

# MATTHEW HOPKINS

THE  
DISCOVERY OF  
WITCHES

**Matthew Hopkins**  
**The Discovery of Witches**

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*The Discovery of Witches:*

# Содержание

Querie 1	4
Querie 2	5
Quer. 3	6
Quer. 4	7
Quer. 5	10
Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.	11

# Matthew Hopkins

## The Discovery of Witches

### Querie 1

*That he must needs be the greatest Witch, Sorcerer, and Wizzard himselfe, else hee could not doe it.*

### Answ

If *Satan's* kingdome be divided against it selfe, how shall it stand?

## Querie 2

*If he never went so farre as is before mentioned, yet for certaine he met with the Devill, and cheated him of his Booke, wherein were written all the Witches names in England, and if he looks on any Witch, he can tell by her countenance what she is; so by this, his helpe is from the Devill.*

### Answ

If he had been too hard for the devill and got his book, it had been to his great commendation, and no disgrace at all: and for judgement in *Physiognomie*, he hath no more then any man else whatsoever.

## Quer. 3

*From whence then proceeded this his skill? was it from his profound learning, or from much reading of learned Authors concerning that subject?*

### Answ

From neither of both, but from experience, which though it be meanly esteemed of, yet the surest and safest way to judge by.

## Quer. 4

*I pray where was this experience gained? and why gained by him and not by others?*

### Answ

The Discoverer never travelled far for it, but in *March* 1644 he had some seven or eight of that horrible sect of Witches living in the Towne where he lived, a Towne in Essex called *Maningtree*, with divers other adjacent Witches of other towns, who every six weeks in the night (being alwayes on the Friday night) had their meeting close by his house and had their severall solemne sacrifices there offered to the *Devill*, one of which this discoverer heard speaking to her *Imps* one night, and bid them goe to another Witch, who was thereupon apprehended, and searched, by women who had for many yeares knowne the Devills marks, and found to have three teats about her, which honest women have not: so upon command from the *Justice* they were to keep her from sleep two or three nights, expecting in that time to see her *familiars*, which the fourth night she called in by their severall names, and told them what shapes, a quarter of an houre before they came in, there being ten of us in the roome, the first she called was

1. *Holt*, who came in like a white kitling.

2. *Jarmara*, who came in like a fat Spaniel without any legs at all, she said she kept him fat, for she clapt her hand on her belly and said he suckt good blood from her body.

3. *Vinegar Tom*, who was like a long-legg'd Greyhound, with an head like an Oxe, with a long taile and broad eyes, who when this discoverer spoke to, and bade him goe to the place provided for him and his Angels, immediatly transformed himselfe into the shape of a child of foure yeeres old without a head, and gave halfe a dozen turnes about the house, and vanished at the doore.

4. *Sack and Sugar*, like a black Rabbet.

5. *Newes*, like a Polcat. All these vanished away in a little time.

Immediatly after this Witch confessed severall other Witches, from whom she had her *Imps*, and named to divers women where their marks were, the number of their *Marks*, and *Imps*, and *Imps* names, as *Elemanzer*, *Pyewacket*, *Peckin the Crown*, *Grizzel*, *Greedigut*, &c. which no mortall could invent; and upon their searches the same Markes were found, the same number, and in the same place, and the like confessions from them of the same *Imps*, (though they knew not that we were told before) and so peached one another thereabouts that joyned together in the like damnable practise that in our Hundred in *Essex*, 29. were condemned at once, 4. brought 25. Miles to be hanged, where this Discoverer lives, for sending the Devill like a Beare to kill him in his garden, so by seeing diverse of the mens Papps, and trying wayes with hundreds of them, he gained this experience,

and for ought he knowes any man else may find them as well as he and his company, if they had the same skill and experience.

## Quer. 5

*Many poore People are condemned for having a Pap, or Teat about them, whereas many People (especially antient People) are, and have been a long time troubled with naturall wretts on severall parts of their bodies and other naturall excressencies, as Hemerodes, Piles, Childbearing, &c. and these shall be judged only by one man alone and a woman, and so accused or acquitted.*

### Answ

The parties so judging can justifie their skill to any, and shew good reasons why such marques are not meerly naturall, neither that they can happen by any such naturall cause as is before expressed, and for further answer for their private judgements alone, it is most false and untrue, for never was any man tryed by search of his body, but commonly a dozen of the ablest men in the parish or else where, were present, and most commonly as many ancient skilfull matrons and midwives present when the women are tryed, which marks not only he, and his company attest to be very suspitious, but all beholders, the skilfulest of them, doe not approve of them, but likewise assent that such tokens cannot in their judgements proceed from any the above mentioned Causes.

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