



What is the difference between a shapeshifter and someone who is an otherkin blend?

In a certain sense, we are all shapeshifters, although most of the changes, particularly those that happen quickly, take place on the slightly higher planes and/or involve the higher (but still lower) chakras. Our bodies, of course, start changing from the moment we are conceived. We change from amoeba-like creatures, to simple fish-like beings to frog-like beings, all while we are in the early stages of conception. And after we are born, we go from baby to toddler to child to teenager and onward until we grow old and, essentially, fulfill the cycle and then are reincarnated to become helpless infants once more. That is the first chakra. The base chakra.

On the second chakra, ruled mostly by feelings influenced by mind, by which we mean emotions, we also experience shapeshifting. A person's whole demeanor and personality and their body can seem to change when they are in love or filled with hate or intensely angry. Some people get stuck in these states, particularly hate and anger, and affect their whole being and potentially their DNA thereby.

Most of us, however, would like to get stuck in the "being in love" state, but that requires a good deal more effort. Hating and being angry are relatively easy, although hard on the body, while being in love takes real effort, although it produces wonderful benefits. In a certain way, those kindred who are seen as consistently daft, flighty and a bit crazy who are sometimes referred to as "being away with the Faeries" are really experiencing this state of lovingness on a fairly permanent basis.

And most of us change our minds and thoughts, third chakra energy, on a fairly regular basis. In fact, trying to focus requires a good deal of effort. However, the continuous mind chatter denotes but minor shifts. However, a shift of our outlook on life, a change of one's philosophy can have profound effects in the course of time that filter all the way down to the body. For mind is associated with behavior, as are the emotions, and habitual actions alter our appearance, and our being.

For the most part, however, when people talk about shapeshifting, they mean profound physical changes of the body. Werewolves popularly manifest as the prime example of this idea, although in many cases the lore holds that they don't always have the power to control their shifts. Esoterically, werewolves represent the essential nature of shapeshifting. But we might also mention puccas and other, lesser known, shapeshifting elfae.

Some might think this physical shapeshifting is a fantasy but there are genuine and recorded psychological states, including Dissociative Identity Disorder, that can involve real and profound changes to the body from one identity to another (see our book *Elven Psychology*). We are becoming, beloved. And, in most ways, we are becoming what we do/magic and the way we regularly and consistently behave/ritualize.

However, while there are shapeshifters and aspiring shapeshifters in the Elven and Otherkin community, there are also those who are blends of elfae and other types. Satyrs, fauns, centaurs and many others are mixed beings who don't shift from form to form but instead represent a new type of elfae based upon the blending of the old. Sometimes a mixture of fae and animal, sometimes a mixture of fae types.

Simultaneously, we've heard from kindred who not only relate to various sorts of elfae but who also feel one more strongly than others depending on the moment. They may feel strongly elven at one point and then faerie, and then dragon and so on and back again. It is possible that these kindred come from a mixture of elfae and other types and may be something special that we, as yet, have no particular name for, but it is also possible that they are young (as far as being elfae, which means they could be in their eighties in their current manifestation) and are still sensing their way back to their true being. They are not necessarily shapeshifters, and they may or may not be a blend of various kinds. That is for their own natures to decide about in time.

The problem is that we elfae sorts are often deeply compassionate beings, usually natural actors, and often experience a sense of simpatico with nearly every other being and creature. We frequently empathize with all manner of being and in

doing so feel quite like them for a time. We take on a sense of their being and become somewhat like them by doing so. It is rather like trying on various dresses, suits, or costumes before going out for the evening.

Still, the capacity for easy change is really a part of the elfae nature. Unlike most Men and the Normal folk for whom change is something fearful, something to be avoided and often something to fight against, even to scorn, ridicule, and persecute, we elves tend to embrace change, especially if it promises to make the world better and brings us closer to the realization of Elfin Manifest upon the Earth and among the Stars.

We elves know that change is essential to our natures. That we are in the process of evolving and part of that evolution is the increasing of light, magic and the ethereal nature of our beings. We are slowly and somewhat casually becoming Shining Ones. Each in our own way and the truth is we will never be the same again.

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