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Witchcraft and Magic in Europe, Volume 1: Biblical and Pagan Societies (Witchcraft and Magic in Europe (Paperback))

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From Brand: University of Pennsylvania Press : Witchcraft and Magic in Europe, Volume 1: Biblical and Pagan Societies (Witchcraft and Magic in Europe (Paperback)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Witchcraft and Magic in Europe, Volume 1: Biblical and Pagan Societies (Witchcraft and Magic in Europe (Paperback)):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Volume 1 in an outstanding series!By Christina Paull first encountered this series in my college's library. They only had a couple of volumes to this six volume set, but I could not put them down. The historical research is thorough for anyone interested in the subject of witchcraft and magic throughout history. Volume 1 is a bit slender, unlike the rest of the set which are a bit thicker. There is sketchy information about the witch's craft during the early periods because much of what is now practiced were incorporated in both state rites of now long gone civilizations and folk ways that were not so well documented during a mostly illiterate populace. All in all, this book builds a solid foundation for the rest of the series.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. No need to order this oneBy IlovebooksThere is a very big problem with this book. The first part is a well rounded review of some of the tablets translated from the cunniform of Sumer. It reads like a Master's Thesis, with a lot of information crammed into a review format. This is the only reason this book gets two stars. The bad part is the second half of this book. It is authored By F. H. Cryer. The second part titled "Magic in Ancient Syria-Palistine - and in the Old Testament" is so poorly written that I have to question the education of the man who wrote it. One of the MOST glaring omissions is that Phoenicia is COMPLETELY left out. You know, Phoenicia, the driving force of religion in the entire middle east for over a thousand years? Phoenicia, the civilization that included major goddess and god forms that formed the bulk of middle eastern religion, and with Tanit in North Africa also influencing symbology in Egypt ? None of this is included. To Mr Cryer, apparently none of this existed. The Phoenicians are KNOWN to have had major sway over the entire region. Instead, Mr. Cryer has a fitfull expression of the Old Testament as "history". In this he does such a poor job of explanation of why the Old Testament is not a reliable historical document, that he leaves out vast amounts of information that would actually be pertinent to the topic of the series. It comes off as a snit. I have to admit that Cryer's section is so devastatingly bad, that I have come to question the University of Pennsylvania's judgement in offering this series under their imprint. The original was published in Britain. After I apprehended this fact, I understood why the scholarship was so poor. If you are interested in this series I recommend that you skip this volume.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Customergood book fast delivery

In the ancient Near East, the art of influencing the natural course of events by means of spells and other ritual forms was universal. The social and political role of magic is apparent, too, in the competition to achieve precedence over rival systems of ritual practice and belief. Within a region filled with petty kingdoms competing for power, the Jews of ancient Palestine maintained control over adherents by developing distinct ritual practices and condemning as heretical those of nearby cults. Texts from Mesopotamia reveal a striking number of incantations, rituals, and medical recipes against witchcraft, attesting to a profound fear of being bewitched. Magical rituals were also used to maintain harmony between the human and divine realms. The roots of European witchcraft and magic lie in Hebrew and other ancient Near Eastern cultures and in the Celtic, Nordic, and Germanic traditions of the continent. For two millennia, European folklore and ritual have been imbued with the belief in the supernatural, yielding a rich trove of histories and images. Witchcraft and Magic in Europe combines the traditional approaches of political, legal, and social historians with a critical synthesis of cultural anthropology, historical psychology, and gender studies. The series, complete in six volumes, provides a modern, scholarly survey of the supernatural beliefs of Europeans from ancient times to the present day. Each volume of this ambitious six-volume series contains the work of distinguished scholars chosen for their expertise in a particular era or region.

Praise for the series: "A modern scholarly survey of a wide variety of beliefs and practices from ancient times to the present." *Theology Digest* "Although intended mainly for scholars, there is much to interest the common reader." *New Yorker* "An exceptional historical and social analysis of a subject of enduring interest." *Library Journal* About the Author Bengt Ankarloo is Professor of History at Lund University, Sweden. Stuart Clark is Professor of History at the University of Wales, Swansea.