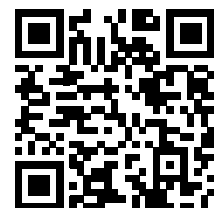


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Superstitions and Witch Trials



During the 16th and 17th centuries in _____, superstitions played a significant role in society. Many people believed that certain events were caused by _____. This belief led to the infamous witch trials. Superstitions often explained the unknown. For example, if someone's cow stopped giving _____, it was blamed on witchcraft. Fear of the supernatural was widespread.

The witch trials were a result of these _____. People suspected of being witches were often poor or isolated individuals. Accusations were usually based on flimsy _____. The accused were subjected to harsh interrogations. Confessions were often forced through _____.

Witch trials were supported by both the public and the authorities. The belief in witches was reinforced by religious _____. They claimed that witches were working with the devil. This idea created a moral _____. Communities wanted to rid themselves of these so-called threats.

One famous case was that of the _____ witches in 1612. Twelve people were accused of witchcraft and taken to trial. This trial was one of the most well-documented _____ in English history. It highlighted the intense fear and superstition of the time.

Eventually, the _____ in England began to decline. Skepticism about the existence of witches started to grow. More people began to question the _____ of the trials. Laws were changed, and the last execution for witchcraft in England occurred in 1685. This marked the end of an era dominated by fear and _____.

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