

The Making Of The Wren Library Trinity College

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a unique interdisciplinary study this book examines the british and european tradition of the wren hunt in which a bird ordinarily revered and protected for most of the year was killed around the time of the annual solstice in focusing on this ancient ritual elizabeth atwood lawrence draws on her training in cultural anthropology and biology to cast a fresh light on the complexities of human animal relationships following an introductory chapter on animal symbolism lawrence proceeds in subsequent chapters to describe the wren both as a biological entity and as the subject of numerous tales and legends to delineate the details of the wren hunt ceremony and the various meanings ascribed to it and finally to relate the ceremony to important contemporary issues in human animal interactions and current attitudes toward the living environment whereas most other studies tend to concentrate solely on human perceptions of animals and fail to include the animal s role in the relationship

Lawrence's approach shows how the participation of both animal and human determines the symbolic status of the animal which in turn influences the treatment of that animal within a particular society at a time when human destructiveness toward nature has reached tragic proportions. Lawrence contends it is critical that we understand the processes by which certain cultural beliefs in combination with observations about the natural history of a particular animal result in emotional and mental responses that may ultimately determine the fate of that species. The author argues persuasively that the wren hunt with its ancient roots, associated beliefs, and complex meanings in the preindustrialized world still has much to teach us.

Queen of the Night helps readers understand the role and power of the moon in the ancient religions, folklore, and mythology of Ireland and the British Isles and then discover how to tap that power in their daily lives. Queen of the Night is a journey into the world of Celtic cosmology, shamanism, and sacred animals as well as Celtic language, art, and culture to discover the power and centrality of the moon since the earliest times from stone circles and passage graves to the rites and customs of druids. The moon has been the symbol of the goddess and has played a crucial role in worship and celebration. In 13 chapters representing the moon's monthly and annual cycles, Nicmhacha tells the story of Celtic moon mythology as well as touching upon Greek, Hindu, and Norse traditions. Each chapter sets forth the role of the moon in Celtic tradition and culture and includes poetry, quotes, or prayers honoring the moon. At the end of each chapter, she offers meditations, ceremonies, and exercises to help readers connect with the moon and apply its power to their lives. From the world of fairies to bards, seekers, and shamans, from the moon's role in the secret meetings of women spinners to the role of sacred animals and mythic beings, Queen of the Night is a lively, informative, and transformative book for anyone who wants to understand and experience the power of the moon.

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