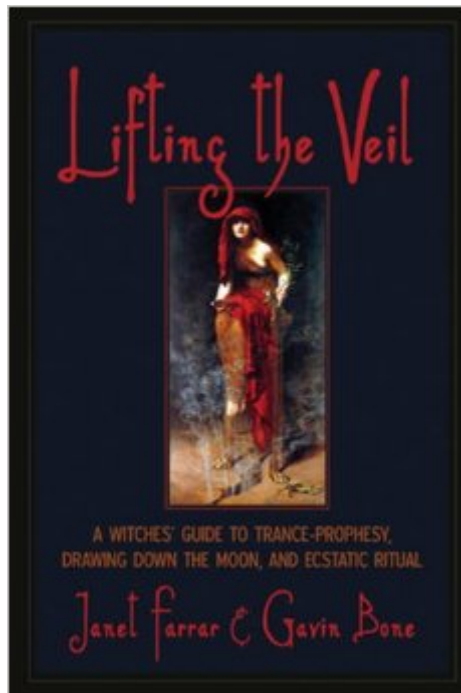


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# Lifting The Veil: A Witches' Guide To Trance-Prophecy, Drawing Down The Moon, And Ecstatic Ritual



## Synopsis

Written to fill an existing gap in the current available knowledge on trance, prophesy, deity-possession, and mediumship within the neo-Pagan and Wiccan communities, *Lifting the Veil* was developed from Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone's personal work and public workshops on trance-prophesy and ecstatic ritual over the last 20 years. The book covers the history and modern practice of trance as well as the methods of practice, including ecstatic ritual, drawing down the moon, sex magic, and working with the spirits of the dead. It also explores the Four Keys, which include the importance of understanding mythical cosmology and psychology, understanding the role of energy in trance, the nature of spirits and deity, and understanding what trance is and the techniques involved. Because trance-prophesy is a very subjective process, the book includes descriptions of the personal experiences of others and transcriptions from several independent sessions by modern seers and priestesses.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Janet's and Gavin's workshops are amazingly informative and educational. For those who have not attended any or who have been unable to make contact, here is a wonderful opportunity to learn from the experts. The subjects are dealt with in depth and explained in an easily understandable style that encourages experimentation and practice. Expanding on such traditional rites as Drawing Down the Moon, these acclaimed coven priests continue on their path of leadership, helping expand the horizons of witchcraft and paganism generally. I am personally pleased to see that they do not

neglect the history of these practices, promoting the divine and sacred Mysteries, yet focusing on modern day practices and beliefs. They include wonderful photographs and illustrations together with appendices on prayers and sacred rites and an excellent glossary.

A must have book on the trance, and ecstatic experience that many achieve during the process of coven ritual work that creates a sacred space for the old gods to come back and manifest on the earth plane again. At this time in history, the Old Ones are greatly concerned about the condition of the planet and the pathway of humanity. I, for one, can only hope that for the many that consider paganism, witchcraft, and Wicca as a chosen source for their spiritual path, that they will find themselves able to receive the old gods/goddesses with the guidance of this book and be fulfilled with the personal transformation. For this alone, I am grateful. May we continue to help create balance in a world greatly out of balance.

This is a marvelous and much-needed book that looks at trance prophecy from a Pagan point of view and three different perspectives -- history, theory and practice. There is a specific focus on Drawing Down the Moon and ecstatic ritual. While Janet and Gavin's thoughtful, informed, experience-based approach would have been more than sufficient, they reached out to other seers and included their thoughts on the work and their personal experiences as well. The final chapter is transcripts of seers, speaking in trance, answering three questions directed at the specific gods they work with. There are clearly-explained techniques for trance work and ritual creation, and thoughts on the nature of the gods and how we interact with them. We also are asked to consider some of the ethical dimensions of trancework. The chapter on interacting with the dead is particularly useful in that regard. To my mind, no book on trance would be complete without a close look at the often thin line between seership and mental illness, and they cover this issue clearly and compassionately with plenty of appropriate cautions and warnings. All told, it's a must-have book for any Pagan whose experience of the gods and spirits goes beyond rote spellwork and simple ritual.

The comprehensive history of trance mediumship in both ancient and Neo-Pagan practice begins this work. In later chapters, the authors provide perspective and practical methods for trance prophesy. With a forward by M. Macha Nightmare and contributions from witches, priestesses, seers, and shamans, the book has a multicultural and diverse view. Deity has messages for people in this time and messages recounted in this book are compelling. The authors' experience is unparalleled and their ethics are exemplary. This book is a good read and a must have reference for

the deeply spiritual practitioner.

Overall, 'Lifting the Veil' is a fantastic book. Both informative and interesting, it fills a gap in current literature around trance mediumship within pagan circles. Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone should be proud to have made another large contribution to the field, and I thank them. Who I don't thank, however (and the Farrar-Bone team should also not thank) is their editor who has left a few blunders. Spelling and grammar mistakes aside, I'm assured by my Australian husband that water does indeed drain down a plug hole in the same direction as in the Northern Hemisphere despite the book's assertion otherwise. This adds to the history of Farrar's Australian blunders alongside the sun rising in the West slip up of a previous book. The book appears in the style of an academic book, and whilst the medical knowledge is sound the knowledge of Hypnosis and its history is basic at best and vaguely wrong in places (I admit, I'm a hypnosis geek having a science based degree specialising in Clinical Hypnosis). I'm unsure of the accuracy of the other references in the book (historical, cultural, other religions) but urge, on the basis of my experience, the assertions to be taken with a pinch of salt. Such lines as Chakras being the only system deriving from a pagan origin is quite suspect (did it really? What's the definition of Pagan in these circumstances? And wouldn't the Japanese Hara system be similar then?) All that said, it is a fantastic book and one that fills a need in a niche market. This area could do with ten more books all in the practical and straightforward manner of this one. I thank them both.

Since the early 90's I've collected an extensive library of pagan and neo-pagan practices. I've got the classics like Buckland, Starhawk, the Anderson's, Cunningham, even studying Jung and Campbell. Along the way I always looked for subtext, the shared assumption laying foundation in a growing community. There was always something missing as the divide between formal and ecstatic ritual kept growing along generational lines. This book bridges that gap. Examining trance prophecy in context, both ancient and currently existing practices, gives the reader a practical understanding of how this is done in a safe and responsible manner. Even their approach to the subject of mental illness (a topic rarely addressed in our community) is couched in compassion and clarity. I was lucky enough to attend Janet and Gavin's trance prophecy workshops and I can tell you this book expresses their approach faithfully. Despite a couple little typos the editor didn't catch, instant classic. Well done!

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