

7-15-2015

## *The Shaman Meets With the Man in the Moon*

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### Recommended Citation

Murphy, Joseph (2015) "*The Shaman Meets With the Man in the Moon*," *The Mythic Circle*: Vol. 2015 : Iss. 37 , Article 18.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mcircle/vol2015/iss37/18>

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien  
Albuquerque, New Mexico • Postponed to: July 30 – August 2, 2021



# The Shaman Meets With the Man in the Moon

by

Joseph Murphy

I grasp rungs of light ascending from a lilac's bud.

Passing the seven-colored mountain's peak,  
I draw a dreamer's fingers from my drum's skin:  
Through them,  
Reach the final rung.

Guided by my ancestors' marks, I step  
Through a maze  
As others would a stream.

One of my spirits hisses free before The Gate of Bones.

The bolts groan beneath that spirit's bloodied fins:  
Hinges splinter;  
The dark's gnarled echo  
Recedes.

I pass through and perch on a spoke of light.

The Man in the Moon greets me;  
Offers a silken thread  
Linked to all the souls I am to return  
To body and breath.

When I take it in my beak, I awake  
In a pine's topmost limbs  
Knowing the fullness  
Of my fate.