Illnesses

A key component of the tradition, Korean shamanic activities have a strong potential for spiritual healing. In Korean shamanism, the shamanistic diagnosis is a complex procedure that requires the practitioner to cross the borders between the spiritual and material worlds. Shamans, who are sometimes thought of as bridges between the material and spiritual realms, use a variety of methods to diagnose spiritual illnesses that individuals are suffering from (Pecic, 2020). These might include divination techniques, trance-like experiences, and the interpretation of symbolic visions. Spiritual diseases are not limited to individuals; in fact, they impact society as a whole, since shamans were perceived as advisors who could identify disruptions that might jeopardize the overall health of communities.

Meaning in the Diagnosis

In shamanic diagnosis, symbolism is essential. Practitioners decipher omens and signs to identify the spiritual difficulties that individuals or groups face. Animals, the elements, and objects that hold cultural importance are examples of common symbols. A thorough comprehension of the shamanic cosmology that has been handed down through the

ages is necessary to comprehend these symbols (Yoo, 2018). For example, seeing a certain bird during a ceremony may symbolize many things—it could indicate the presence of good spirits or portend imminent difficulty. The healing rituals that follow are guided by the shaman's interpretation of these symbols, which match the spiritual demands that the diagnostic procedure reveals.

Instruments and Relics for Healing Ceremonies

Intricate performances are used in Korean shamanic healing rituals, which are often complemented by an abundance of ceremonial implements and artifacts. These devices act as channels for spiritual energy and allow individuals to communicate with the hereafter. Common components include drumming, chanting, and rhythmic dancing, which provide a ceremonial environment that is restorative. The ritual's power is further enhanced by the shaman's clothing, which is embellished with symbolic symbols (Mills & Park, 2017). The cultural and spiritual importance of each instrument and relic adds to the healing experience's immersive quality. The significance ingrained in each gesture and instrument used contributes to the rituals' effectiveness in addition to the activities carried out.

Healing on a Spiritual and Physical Level

Korean shamanistic rituals are centered on the close relationship between spiritual and bodily healing. The rituals are based on the understanding that both worlds are interdependent and that bodily diseases are often a manifestation of spiritual disharmony. To bring peace back to the individual or society, healing rituals address both aspects at the same time (Mills & Park, 2017). In addition to taking on the role of a healer, shamans are spiritual guides who help people navigate the complex web of energy that connects the visible and invisible realms. Engaging in these rituals often results in deep feelings of spiritual rejuvenation and empowerment, in addition to the relief of physical problems. Essentially, Korean shamanic spiritual healing rituals provide a comprehensive methodology that recognizes the complex interactions between the spiritual and material aspects of human existence. Individuals and groups embark on transformative journeys toward healing via shamanic diagnosis and the rituals that follow. These journeys are led by the wisdom that is inscribed in the symbolic language of shamanistic traditions. Such practices offer a distinctive viewpoint on the nature of healing within the larger framework of Korean spirituality. Their effectiveness stems not only from their cultural richness but also from their ability to handle the intricacies of the human situation.

Community Unity Using Shamanistic Techniques

Celebrations and Festivals

Shamanistic rituals in Korea are essential for promoting communal harmony, as they create complex connections between individuals within a shared spiritual and cultural framework. The celebration of festivals is one of the main ways that shamanic rituals support communal togetherness. These gatherings act as hubs for community involvement, uniting individuals from various backgrounds in a common spiritual expression (Astor-Aguilera, 2014). The celebrations are immersive experiences rather than just spectacles, with the lively colors of ceremonial garments, the rhythmic dance of shamans, and the repetitive pounding of drums creating a multisensory tapestry for everyone to see. In these instances, individuals transcend their separate identities and integrate into a more expansive, linked totality. The united, ritual involvement strengthens the community bond that transcends Korean culture and creates feelings of collective belonging.

Comparable Cultural Identity

With its origins in antiquity, shamanistic celebrations have evolved to represent a common cultural identity. They act as living archives of cultural legacy, offering future generations a place to discover and absorb ancient beliefs, legends, and folklore. When a community participates in shamanistic rituals, it reinforces a common identity that transcends geographic or family ties (Fedorenko, 2018). These celebrations serve as anchors, maintaining a feeling of pride in

one's ancestry and a sense of community in a world that is changing quickly and where cultural homogeneity may be a powerful influence.

The Social Roles of Shamans

Resolving Conflicts Through Mediation

Shamans have a special place in society as spiritual peacemakers who greatly aid in resolving disputes among their communities. Shamans are often called upon by people seeking spiritual direction and mediation during times of strife or disagreement. The shaman's viewpoint extends beyond the community's immediate material problems because of their capacity to interact with spirits and reach heavenly regions (Koudela & Yoo, 2016). Shamans address the spiritual roots of disputes via rituals and divination, seeking answers that go beyond simple placation. In this capacity, shamans play the role of mediators, settling conflicts both on the surface and on a more profound, spiritual level.

Promoting Social Peace

Beyond mediating disputes, shamans actively support the continuous upkeep of societal equilibrium. The regular performance of these rituals acts as a metaphysical tapestry through which the connectivity of individuals within the greater social system is reinforced. Shamans provide a framework for comprehending one's place in the collective by recognizing the spiritual aspects of communal life (Koudela & Yoo, 2016). This understanding fosters collaboration, empathy, and mutual support, as it is based on shared spiritual experiences. Shamanic activities, in essence, turn into an ongoing conversation with the invisible forces that mold societal dynamics, encouraging feelings of accountability and connectivity among community members.

This study concludes that shamanistic rituals create a sense of community that is purposeful and essential to Korean culture, extending beyond its religious rites. While shamans perform societal roles that go beyond the spiritual to actively aid in communal peace and dispute resolution, festivals and festivities serve as vibrant manifestations of Korean cultural identity. The function of shamanistic activities in community formation is evidenced by their continued relevance in forming the collective consciousness of the Korean people, even as they navigate the challenges of modernity.

Cultural Preservation Through Rituals

Korean shamanism, which has a strong historical foundation on the peninsula, is essential to the preservation of the rich cultural legacy of the country. This study explores the role that rituals play in oral traditions and storytelling, the symbolism found in shamanistic art and dance, and the wider range of rituals as forms of cultural expression.

Oral Traditions and Storytelling

The rich oral tradition that has been handed down through the decades by shamans has become the foundation of Korean shamanism. Myths, historical tales, and cultural lore are all passed down via oral storytelling. Shamans, who have the responsibility of maintaining these oral traditions, tell stories that often include the creation of the cosmos, the actions of legendary characters, and the moral thread that unites societies (Sarfati, 2016). Shamanistic ceremonies create a living archive of Korea's history through the captivating art of storytelling, guaranteeing that Korea's collective memory lives on. Shamanistic rituals include oral traditions that serve as a dynamic manner of adjusting to changing circumstances, while also providing historical continuity. Shamans are adaptable enough in their narratives to include fresh perspectives, relevant difficulties, and changes in society in their narratives, which keeps the tradition alive and well in the modern world (Hong, 2015). Hong (2015) maintains that the diverse content of shamanistic traditions is proof of their cultural and ethnic significance. A strong feeling of cultural identity is fostered as the stories are shared and reinterpreted, continuing to weave the narrative thread that unites generations.

Shamanistic Dance and Art Symbolism

Shamanistic dance and art are colorful manifestations of the complex symbolism found in Korean shamanism. The mythological stories, spiritual worlds, and Korean cultural ethos are all represented visually and performatively via the symbolic language used in various creative forms (Hong, 2015). Shamans aim to bring equilibrium between the spiritual and earthly worlds by communicating with the divine via symbolic gestures, rhythmic drumming, and elaborate dance moves. Shamans' colorful, symbolic robes are more than just fashion statements; they are deep interpretations of cosmic ideas. From headdresses to robes, every piece of clothing contains a spiritual meaning that links the shaman to the supernatural powers they call upon (Kim, 2022). Shamanistic dances, on the other hand, capture the spirit of the ceremonies via their meticulous choreography and flowing movements, transforming the ethereal into concrete representations of cultural value. Shamanistic dance and art also contain meaning outside of traditional settings: their creative genres become part of larger cultural settings, impacting not just modern cultural manifestations but also historic representations of Korean art and literature (Kim, 2022). Through the process of interpreting the symbolic language included in these creative acts, scholars can gain a symbolic vocabulary that continues to influence Korea's cultural identity.

Customs as Cultural Representations

Cultural identities are heavily influenced by historical memory; shamanistic rituals become deep cultural manifestations that capture the artistic, social, and spiritual facets of Korean society. These customs, which may range from ornate ceremonies to private family rites, function as vibrant performances that represent a community's collective consciousness (Kendall, 2016). The customs are dynamic and ever-changing, mirroring the social dynamics of the culture they are a part of. Examining shamanic rituals as cultural manifestations reveals that they are essential elements of broader cultural processes rather than isolated occurrences (Kendall, 2016). Festivals, for instance, develop into joint celebrations that go beyond the sacred and combine with the secular to provide lively representations of Korean identity. The collective involvement in rituals, the vivid variety of ceremonial apparel, and the rhythmic pounding of drums all serve as symbolic actions that strengthen the ties that bind the community and the common cultural heritage.

Shamanistic rituals provide a prism through which scholars may identify societal norms, beliefs, and goals. The community's cultural objectives are reflected in the deities called upon, the rituals chosen, and the ceremonial practices used. Through a study of Korean shamanism, scholars may learn more about how Korean society is changing, how tradition and modernization interact, and how resilient cultural practices are to outside influences by analyzing the complexities of these rites (Hong, 2022). Shamanistic rites have, in essence, preserved Korean culture by embracing a live, dynamic connection with the past, present, and future, rather than just passing down archaic information. Oral traditions, art and dance symbolism, and the many ways rituals are expressed led to the emergence of Korean shamanism as a cultural continuum, a colorful tapestry interwoven with spirituality, creative expression, and collective identity.

Contemporary Relevance of Shamanistic Practices

Rapid industrialization and globalization in Korea provide both obstacles and revolutionary shifts for the ancient foundation of Korean shamanic activities. The effects of modernization are visible in the ways individuals live now, how technology is developing, and how global cultures are becoming more and more influential (Ha, 2023). Shamanistic practices have seen changes in their perception of and relevance in response to these difficulties, which has led to concerns about their continued use in a society that is rapidly changing.

Globalization and Modernization

Traditional customs have been gradually abandoned as a result of modernization, which is characterized by urbanization and technical breakthroughs. Younger generations may find it difficult to relate to the ancient rites that are in-

grained in Korean shamanism due to their exposure to global trends and digital lives (Ha, 2023). Furthermore, individuals searching for contemporary answers to their issues may view shamanic activities as having less relevance due to the encroachment of Western ideology and consumerist ideals on Korea (Sarfati, 2021a). Despite these obstacles, the necessity to strike a balance between modernization and the preservation of cultural heritage is becoming more widely recognized. To ensure that shamanic traditions remain relevant, efforts must be made to balance tradition with modern living.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Restoration Efforts

Concurrently, there has been a notable upsurge in interest in conserving and resurrecting customary cultural traditions. Acknowledging the distinct significance of Korean shamanism as a cultural legacy, several endeavors have surfaced to preserve and advance these customs. Movements for cultural preservation, backed by local and national initiatives, seek to include shamanic rites that trace back to stories that represent Korean identity (Pettid, 2014). Events such as festivals, educational initiatives, and documentation projects are now crucial in helping Korea's younger generations, as well as the international society, develop a fresh respect for shamanistic traditions. Beyond the confines of custom, the applicability of shamanic techniques in the modern day may be seen in the field of mental health, where there is growing interest in the relationship between spirituality and psychology.

Shamanistic Rituals in the Framework of Contemporary Psychology

It is impossible to ignore the positive effects shamanism can have on mental health. The understanding of the interdependence of mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being in contemporary psychology has led to an increased interest in shamanistic rituals as possible therapeutic tools. The rituals' focus on holistic healing methods and individual connections to the spiritual world are in line with more modern, progressive psychology theories (Pettid, 2014). Shamanistic practices, with their induced trance states, symbolic components inherent in rituals, and communal characteristics, provide a unique therapeutic experience that tackles both community and individual issues.

Traditional Healing's Significance in the Modern World

In an age when medical technology and pharmacological interventions predominate, there is a growing recognition of the limitations strictly scientific approaches have on health. The holistic approach within shamanistic healing methods, which takes into account the mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of an individual, presents an alternate viewpoint that appeals to those looking for a more all-encompassing strategy for well-being (Jinseok, 2019). Ha (2023) finds,

Shamanism encompasses several topics, such as rituals, psychic healing, psychoanalysis, magic, and divination. The shaman plays a role in entering into and then returning from sacred power or unseen forces, including not only the struggle with evils but also the fundamentals of human mortality. (p. 1)

With stress, worry, and mental health problems becoming commonplace in today's culture, the ageless knowledge ingrained in shamanic traditions can become a useful tool for anyone attempting to navigate the intricacies of modern life.

This study concludes that the complex interaction between tradition and modernity shapes the present significance of Korean shamanistic activities. The difficulties presented by globalization and modernity demand adaptation, but the attempts to revive shamanic traditions and their increasing acknowledgment as cultural assets show a tenacity that stands the test of time. Furthermore, the convergence of shamanic practices with contemporary psychological theories underscores their ability to cater to the dynamic mental health requirements of people in a contemporary environment. Understanding and appreciating the modern relevance of shamanistic rituals is crucial for maintaining Korean society's spiritual, social, and cultural well-being as we negotiate the complexity of the twenty-first century.

Conclusion

Several discoveries have been made throughout this study's comprehensive investigation of Korean shamanistic rituals and practices, shedding light on the significant function these events serve within Korea's spiritual, social, and cultural spheres. Examined are divination techniques, ancestor rituals, and healing ceremonies that highlight the complex overlays that make up Korean shamanism's central components. A dynamic, interrelated system that has persisted through generations may be seen in the interactions between spiritual healing, communal cohesiveness, and cultural preservation. The findings of this study have consequences that go beyond shamanic rituals. An exploration of the relevancy of Korean shamanism reveals a great deal about the collective psyche of the Korean people by exploring the spiritual and cultural aspects of Korean shamanism. Its customs represent the adaptability of cultural traditions in the face of societal and historical change, acting as a link between the past and the present. Comprehending the importance of shamanistic rites enhances our understanding of the Korean identity by offering a perspective that generates an appreciation of the intricacies of a still very traditional society.

Limitations

Despite its contributions, limitations to this study exist—subsequent studies may investigate the geographical differences in shamanic activities in more detail, observing how local culture and geography affect ritual manifestation. Furthermore, investigating the ways shamanism is being used in modern urban contexts and how it interacts with mental health procedures might offer important new perspectives on the adaptability and longevity of Korean shamanism. Additionally, cross-cultural studies that observe shamanistic cultures across the globe may offer a more comprehensive understanding of the universality and distinctiveness of shamanistic practices. As Korean society is constantly changing, capturing the dynamic interaction between tradition and modernity remains forever relevant.

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