

Chap. 5.  
Of Witchcraft.

The Being of Witches, and even the Possibility of  
Witchcraft is called in question by many who do not  
to lay any great stress upon things which to ourselves  
them appears most convincing, tho' I cannot account  
for the way and manner of performing the most  
-rations of witchcraft, nor dare to take upon me to dis-  
-mine ~~whether~~ what things apparently effected by the  
-worse Realities, and what only Diabolical Juggling, or  
-fations executed in us by the power of an evil spirit  
-king upon our organs, and causing such Poas as are  
-monly produced by the presence of Eastern External  
-jects; which He inquired and perhaps the Nature of  
-rits and their several powers and operations are very  
-much out of the Reach of the most Thinking of the  
-plor. However I ~~cannot~~ think to make an abstrac-  
-of things relating to that Matter taken from the Pro-  
-dents and Decisions of the former court of Justiciary,  
-trials of witches in other Countries, and the observa-  
-of Writers upon that subject, to send to the Reader  
-pieces of Entertainment about the former practice, tho'  
-it should not happen in every Age to be observed  
-a Rule in this learned and Inquisitive Age, when  
-bably things will come to be more accurately sifted, tho'  
-some are ready to imagine as done, by our predecessors  
-as if they, following the Rumour of the time in which  
-hood, had been too credulous in this important  
-some things by me related about the Marks and  
-rations held of a Witch, or of a person being bewit-  
-ched, who enters into Compact with the Devil, by  
-having carnal Copulation with him, White Witches  
-and the Imps of witches, (to which regard has  
-had in former trials, and in our practice) may be  
-appro-

Appear very strange, but I shall these before or false, I  
-not say; only this one thing is true, that such Matters of  
-fact have been laid for Judgment, and given in Evidence,  
-which is all my business with them; and if any man upon  
-Reading what I say of witchcraft, be of opinion, that I am  
-in Error my self, I shall be so likewise.

The Devils having ever since they fell from their Glori-  
-ous primitive State, approved themselves to be displeas'd  
-Enemies to Mankind, which the Names of Satan and Diabolus  
-given their prince in the sacred Canon clearly import and  
-set forth, one of the Methods taken by these cursed Be-  
-ings to Effect their Malicious Designs, is their tem-  
-pting men and women to use the black art called Super-  
-stitions and Demonical Magick or Witchcraft.

Authors are not well agreed who were the first practis-  
-ers of this mysterious Rime; some hold that the Antient  
-Greeks were instructed in the black art by the Devil, who  
-Disquis. Magic. lib. 1. cap. 2. In Walter Raleigh's History  
-and Captivity first the original of it in ~~the~~ the son of  
-Noah's Attendants again will not allow any of that wicked gang  
-to have been in the world before Moses' time, tho' he  
-who denb's the Invention of Diabolical Magick to Zo-  
-roaster who laughed at his Birth, Plin. Natur. Hist. lib. 30  
-cap. 1. Augustin. 20 Civil. Dei lib. 21 cap. 14 and I find to  
-have said as he writes by fire from Heaven, Caspar  
-Longin. Primus Magicum profero, but because we  
-have no tolerable certainty of the person who first  
-Entered upon Enquiry into this infernal Mystery, I shall  
-Content my self to observe (without looking farther  
-back) that these were Magicians in the world since in  
-the time of Pharaoh the Great Oppressor of the Israe-  
-lites, before whom such Confessors with the Devil pre-  
-tended the Miracles of Moses and Aaron, Edd. caps. 7. the

Of those who up to be enticed to the pursuit of this  
-black art, some are learned and Inquisitive persons,  
-who aiming too high in the Fraternal knowledge  
-of things apply themselves for gratifying their  
-curious