

# ANIMAL TOTEMS



**SCOTT KING** interprets the significance of the animals that appear in your dreams or daily life.

If you would like Scott to interpret your animal encounters, write to: Animal Totems, Witchcraft Magazine, PO Box 7079, Wilberforce NSW 2756, or email: [spooky@hawknnet.com.au](mailto:spooky@hawknnet.com.au).

## THE MAGESTIC DEER: Symbol of the Soul

To walk gently on the Earth and to acknowledge the animals as our spirit brothers and sisters is to participate in a personal quest for the White Stag. When we participate in the hunt, though, what is it that we are truly looking for? The answer is, of course, our innate selves. According to legend, the mysterious White Stag appears and challenges us to track it deep into the forest. It may lead us out into the world, daring us to take risks and to try new things. It may lead us to other realms and dimensions, encouraging us to explore spirit, past lives or our higher selves, but generally it leads us into the Underworld – the place of the inner silence. When we symbolically follow the White Stag we are being invited to journey deep within our consciousness where we are ultimately left to ponder life and to seek the wisdom of our inner silence. Energetically, the energy of the White Stag is seen as being dark, nurturing and contemplative. By tradition, the hunt for the White Stag prompts us to seek and trust the answers found deep within our inner knowing before we consider the advice given to us by well-meaning others. The White Stag is, in fact, a representation of our own soul, with the hunt proving to be a vital and necessary lesson in self discovery. The fate of the White Stag is symbolic of the evolutionary passage of the soul; the developmental journey of growth experienced when one readily embraces vital change on all planes of awareness. The mystical huntsman yearns to evolve; he stalks his own perceptions, he tracks his values and shadows his purpose. He follows the Stag deep into the forest with steadfast intent, motivation and resolve, his mind set firmly on the task at hand. He displays resolute thoroughness, endurance, legitimacy, courage and commitment. He is impeccable in his quest.

### DEER SITINGS

I have been experiencing a very strong connection to Deer lately. We have had a wild deer living on our property for several years, and about 18 months ago she was joined by another deer – I think there were several deer farms in the district some years ago. Unfortunately, several months ago the original deer was hit by a car and killed instantly (thankfully, too, I suppose, but we all cried), but the other deer seems content to stay around, turning up around dawn



and dusk each day. I have started to feed her bits of hay and some horse mix and she has settled down quite a bit, though I would never be able to touch her. The two deer were quite different in appearance; the original deer was quite large and greyish in colour, while the 'new' deer is just like Bambi, quite petite and fawn with glorious white markings. I wonder if there is any significance to them in my life, which has been quite up and down during the past few years.  
*Christal, via email*

Christal, you are quite lucky to have Deer living so peacefully on your land. It is quite common for Deer to visit, particularly if you live in a rural area (as I do), but not so common to have them stay and interact with you as yours are doing. Deer are, by nature, very timid, cautious and nervous creatures that generally feed by night and rest by day. The larger Deer you speak of would probably have been either a Red Deer or a Samba, while the smaller Deer is most likely a Fallow. When the market bottomed out several years ago, and the demand for venison waned making Deer financially unviable, many farms simply opened their gates and set their stock animals free, or dumped them in remote areas to fend for themselves.

To have Deer walk with you, as yours do, is to be reminded to approach life with a sense of trust, peace and gentleness. The Deer radiates unconditional acceptance and love. It is an animal that symbolically we are all born with; an animal that offers itself as a guide, mentor and source of spiritual power to every one of us. Deer represents our potential while reminding us that we are all related and that no one is any more or any less important than anybody else. She reminds us that if we radiate the essence of what her spirit represents – unconditional acceptance and love – we will never be faced with obstacles, never know lack, and will never be judged or viewed from a perspective hampered by jealousy or fear. To approach life with aggression will result in our life being dominated by petty tyrants. To force our opinion or to dominate with force will see our views overlooked and our input ignored. To combat fear with fear will only result in fear being nurtured. But to shower fear with love will see fear being banished forever; it is like shining a torch into a darkened room – the light will dominate and the darkness will be vanquished.