

Societal Fears of Female Sexuality in Witchcraft

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Thesis

The trial, and subsequent execution, of Tempel Anneke was the result of a 17th century fear of uncontrolled female sexuality causing the inversion of prescribed societal norms.

Abstract

- 1663, Brunswick Germany, Tempel Anneke was found guilty of witchcraft and was sentenced to death
- Witches represented a fear of female sexuality
- Killing domesticated animals allowed witches to regain control over their sexuality
- Female sexuality threatened social order
- Tempel Anneke could be sexually free because she had no responsibility

Method

- Read over her case and trial
- Examined the evidence I found most interesting
- Found a common theme
- Re-read the evidence three to four times
- Made of chart of what information I already knew
- Made a chart of what information I did not know
- Researched to fill in information gaps
- Constructed my essay drafts



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Results

- Witches' association with animals allowed them to reclaim their domesticated sexuality
 - Farm animals represented domestication
- The act of bestiality warned men not to fall victim to women
 - Marriage kept women controlled- Temple was a widow
- Tempel appropriated specialized knowledge
 - learned her "magic" from male cow herders
- She did not adhere to the mother archetype
 - Temple was accused of hurting a child



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Conclusion

- A link between sexual and gender role perversion
- Fear of female sexuality and power
- #TimesUp Movement
 - Modern Day Witch Hunt?