

The Fairy Faith In Celtic Countries

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in the fairy faith in celtic countries w y evans wentz delves into the deeply ingrained belief systems surrounding fairies and the supernatural in celtic culture this ethnographic study is grounded in meticulous fieldwork as evans wentz captures oral traditions and personal testimonies from local communities in

regions such as ireland scotland and wales the text combines lyrical prose reminiscent of folklore vibrant descriptions of mystical encounters and scholarly analysis situating these beliefs within a broader context of celtic mythology and spirituality w y evans wentz a pioneering scholar of comparative religion and folklore was significantly influenced by his academic pursuits and personal connections to the celtic territories an early advocate of the importance of spiritual experiences he drew on his studies in anthropology and psychology to explore the interplay between culture and belief his immersion in these traditions not only reflects his academic rigor but also his deep respect for the narratives and experiences of the people he encountered this book is essential for anyone interested in folklore anthropology and the enduring impact of mythology on contemporary perceptions of spirituality evans wentz s rich insights offer readers a compelling invitation to explore the intricate tapestry of belief systems that define celtic culture revealing a world where the boundary between the mundane and the magical is enchantingly blurred

this classic study of leprechauns pixies and other fairy spirits features an introduction by terence mckenna world renowned scholar of transpersonal dimension and author of true hallucinations and the archaic revival and food of the gods

fairy faith in celtic countries

the fairy faith in celtic countries large print by w y evans wentz

in this study which is first of all a folk lore study we pursue principally an anthropo psychological method of interpreting the celtic belief in fairies though we do not hesitate now and then to call in the aid of philology and we make good use of the evidence offered by mythologies religions metaphysics and physical sciences

during the years 1907 9 this study first took shape being then based mainly on literary sources and during the latter year it was successfully presented to the faculty of letters of the university of rennes brittany for the degree of docteur s lettres since then i have re investigated the whole problem of the celtic belief in fairies and have collected very much fresh material two years ago the scope of my original research was limited to the four chief celtic countries but now it includes all of the celtic countries in the present study which has profited greatly by criticisms of the first passed by scholars in britain and in france the original literary point of view is combined with the broader point of view of anthropology this study the final and more comprehensive form of my views about the fairy faith would never have been possible had i not enjoyed during many months the kindly advice and constant encouragement of mr r r marett reader in social anthropology in the university of oxford and fellow of exeter college

this book depends chiefly upon the oral and written testimony so freely contributed by its many celtic authors the peasant and the scholar the priest and the scientist the poet and the business man the seer and the non seer and in honour of them i dedicate it to two of the brethren in ireland a e whose unwavering loyalty to the fairy faith has inspired much that i have herein written whose friendly guidance in my study of irish mysticism i most gratefully acknowledge and william butler yeats who brought me at my own alma mater in california the first message from fairyland and who afterwards in his own country led me through the haunts of fairy kings and queens

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