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Witches and Witchcraft

After the success of Harry Potter series, conceptual outlook of witchcraft has been highly glamorized in the mainstream mass media. But that was always not the case. There are dark periods in the real history of witches, which often had deadly endings. To prevent these "lawfully justified" killings, there should have been a different approach by the historians in the study of the problem. It is clear in many incidents that the historians present at the time did not record the subjective underpinnings of the witch-hunting incidents.

The early concerns related to the witches were simply not the product of superstitious behavior. Often, we see that the target of these witch hunts is either women of poor marginalized family lineage or those who practiced herbal medicine (Editors). The latter was specially targeted due to the lack of belief in the art of herbal medicine in those days, even sometimes declared as tools of the devil himself.

Many contemporary scholars often attribute the practice of witch hunts as an example of misogyny (Petherbridge). The hateful terms such as “Ancient Crone”, “Sirens” and “Old Hag” have been excessively used to express hate against the female gender. Contrary to that, Men were shown as alchemists, the dignified seekers of the truth those respect increases with the length of their beards.

Robin Briggs' analysis often clashes with the above-mentioned narratives as he bases much of his deep study on over four centuries of witchcraft trial records. His approach rooted in history stats several facts that are often ignored, such as the fact that not all the witches were very old or very young females. He concluded that the real mark of the witch was an attitude that challenged the established norms of the society to such an extent that they either appeared rebellious or aggressive (Wells).

# Works Cited

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