

Dr. Leanna Wolfe
Anthropology 121

Quiz #12
Witchcraft
Including Ch. 10

1. T/F Witchcraft refers to the characteristics of people who cause trouble by virtue of the evil power they possess.

T

2. T/F Witches tend to be members of a community, attacking family members and neighbors with whom they were thought to be allied.

T – important to be kind or appear to be caring to others to avoid being accused of being a witch

3. Why would women in patrilineal/patrilocal societies be likely to be mistrusted and considered deceitful?

Not living amongst their kind – lack of life-long family ties...re: post-marital residence patterns

4. People accused of being witches are likely to be:

a. women b. people who marry into a community c. one's co-wife d. poor and marginal e. those with greater access to technology and resources (**implies suspicion, how acquired?**)

ABCDE -

5. How has witchcraft accusations been used to explain periods of ideological dislocation and epidemics? (**re: AIDS, ebola, black plague**)

Those with less access blame who and what they can to explain misfortune and uneven access.

6. T/F There is a direct relationship between the intensity of social stress and the importance placed on witchcraft.

T

7. T/F Witchcraft accusations point to an actual individual who is the cause of all that is plaguing us rather than bad luck, fate, etc.

T

8. How does the belief in witchcraft reinforce positive social values?

Cause people to be well-behaved and caring

9. What caused the notion of witch to shift from that of the benign wise woman to that of the malevolent witch?

Indo-european invasion from pagan (earth-based) practice to belief in an aggressive male sky God rather than the female earth goddess. Notions of women who bend shift...Search for explanations for the Black Plague

10. What might explain the perception that witches flew through the sky?

Datura, ergot (hallucinations)

11. What methods were used to prove that someone was a witch?

Swimming the witch , float→a witch; sink→not a witch, but she drowns

Questioning pattern, “When did you begin?” (pressured to testify)

Burning Times – burned at stake...whole villages burned all of their women

Iron Maiden torture device

12. Why were the most mobile societies the least concerned with witchcraft?

Moved away from illness...sedentary societies lived with polluted water, disease infestations.

13. What four directions to Wiccans invoke? What four elements do they bless?

North, East, South, West (Spirit)

Fire, Water, Earth, Air

14. T/F Today’s Wiccans claim that their practice draws from ancient European paganism.

T

15. Why did accusations of Witchcraft take hold in Salem, MA?

Discord between village and town exacerbated by accusations by pubescent girls coming into their power; admission of Spectral Evidence

16. How did the Salem witchcraft accusations follow a different pattern than was typical in communities of the time?

Accusations of non-family members (rather feuding between unrelated families)

Economic factor – disputes and disparities

17. T/F There were economic tensions between the habitants of Salem Village and the surrounding farming towns.

T – access to profits from nascent shipping industry

18. Why might the Thomas Putnam family have taken their 12 year old daughter’s witchcraft accusations so seriously?

Unhappy with economic disparities...already holding a grudge regarding access and trade

19. `What is Spectral Evidence? How could it be interpreted to challenge its credibility?

Evidence that is *felt* but not seen.—cannot be measured. (e.g. fainting)

20. T/F Witches are individuals who have an innate ability to commit evil acts.

T

21. T/F In some cultures one can be a witch and not even know it.

T

22. T/F Witchcraft accusations often reflect underlying social tensions in a society.

T

23. According to the Azande what is mangu? How does one acquire it?

Witchcraft substance found in the liver/intestine of witches—passed down from father to son or mother to daughter. Possible to possess mangu and not act as a witch.

24. All of the following are true about Azande beliefs in *mangu* except:

- a. it is a physical substance found within the body of a witch
- b. it can be manipulated by shamans in healing rituals
- c. it can be seen when autopsies are performed
- d. it is inherited from the parent of the same sex

B

25. How do modern Americans regard witchcraft and witches?

Fear of satanic cults, WICCA, Halloween (play with being a witch)

26. In many cultures witches are equally male or female, but in Europe and America witches are predominantly female. What was the underlying gender ideology that made this the case? Do you think this is still true? If so, to what extent?

Subordination of women –forced to engage in activities that more covert...to be manipulative and secretive

27. Which of the following is true about **Navaho** witchcraft?

- a. Navaho witches are born with witchcraft substance within their bodies
- b. witchcraft is a common factor in Navaho life that is freely talked about
- c. witchcraft is learned from a close relative and requires initiation
- d. witches participate in healing rituals

C

28. T/F Amongst the Navaho, people who exhibit anti-social behaviors such as cannibalism, incest and nudity are most likely to be identified as being witches.

T

29. In contrast to the Gwari of West Africa, Nupe witches are always female because:

- a. Nupe wives engage in activities that their husbands cannot control
- b. political power is vested in female chiefs who rule through their husbands and brothers
- c. women sexuality and fertility is viewed as dangerous and powerful
- d. the Nupe were influenced by Christian missionaries at the time of the Witchcraze in Europe

A

30. T/F In many parts of Africa today, AIDS is being blamed on the activity of witchcraft.

T – When witchcraft is seen as the cause, individuals are absolved from responsibility, re: AIDS not then an issue of personal sexual behavior.

31. When did the witchcraze take place in Europe?

15th – 17th centuries (before Salem Witch Trials)

32. T/F The *Malleus Maleficarum* was written in the 15th century and set forth European witchcraft beliefs of the time

T – imposed a uniform set of beliefs; most widely read text of the time (most of the accused did not read)

33. Which of the following is true about the concept of the evil eye? (select those that apply)

- a. a person can cause misfortune by looking at a person
- b. it is bad form to say something complimentary about a child
- c. spitting and particular hand gestures can be used to protect one against the evil eye
- d. it is most common amongst people with a lazy eye
- e. only cultures that recognize it will experience it's effects

ABCE

34. How were pagan beliefs incorporated into European Christianity?

Pagan gods and goddesses were seen as servants of Satan (and dismissed)

Some beliefs and holidays were incorporated into the Christian religion, e.g.

Yule/Christmas

35. What are the eight Sabbats that Wiccans celebrate?

Samhein, Yule, Imbolc, Ostara, Beltane, Midsummer, Lughnasadh, Mabon

36. T/F Wiccan magic can be used for both good and evil.

F – just good

37. What is the Wiccan three-fold law?

Whatever good or evil you do will return three-fold

38. Who founded the Church of Satan?

- a. Gerald Gardner
- b. Anton Le Vey
- c. Burton Wolfe
- d. Margaret Murray

B

39. Why do Satanists regard Wiccans as hypocrites?

They limit their magic to positive uses, despite that they have the skill knowledge to bring on evil

40. What are the three kinds of rituals that Satanists conduct?

- a. healing and happiness
- b. destruction of enemies
- c. sex magic
- d. animal sacrifice
- e. rain magic

ABC

41. What are examples of modern day witch hunts?

Accusations of child sexual abuse, pedophilia

McCarthy era (50s) anti-communism trials

Internet child sex stings