

## Chapter 1 : Search witchcraft kenya - GenYoutube

*This is a documentary written and produced by Deborah Moturi and directed by Basil Rotah. It was a student project that surpassed expectations and hit media waves.*

Wicca is now practised as a religion of an initiatory secret society nature with positive ethical principles, organised into autonomous covens and led by a High Priesthood. There is also a large "Eclectic Wiccan" movement of individuals and groups who share key Wiccan beliefs but have no initiatory connection or affiliation with traditional Wicca. Witchcraft, feminism, and media[ edit ] Wiccan literature has been described as aiding the empowerment of young women through its lively portrayal of female protagonists. Part of the recent growth in Neo-Pagan religions has been attributed to the strong media presence of fictional works such as the Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Harry Potter series with their depictions of witchcraft. Wiccan beliefs are currently often found to be compatible with liberal ideals such as the Green movement , and particularly with feminism by providing young women with means for empowerment and for control of their own lives. The Reclaiming Witches of San Francisco suggests that Wiccan religion represents the second wave of feminism that has also been redefined as a religious movement. Stregheria Stregheria is an Italian witchcraft religion popularised in the s by Raven Grimassi , who claims that it evolved within the ancient Etruscan religion of Italian peasants who worked under the Catholic upper classes. The pentagram is the most common symbol of religious identity. Most followers celebrate a series of eight festivals equivalent to the Wiccan Wheel of the Year , though others follow the ancient Roman festivals. An emphasis is placed on ancestor worship. Traditional witchcraft Traditional witchcraft is a term used to refer to a variety of contemporary forms of witchcraft. Pagan studies scholar Ethan Doyle White described it as "a broad movement of aligned magico-religious groups who reject any relation to Gardnerianism and the wider Wiccan movement, claiming older, more "traditional" roots. Although typically united by a shared aesthetic rooted in European folklore, the Traditional Craft contains within its ranks a rich and varied array of occult groups, from those who follow a contemporary Pagan path that is suspiciously similar to Wicca to those who adhere to Luciferianism ". Schulke, the current Magister of the Cultus Sabbati, when he proclaimed that traditional witchcraft "refers to a coterie of initiatory lineages of ritual magic, spellcraft and devotional mysticism". Satanism is a broad term referring to diverse beliefs that share a symbolic association with, or admiration for, Satan , who is seen as a liberating figure. While it is heir to the same historical period and pre-Enlightenment beliefs that gave rise to modern witchcraft, it is generally seen as completely separate from modern witchcraft and Wicca, and has little or no connection to them. Modern witchcraft considers Satanism to be the "dark side of Christianity" rather than a branch of Wicca: Christianity can be characterized as having the diametrically opposite views to these. The two major trends are theistic Satanism and atheistic Satanism ; the former venerates Satan as a supernatural patriarchal deity , while the latter views Satan as merely a symbolic embodiment of certain human traits. However, he did believe that, while "gnosis" referred to knowledge, and " Wicca " referred to wisdom, modern witches had fallen away from the true knowledge, and instead had begun worshipping a fertility god , a reflection of the creator god. He wrote that "the largest existing body of witches who are true Satanists would be the Yezedees ". Sloane highly recommended the book *The Gnostic Religion*, and sections of it were sometimes read at ceremonies. For example, they were allowed in the British Royal Navy in , [83] [84] [85] and an appeal was considered in for religious status as a right of prisoners by the Supreme Court of the United States. Rather, Lucifer in this context is seen as one of many morning stars, a symbol of enlightenment, [92] independence and human progression. Within her Order, she emphasised that her followers discover their own personal relationship with the angelic beings, including Lumiel. It played a conspicuous role in the cultures of ancient Egypt and in Babylonia. A section from the Code of Hammurabi about B. If a man has put a spell upon another man and it is not justified, he upon whom the spell is laid shall go to the holy river; into the holy river shall he plunge. If the holy river overcome him and he is drowned, the man who put the spell upon him shall take possession of his house. If the holy river declares him innocent and he remains unharmed the man who laid the spell shall be put to death. He that plunged into the river shall take

possession of the house of him who laid the spell upon him.

**Chapter 2 : 10 Bizarre Witchcraft Cases Caught On Camera 'Working' - Youth Village Kenya**

*Credit goes to the staff and institutions of Kenya Institute of Mass Communication. Enjoy this beautiful piece. This is a documentary written and produced by Deborah Moturi and directed by Basil Rotah.*

It is very hard to believe that medicine from witch doctors work, but is more like easy that a medicine from the same traditional doctor would work against you. What we rather understand very clear is that the line between science and witchcraft has remained fuzzy. Even though a handful of Africans deny the existence or belief in this kind of traditional medicines, it is a fact that witchcraft exist in Africa. We have discovered some of the weird incidences when such witchcraft related cases were captured on the camera lenses. Bees attacking a suspected thief Resident of Masindi town in Uganda were shocked after a suspected thief returned stolen items he had stolen from a resident of Kijura cell which is in the Masindi town. In what looked like a witchcraft manifestation for the good reasons, the suspect walked by his own will almost half naked carrying stolen items such as Woofer and a DVD player. The man had to return the stolen items since police could not come to his rescue, then the witch doctor believed to have cursed him poured a libation on him which made the bees vanish off. All along, the said man had been wailing with no or less help from the onlookers. This is another bizarre moment for the Kenyans again after almost a similar incident happened in Mombasa few months ago. Two naked men in Mombasa town appeared posed with a sleek car which they had stolen. The men were only healed not until a Ugandan doctor came a their mercy. It was later claimed that the whole incident was stage managed, the suspects were later arrested together with their witchdoctor. Mombasa incident Mombasa, a land of witchcraft made news once again in broad day light, in a world of social media and smartphones, you do not need to be there so that you can believe. Seeing it on social media, raw and unedited, is more than believing. Two men, who are believed to be car thieves, had their days numbered when they were shortlisted by a powerful medicine man in Mombasa. They returned with the stolen car, dancing around it in broad day light. It was fun and shame at the same time for the on-lookers. Not until the owner of the car came, with the traditional doctor who later censed them for a new life. Have a look below if seeing is believing. They are carrying snakes. Washukiwa wa uizi wa gari Mombasa wafanyiwa tambiko baada ya kupatikana wakiwa uchi LeoMashinani lofymatambo pic. People claimed on these radios to cure diseases like aids and cancer, these people have been fraudulently getting money from the public. What they all seem to agree but not say is that the lorry has not been photoshoped and it is a very sincere photo from an amateur photographer. Kisii is widely known for its traditional practice of sorcery and bewitchment and the lorry above might have carried such evil powers that suspended its fore limps. Shocked Kisii residents watch a truck with its front two Tyres in the air but with no load. They say it could be witchcraft at play. Without taking any of their valuable at home while they sleep, the trick is that they should not know you, and that makes the game even more sweeter. David Charo, Kilifi A Kilifi patient, was appealing for quick help after he was left with a tooth-brush he swallowed for 7 days. David Charo, said that the incident could be a witchcraft hunt by his enemies, but the doctors had not come to the aid seven days after he was admitted for a scheduled surgery. From the scan, the bush is lodged in his lower abdomen. It unfortunate that it slipped from my hands on Sunday. Coastal Kenya is a region known for its fair share of demons and use of traditional power. In another incident, residents could not rescue a cat that had been trapped in a water tank, as they claimed that the cat was a ritual product of a failed ritual ceremony which had become unable to reform back to human Richest Witch-doctor At first Anne Mutheu could be mistaken for a politicians wife, or to be a lucky politician so to say. But that is not the case. From owning a Ksh. While her fellows are promising riches to their customers, they are different from Anne since themselves are languishing in the same poverty, an act that raises eye-brows. That is not the case. I have three lorries, three public service vehicles, three personal cars, a petrol station and plots in Nakuru, Nairobi, Mombasa, Malindi and here in Tala. I decided to do my business differently. Clients are always streaming in seeking my services. The room has more than one set. Her clients range from politicians, businessmen to corporate bigwigs. For those customers who cannot make it to her house, they employ use of WhatsApp where they send in their pictures and their problems are sorted. Anne Mutheu says she inherited her powers from her

late mum Woman seeking Husband A Kenyan woman who was husband seeking busted a witch doctor after the said doctor had failed to secure a husband for her as he had promised. She went ahead to demand her money Nyeri cockerel After a bar had been broken in for more than 3 times in Nyeri, the owner decided to use evil powers by employing a cock to guard his premises. Car thief A man in Bungoma took himself and surrendered to the police after bees started attacking him. The man yelled for several hours until the medicines from the witch doctor were used to cure him. The man had drugged a car owner before stealing his car Man Stuck In Honeytrap Cases of unfaithful men and women getting stuck together have been reported across Nairobi and Mombasa on many occasions. It is believed to be a ritual rich in Kamba community in Kenya, where a man buys a herb from a witch doctor to protect his wife from felony. If she does, she will get stuck until the husband rescues them with a heavy penalty from the cheating man.

**Chapter 3 : "Witches" Burnt in Kenya on Vimeo**

*This is a common selling story for sorcerers in the region. I forgot about the incident until recently when someone in my WhatsApp group hysterically claimed that our village has turned to.*

In , out of curiosity, I asked Gacamuku, a well-known Mbeere witchdoctor about a tale told about him. The story goes that the sorcerer was once presented before a magistrate. This is a common selling story for sorcerers in the region. I forgot about the incident until recently when someone in my WhatsApp group hysterically claimed that our village has turned to witchcraft to solve rising theft. There was a burst of holy anger and self-righteousness! An angry villager had hired a witchdoctor to catch the thief who had stolen his only cow. Now, I am neither concerned with its practicality nor the moral-religious arguments that this subject immediately provokes. Open witchcraft is rare in Central province. What people do secretly is a different matter. So when one hears that in Tetu, Nyeri County, after over a century of evangelisation and western education, people are using the occult to solve problems, there is ground for moral outrage. Know if news is factual and true. But I asked the WhatsApp group: What would you do if your only source of income is stolen? A Report to bwana chief and wait until cows come home pun intended , B pray the rosary or if you are of protestant persuasion conduct keshu where the pastor invokes the wrath of God on the thief, C hire a sorcerer for Sh5,? It set me thinking. Is it not quicker? And you get your cow back or the monetary equivalent. And better, thieves will never touch anything in the village. Why do people continue believing in witchcraft? The simple answer is that it helps for some people. The imposition of the European God, his rival Satan and his militia of supporting demons did not kill African witchcraft. The accompanying western architecture of government merely suppressed traditional means of making sense of this life. Prof Anne-Maria Makhulu, an anthropologist at Duke University, writes that humans still resort to magic to cope with desperate medical, emotional, and financial situations in these heady times. There are three legitimate mechanisms of social control: Two, religion; where the fear of eternal damnation persuades us to keep trying to be good. Witchcraft, scholars tell us was one of the tools used in the traditional society to control and balance society. So strong was it that the colonial government banned it, and so did the independent Kenyan government. No government wants citizens believing in powers that it cannot control. However, with life rapidly becoming complicated, modern governments and the churches can no longer provide all the answers to the questions unleashed by globalisation. Progress through scientific thinking has proven inadequate in answering the numerous questions it raises. Witchcraft helps some people to articulate the internal contradictions of modernity. The farmer who loses his cow no longer gets quick answers from the Government, though he is supposed to vote and pay taxes to enable the same government protect his property. The farmer is forced to look for his own catch-thief mechanisms. The moral framework subscribed by the church fails to prevent the thief from doing his thing despite threats of hellfire. And that rich man or woman wants a shortcut to corporate or political power! Humanity does not allow for a free fall.

**Chapter 4 : Why Kenyans rely on witchcraft :: Kenya - The Standard**

*Search Results of witchcraft kenya. Check all videos related to witchcraft kenya.*

Kiragu Thuo Believe it or not: Once I started understanding Swahili, I learned that the profusion of ads, nailed to fences, stuck on poles and printed on A3 paper, were for waganga witchdoctors offering assistance mainly in matters of business, money, love and infertility. For an average of around shillings R you can get to see one of these mgangas but it is advisable to avoid those who advertise on paper. They are reputed to be con artists. The first, often termed kamuti kah-moo-teh , is attributed to the Kamba people. This type of witchcraft is heavily traded in the areas of Kitui and Kitale, not far from Nairobi. You can even buy a genie to work for you permanently and exclusively if you have a few hundred thousand shillings at hand. This type of witchcraft is heavily traded in Mombasa, at the coast, and is reportedly common among the Swahili people. Recently, a friend of mine was involved in a minibus accident. She was the only one without a scratch. The makanga conductor with a bleeding face wanted know where she got her juju from because he needed some. Shattered glass went everywhere but she, standing at the window, was not injured. She said that people were muttering things about the protection afforded by genies. Interestingly, she was at church but had recently converted to Islam, not that anyone knew. Not anyone visible, anyway. Of course, medical science refutes the possibility of this occurring among humans. But it happens â€” a YouTube video says so. The clip shows a rather large woman and a rather small guy lying on top of her, unable to do anything to release himself. The woman is covering her face from the peering crowd, and the guy looks terrified. They are eventually released from each other when the husband comes into the room and does something to free them. The man will also be unable to gain an erection with any other woman. These kinds of stories are discussed very matter-of-factly in Nairobi. Despite its widespread acceptance in Kenyan culture, witchcraft obviously has its detractors too. I met a guy called Gilbert who told me he was forced to have sex in his car with a work colleague who had a crush on him. Once he had done the deed with her, it started on the first turn. A Mombasa youth grabbed a TV from a shop and escaped with it on his head. When he got home, he was unable to get the TV off his head. He only managed to remove it when he went back to the shop to return it. Skeptics will be wont to dismiss these juju stories as just that: But before you do, let me add my own experience for light reflection: A few years ago, when I was researching witchcraft for a book I was writing, I was referred to an mganga based in Mombasa. I met the mganga at the Nyali bridge, just outside Mombasa. He looked very ordinary, wearing a plain shirt, khaki pants and flip-flops. He took me to a small, corrugated shack in the village of Bamburi. Evidently, genies like sweet things. The ritual involved handfuls of rice sprinkled over me amid chants of a Muslim prayer. A goat was forced to inhale my recollection of negative experiences over a small fire and I was washed down by a live and wetted chicken. Salve mafuta was spread on my breastbone and applied to my palate and I left with little packets of sticks and ointment that I was to apply every morning to ward off evil. It took about 20 minutes in all, and I paid the mganga 8 shillings R for the privilege. Brian Rath was born and raised in Cape Town. He now lives and writes in Kenya, and has a novel due to be published shortly. Please be cautious of the claims and contacts that are provided in the comments section under this article. Readers have been given misleading information and have lost money.

Chapter 5 : BBC NEWS | Africa | Is witchcraft alive in Africa?

*In the face of tragedy in a Kenyan village, tensions flare between traditionalists who live in dread of ancestral wrath and witchcraft and Christians who reject such beliefs.*

More people are streaming up the hill, some of them with firewood and maize stalks. Suddenly an old woman breaks from the crowd, screaming for mercy. Three or four people go after her, beat her and drag her back, pushing her onto - what I can now see - is a raging fire. Burned alive I was witnessing a horrific practice which appears to be on the increase in Kenya - the lynching of people accused of being witches. I personally saw the burning alive of five elderly men and women in Itii village. They point at me saying - that is a son of the witch Joseph Ondieki I had been visiting relatives in a nearby town, when I heard what was happening. I dashed to the scene, accompanied by a village elder. He reacted as if what we were watching was quite normal, which was shocking for me. As a stranger I felt I had no choice but to stand by and watch. My fear was that if I showed any sign of disapproval, or made any false move, the angry mob could turn on me. Not one person was protesting or trying to stop the killing. Hours later, the police came and removed the charred bodies. Village youths who took part in the killings told me that the five victims had to die because they had bewitched a young boy. But there is proof of witchcraft," said one youth. He said that a child had spent the night walking around and then was unable to talk the following morning - except to one of the so-called witches. Mary Nyaboke came home to find her mother-in-law burned alive I asked the youths whether or not people involved in this supposed witchcraft should be punished. His mother had panicked when he had had an attack. All too common The village elder was dismissive of my horror, saying that this kind of thing happens all the time in the western district of Kisii. He told me about Joseph Ondieki, whose mother had been burned to death less than two months earlier. I found Joseph and his wife Mary Nyaboke tending vegetables in their small shamba, or homestead. If I visit my neighbours I fear they might poison my food Joseph Ondieki Mary told me that on the day her mother-in-law had been killed she had been visiting her own parents. She had heard a noise and discovered the truth when she came home. Joseph told me he has suffered a lot since his mother died. The couple fear they may be the next victims "And when I go to town they also start wondering what has taken me there. Is it that I am going to give evidence against them? As night drew in, and it was time for me to leave, Joseph walked with me from his village to where my car was parked. When we arrived, he begged me to take him with me to Mombasa, where I am based. It was very difficult for me to leave him behind. As I drove away I passed signs pinned to trees, warning witches that they would be tracked down. It will be available online from GMT, for one week.

**Chapter 6 : Uganda Powers Off 23 'Witchcraft' Radios - Youth Village Kenya**

*Drama unfolded at Kamukunji police station in Nairobi where two suspects collapsed and lost their senses in an alleged witchcraft spectacle involving a vehic.*

Available as a Google eBook for other eReaders and tablet devices. Available as a Kindle Edition. Summary A renowned authority on East Africa examines the effects of witchcraft beliefs on African culture, politics, and family life. As a field researcher he learns from villagers what it is like to live with witches, and how witches are seen through African eyes. A key figure is Mohammadi Lupanda, a frail village woman whose only child has died years before. In her dreams, however, she believes the little girl is not dead, but only lost in the fields. Mohammadi is discovered wandering at night, wailing and calling out for the child. Her neighbors are terror-stricken and she is quickly brought to a village trial and banished as a witch. The author is able to watch and listen to the proceedings and later investigate the deeper story. He discovers mysteries about Mohammadi that are only solved when he returns to the village three decades later. Today, witch-hunting and witchcraft-related crimes are found in more than seventy developing countries. Epidemics of violence against alleged witches, mainly women, but including elders of both genders, and even children is on the increase in some parts of the world. Witchcraft beliefs may lie behind vigilante murders, political assassinations, revenge killings and commercial murders for human body parts. Through African voices the author addresses key questions. Do witchcraft powers exist? Why does witchcraft persist? What are its historic roots? Why is witchcraft-based violence so often found within families? Does witchcraft serve as a hidden legal and political system, a mafia-like under-government? The author holds up a mirror for us to think about religious beliefs in our own experience that rely heavily on myth and superstition. Encounters with Witchcraft provides an authentic, enlightening reading experience about a subject that has been overly distorted and sensationalized in popular culture. It explains so much how witchcraft-based intimidation works, how and why women are victimized, why witch-hunting goes on. The author is one of the few people in the world who could have written this account. The exposition, the close scholarship, the intellectual balance are all superb. As a documentary filmmaker he produced the Faces of Change, a 26 film series which includes five films on Kenya. He is married to Judith von D. He has taught part-time at Dartmouth College since

**Chapter 7 : Encounters with Witchcraft**

*Bori: spirit possession in a Muslim town --Las tres Marías: the cult of the Virgin in Mexico --Oborogi: witchcraft in a Kenyan village --The Saint of Kathmandu: treading where the Buddha trod --El shaddai: charismatic Christianity in Hong Kong --Just sitting: Zen in America.*

The son has been living away from home and when he recently returned, he identified a spot on the family land where he started preparing for building a house. According to him, his mother had tried to persuade him to prepare a different place but he refused. She then went ahead to remove a frog from a hole, prompting the son to alert the villagers. He then opened the box. On opening the box, an overwhelming stench hit them. It was when the contents of the box were exposed that pandemonium ensued. There was also a sizeable tin that emitted a putrid stench. Your opinion is valuable. Take this quick survey to help us improve the website and content As the people watched, the man displayed other paraphernalia: It is at this point that the crowd developed fear when the son held up a bundle of passport photographs. He informed them that some of the photos belonged to deceased people while others belonged to some locals. Everyone wanted to know if their photographs were there. The man, sensing the uneasy mood, refused to reveal that information. The area village elder, a Mr Gitonga says he saw the contents. The area chief, Simon Kaithungu acknowledges getting a report of the bizarre incident, and later visiting the scene only to find a deserted homestead. I asked her to bring two witnesses so we could register a formal complaint, but she failed to do so. Kaithungu was however quick to point out that they administration were keeping a close watch on the situation. For the first time in my life I believed in witchcraft. We were not shown the bundle of photos. Who can tell who is there?

**Chapter 8 : Kenya: Elderly Targeted in Kwale Villages Over Witchcraft Claims - calendrierdelascience.com**

*Despite its widespread acceptance in Kenyan culture, witchcraft obviously has its detractors too. There have been horrific incidents of 'witch' lynchings - in , five elderly men and women were burned alive by villagers in western Kenya who accused them of bewitching a young boy.*

As long as the villagers pay their taxes, in money, crops and livestock, they are largely left to their own devices. Such villages are known for their odd rural ways, curious customs and ancient religious ceremonies. However, reports however have come from one small village, of strange and unusual omens, blighted crops, sick cattle, rains of blood and frogs and the possession of the innocent. Having reached Midlam, these tales have excited the chattering townsfolk, alarmed the priests, alerted the City Council, perturbed the School of Wizards and, of course, attracted the attention of the Baron of Midlam, who takes an interest in all such matters. And so, the Baron rides forth, keen to satisfy his curiosity and also aware that the scourge that is the professional witch-hunter will also be abroad Welcome to the Village of the Witches! A collection of seemingly innocent villagers and their witch alter-egos. He saw that the poor woman had passed out. His eyes flickered over to Baron with disdain. And you would do well not to interfere with my investigations For none may interfere with my good work, save for those who would be revealed as servants of the evil one Backers who pledge for a single or double miniature will be able to choose one of these miniatures as one of their options. A Note on Metal The miniatures are cast in a high quality pewter, with a high Tin content, but may contain a small quantity of lead. We unfortunately cannot guarantee lead free models. Below is an actual picture of the shiny metal we use. Risks and challenges Risks are low, though there is always a small chance that, for one reason or another, a figure does not cast properly. In these unlikely circumstances we would either get a replacement mould or commission a sculpt by the original sculptor, matching the original as closely as possible, with whatever modifications are necessary for the miniatures to cast correctly. Should this happen, the estimated release date for all miniatures could be pushed back by a month or two until any problem was fixed. Although, across all ten of our Kickstarters, and over a hundred miniatures made, we have only had one serious issue with one miniature, which in the end, only added a couple of weeks to shipping. We strive to keep people updated at all stages of production to let them know how the manufacturing is going. Questions about this project?

Chapter 9 : Witchcraft - Wikipedia

*In the face of tragedy in a Kenyan village, tensions flare between traditionalists who live in dread of ancestral wrath and Christians who reject such beliefs. In affluent Hong Kong a Filipina maid enduring a long separation from her son turns for support to a charismatic Catholic church.*

Is witchcraft alive in Africa? Would you turn to him for help? Does witchcraft have a place in modern society? BBC Africa Live wants to know if it is relevant to you. In Africa, witchcraft has played a role in rebellions, fighting wars, gaining independence and is often seen at election time. Some people also consult witchdoctors to cure diseases or find a husband. However, the practise has negative sides - mutilated bodies are often found in Africa, with their organs removed presumably for use in magic charms. And recently in the UK, three people were jailed over the torture of an eight-year-old Angolan girl they accused of being a possessed witch. Do you believe in witchcraft? What is its role? What does your religion say about it? And how do you feel spiritually towards it? Would you like it banned? Do you know a witch? This debate is now closed. Thank you for your comments. These guys have powers that can really send a chilling feeling down your spine! Among the Banyores of western Kenya, we have got a group of old men who can make rainfall! Most influential people in our society visit witches in darkness or during the wee hours for consultation or treatment. Job Egalaha, Kenya Two days ago in my neighbourhood. A girl of five was accused of killing her mother through witchcraft. She was tortured tied upside down a tree for hours to confess. What surprised me is the fact this girl had not heard of the word witchcraft and here she was being asked to make a so-called confession. In my opinion, those behind this child abuse should be brought to face the wrath of the law. Kingsley Obika, Nigeria Is witchcraft alive in Africa begs for the answer: Is the Pope a Catholic? Guy, Johannesburg, South Africa I am kind of surprised that the role of witchcraft in football has not been discussed. In Egypt, we heard tales of witchcraft from Egyptian clubs going to away games in African competitions. The most famous of these was when Al-Ahly went to play Asante Kotoko in the 80s, and found a slaughtered pig in their locker room. Hosam, Boston, USA The decision lies in the hands of an individual as to whether to believe in witchcraft or not Osabutey Anny, Ghana The issue as to whether witchcraft has a place in the modern society or not is really debatable. If a person consults a witchdoctor for solutions to his or her health needs, which I have seen people do before, then, I have no objection to that. On the other hand, if it is to eliminate a person or inflict pain which I hear people do in a community where I once lived then, I firmly say that it has no place in the modern society. But in spite of everything the decision lies in the hands of an individual as to whether to believe in witchcraft or not. Osabutey Anny, Ghana I believe there was witchcraft in Africa during the colonial times, but the witchcraft people nowadays are only making lives more difficult for the Africans. Africans need to obtain these crooks that are making life difficult for poor people, and believers in their faith. As soon as one starts to believe in these evil things, he or she will start losing all good friends, because these witches make them take into account even the joking words friends say. Abraham Kamara, Liberian in the US Witchcraft is many things to many people, but in its purest form it embodies an intimacy with the subtle vitality of Life and the methodology that allows the witch to manipulate reality and effect change. It is a practice like any other and therefore it can be wielded to both hinder and to help. As a witch of the neo-Pagan strand I object to my faith being persecuted on face-value. May tolerance prevail, and may unity ensue. Gede, Australia Witchcraft is alive the world over, from the sublime Harry Potter to the Juju Priest and witchdoctors of Africa and voodoo high priests of the Caribbean. As a Christian I believe there is a spiritual dimension of our existence, one that cannot be perceived in the natural. We are all made up of body, soul and spirit, the forces to which our spirits have allegiance with, gives rise to manifestation of our spirituality. The practice of witchcraft therefore comes from the allegiance of the spirit of man with evil forces. After dark it is impossible to get anybody to go near the beach. Education is the only cure. Adrian Cruickshank, Togo There is no witchcraft in Africa. There is African Science, which the West has not understood, and instead considers it witchcraft. This should end the discussion. Tarsuah Early, Liberia Witchcraft is clearly evident in all of the countries I have lived in. In Zimbabwe the only person immune from witches it seems is the president himself, and that is because he can

afford stronger portions from all over Africa. In South Africa are the most feared witches. In Botswana the witches are there but they are not that skilled. In Zambia and Malawi you can easily be murdered in the night by witches. The witches were convinced they had special powers. Here in Malawi there are two districts where people have advanced in witchcraft. These people can travel from Malawi to USA in seconds. They can tell you to close your eyes for two minutes and after that they tell you to open your eyes and seriously you find yourself in New York, imagine. But the funny part of it these people are not educated but they are advanced in another technology. In Karonga in the northern part of Malawi you can be removed your bones if you are rude and when you apologise they are returned. Allanie Njateni, Malawi Witchcraft is absolutely vital in African society. It shapes our norms, values and tradition. We should not allow the negative effect of witchcraft and forget the enormous positive ones. This is a tradition of our back ground and no-one should shy away from it because negativity of it has been echoed in London or other parts of the world. I have seen witchdoctors curing people who have been told by modern doctors that they have no chances of surviving. It is practiced mostly in the sub-Saharan region of Africa. In the eastern part of Africa, where I am from, it is mostly used by the women. Barreh Bouh Wais, Canada I have seen truly sick Zambians get back on their feet after a visit from the local witchdoctor, or rather traditional healer Jenny T Gelber, USA Having lived in rural Zambia for several years, I can say definitively that witchcraft is alive and well in Zambia. Unfortunately in the western world, it has bad connotations - that it is backwards or harmful. I have seen truly sick Zambians get back on their feet after a visit from the local witchdoctor, or rather traditional healer, a term I prefer. I think this says mountains about the power of belief to heal, as well as the benefits of traditional medicines. The only negative thing I have to say about my experiences with Zambian witchcraft is that the Christian missionaries, with no respect for traditional belief systems, will probably wipe out the wonderful aspect of rural Zambian culture within my lifetime. Jenny T Gelber, USA formerly Zambia If there is a power of witchcraft for real, Africa would have been the first country to develop and come out from poverty. I remember when Eritrea liberated from Ethiopia in ; the Eritrea government widely made an open debate regarding witchcrafts and invited the so-called experts of witchcraft, but none of them able to prove what they claimed to have. For most of them it is business and for some a false hope. For me, it is very sad, irrational and sham still some Africans to see believing on the existence of witchcraft. Berhane, London, UK What does modern man call witchcraft? However, all forms of witchcraft have something in common which are magic powers beyond human conception. Having said that, witchcraft is as old as mankind only that it has played different roles in our lives at different times and still plays a role in modern life. In the biblical times, we read about Simon the great witch. As to whether it should be banned or not, of course there are some aspects of it that are repugnant to modern justice systems which should be outlawed. Charles Michira, Kenya Witchcraft is very much alive in Africa including killing and taking body parts of victims. The lack of western medicine and education is hampering the efforts to eradicate it, also the traditional doctors use witchcraft to solve domestic and mental problems, including depression, menopause and stress. Chandru Narayan, USA Witchcraft, or Wicca as it is known here, is a recognized religion based more on animistic beliefs than in curses and charms. It has as much place in our society as does any religion, but should be restricted in the same ways. We cant explain everything with science and until we can the magic of witchcraft is as powerful as the faith of a Christian. In fact various forms of paganism, witchcraft, animism and folkloric religions survive around the world today. Christians fighting Muslims, Jews fighting Muslims, Hindus fighting Muslims and Shintos fighting Buddhists have led to many more deaths than the practice of local indigenous religions. Branding them all witchcraft plays into prejudices which were originally encouraged by early Christian missionaries to turn people away from their indigenous religions. Many centuries ago we had witch trials in the UK which are now widely accepted as a stain on our human rights record. As a Pastor I have had to deal with many people who have previously been involved in witchcraft. It is dangerous, wicked, harmful and any so-called benefits are short-lived and carry a high spiritual price. Traditional and local leaders use witchcraft and the threat of punishment for its use to strengthen their position ahead of elections in October. Leaders are pretty much free to accuse people of using witchcraft and punish them with beatings, imprisonment and sometimes death with no proof due to a lack of a strong legal system in the hinterlands. Lack of education means many believe that

certain people in their community are witches and should be punished, when told so by their leaders. In turn, the leaders of course use this system to eliminate any potential rivals. Ritual killings are also used to instil fear in the local populations. Witchcraft is alive and well in West Africa and there is a desperate need to educate the people and strengthen the legal system so as to put a stop to such practices by local leaders. Alex El Jundi UN , Liberia Others are cruel such that they look for the spirit of witchcraft because they are jealous, lazy and counterproductive Tina, Zimbabwe Witchcraft is very much alive, and I believe that it is not limited to Africa alone.