



Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic

By Emma Wilby

Download now

Read Online ➔

Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby

In the hundreds of confessions relating to witchcraft and sorcery trials from early modern Britain we frequently find detailed descriptions of intimate working relationships between popular magical practitioners and familiar spirits of either human or animal form. Until recently historians often dismissed these descriptions as elaborate fictions created by judicial interrogators eager to find evidence of stereotypical pacts with the Devil. Although this paradigm is now routinely questioned, and most historians acknowledge that there was a folkloric component to familiar lore in the period, these beliefs and the experiences reportedly associated with them, remain substantially unexamined. *Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits* examines the folkloric roots of familiar lore from historical, anthropological and comparative religious perspectives. It argues that beliefs about witches' familiars were rooted in beliefs surrounding the use of fairy familiars by beneficent magical practitioners or 'cunning folk', and corroborates this through a comparative analysis of familiar beliefs found in traditional native American and Siberian shamanism. The author explores the experiential dimension of familiar lore by drawing parallels between early modern familiar encounters and visionary mysticism as it appears in both tribal shamanism and medieval European contemplative traditions. These perspectives challenge the reductionist view of popular magic in early modern British often presented by historians.

↓ [Download Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Vis ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic V ...pdf](#)

Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic

By Emma Wilby

Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby

In the hundreds of confessions relating to witchcraft and sorcery trials from early modern Britain we frequently find detailed descriptions of intimate working relationships between popular magical practitioners and familiar spirits of either human or animal form. Until recently historians often dismissed these descriptions as elaborate fictions created by judicial interrogators eager to find evidence of stereotypical pacts with the Devil. Although this paradigm is now routinely questioned, and most historians acknowledge that there was a folkloric component to familiar lore in the period, these beliefs and the experiences reportedly associated with them, remain substantially unexamined. *Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits* examines the folkloric roots of familiar lore from historical, anthropological and comparative religious perspectives. It argues that beliefs about witches' familiars were rooted in beliefs surrounding the use of fairy familiars by beneficent magical practitioners or 'cunning folk', and corroborates this through a comparative analysis of familiar beliefs found in traditional native American and Siberian shamanism. The author explores the experiential dimension of familiar lore by drawing parallels between early modern familiar encounters and visionary mysticism as it appears in both tribal shamanism and medieval European contemplative traditions. These perspectives challenge the reductionist view of popular magic in early modern British often presented by historians.

Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #285597 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Sussex Academic Press
- Published on: 2006-04-01
- Released on: 2005-12-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .76" w x 5.98" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 316 pages

 [Download *Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Vis ...pdf*](#)

 [Read Online *Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic V ...pdf*](#)

Download and Read Free Online Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby

Editorial Review

Review

“Wilby’s thesis is that the image of the familiar spirit is not an elite fiction imposed by prosecutors, but represents the folk beliefs of magical practitioners—cunning folk who practiced beneficent magic, and witches who were more malevolent. She goes further, arguing that the concept of the witch’s familiar derives from ancient British animistic religion. . . . Wilby points out, correctly, that we do not think of cunning folk as mystics because they do not conform to the pious and ascetic norms established by Christian saints. The book is carefully organized and clearly written.” —Moiria Smith, *Journal of Folklore Research*

“Emma Wilby examines in abundant detail the statements in which witches and cunning folk described their encounters with spirits . . . [and] argues that these statements . . . are evidence of archaic animistic beliefs persisting into early modern times; occasionally, they hint at experiences of religious intensity comparable not merely with shamanism, but with the visions of medieval Christian mystics. This is bold stuff . . . Emma Wilby’s views challenge those of other current historians, notably Owen Davies, who sees cunning folk as far more pragmatic and down-to-earth, and Diane Purkiss, who interprets the encounters of witches with fairies as compensatory psychological fantasies. The debate between these and other scholars will be very instructive.” —Jacqueline Simpson, *Folklore*

“Wilby’s book is fascinating and well researched. It is a genuine contribution to what is known about cunning folk and lays very solid foundations for future work on the subject.” —Brian Hoggard, *White Dragon*

“Wilby valuably sets the ground for further exploration of the role and character of folk magic within community and tradition and is to be recommended for that.” —John Billings, *Northern Earth*

About the Author

Emma Wilby is an honorary fellow at the University of Exeter.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Melissa Alfonso:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even a problem. What people must be consider whenever those information which is from the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen within you if you take Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic as your daily resource information.

Donna Lacher:

The book untitled Cuning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic is the guide that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to a person. The language that creator use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The copy writer was did a lot of research when write the book, to ensure the information that they share to your account is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of Cuning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

Bess Malloy:

Cuning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic can be one of your nice books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to get every word into joy arrangement in writing Cuning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource information that maybe you can be among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into new stage of crucial contemplating.

Michael Lucius:

Many people said that they feel bored when they reading a publication. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the book Cuning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic to make your personal reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading talent is developing when you just like reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to read it and mingle the opinion about book and examining especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to start a book and read it. Beside that the guide Cuning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic can to be your brand-new friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of their time.

**Download and Read Online Cuning-Folk and Familiar Spirits:
Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British
Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby #71XT9YCIJM4**

Read Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby for online ebook

Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby books to read online.

Online Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby ebook PDF download

Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby Doc

Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby Mobipocket

Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby EPub

71XT9YCIJM4: Cunning-Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic By Emma Wilby