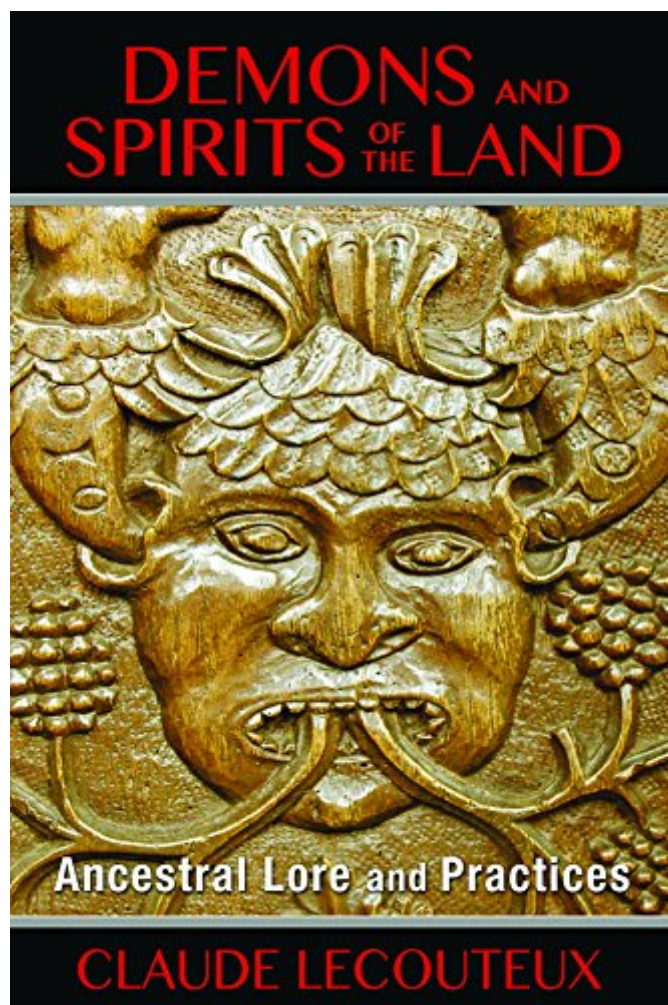


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# Demons And Spirits Of The Land: Ancestral Lore And Practices



## Synopsis

An exploration of the wild spirits that once roamed the lands and inhabited the waters and the pagan rites used to gain their good will

- Explores medieval stories and folk traditions of brownies, fairies, giants, dragons, will-o'-the-wisps, and demons
- Explains the specific rites performed to negotiate with the local spirits and ensure their permission before building on new land
- Shows how these beliefs carried through to modern times, especially in architecture

Our pagan ancestors knew that every forest has brownies and fairies, every spring its lady, and every river malevolent beings in its depths. They told tales of giants in the hills, dragons in the lakes, marshes swarming with will-o'-the-wisps, and demons and wild folk in the mountains who enjoyed causing landslides, avalanches, and floods. They both feared and respected these entities, knowing the importance of appeasing them for safe travel and a prosperous homestead. Exploring medieval stories, folk traditions, spiritual place names, and pagan rituals of home building and site selection, Claude Lecouteux reveals the multitude of spirits and entities that once inhabited the land before modern civilization repressed them into desert solitude, impenetrable forests, and inaccessible mountains. He explains how, to our ancestors, enclosing a space was a sacred act. Specific rites had to be performed to negotiate with the local spirits and ensure proper placement and protection of a new building. These land spirits often became the household spirit, taking up residence in a new building in exchange for permission to build on their territory. Lecouteux explores Arthurian legends, folk tales, and mythology for evidence of the untamed spirits of the wilderness, such as giants, dragons, and demons, and examines the rites and ceremonies used to gain their good will. Lecouteux reveals how, despite outright Church suppression, belief in these spirits carried through to modern times and was a primary influence on architecture, an influence still visible in today's buildings. The author also shows how our ancestors' concern for respecting nature is increasingly relevant in today's world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

(Review submitted by RNT's wife) In *Demons and Spirits of the Land*, Claude Lecouteux once again transports his readers away from everyday life and into realms of his deep understanding of the meeting places of earth and spirit from the pagan perspective. My first impression of this book--flawless in its delivery and presentation--was consistent with other books by Lecouteux inasmuch as it's obvious that the author is very, very well studied in his subjects. The bibliography testifies to this, as well as his beautiful Afterword. The content is well-organized beginning with "Part One: A Haunted Universe," flowing into "Part Two: Conquering and Defending the Land" and concluding with "Part Three: Survivals and Transformations." Delivery is academic and fairly formal, yet relaxed enough to be enjoyable; however, a certain degree of sophistication is necessary for smooth reading as the density of dates and proper nouns is remarkable, and yet *Demons and Spirits of the Land* deserves the reader's focus, discipline and respect, and the chapters are engaging and intriguing and would be most valuable to students of medieval studies and pagan spirituality. That said, I very much appreciate books like this as a pooling of the most pertinent information (as certainly an immense amount of time goes into studies that allow authors to teach and readers to learn without having to separate the wheat from the chaff). I must give credit to the translator as well! The books of Claude Lecouteux have a special place in our home, on an esteemed shelf right beneath our altar: our place of spiritual reference and connection with the gods and goddesses of our ancestors.

I have never read anything by Lecouteux that wasn't well researched and fascinating. This book is no exception. If you are looking for how to deal with your land wights, this may not be the best book,

because Lecouteaux covers the history of what has been recorded about them- but it would be a great start.

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