

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.

THE BAT: The Bringer of Rebirth

The image of the Bat flying out of its cave denotes humanity's desire for regeneration, new beginnings or the chance to start from scratch in one or more areas of our life.



It alludes to the idea of completely rebirthing who and what we are, as if re-emerging from our mother's womb as a whole and new being. Rebirth signifies shedding all the outworn aspects of our self. It represents a complete reshuffle of how we perceive the world and how we view ourselves within it. It embraces the idea of 'the Shaman's Death', or the complete letting go of our very nature so that we may rebuild (brick by brick), to reveal the true essence of who we want to be, or rather, who we were meant to be. Although rebirth is generally seen as a symbolic process, renewal of one's energies can be achieved on many levels - emotionally, physically and spiritually. Bat's appearance heralds a symbolic death; a sudden ending, closure or finalisation, followed by an appreciated rebirth or an awakening, realisation or new beginning in some area of our life.

BAT VISITOR

My mum lives in a cosy cottage in Melbourne. She lives an alternative lifestyle and is happy in her garden or just pottering around, dusting her wind chimes and burning aromatherapy oils. Recently she was surprised to wake one morning to a visitor. It was a Bat that had come in through the chimney. He slept during the day and wondered off at night feeding from a fruit bowl. Mum left all the doors open so he could fly to freedom, but this beautiful, amazing animal was quite comfortable at mum's and stayed for nine days, then left through the chimney. Mum was sad that her extraordinary friend had left, but happy that he was free to do so. Was there was a reason for its visit?

T. James, St Albans, VIC

According to ancient superstition, to have a Bat enter your home is a warning of gossip, ill-wishing or words aimed at the household initiated by fear, jealousy or misunderstanding. I suspect that your

family or your mother's friends or neighbours are wary of her 'alternative' lifestyle and are speaking negatively about her behind her back.

The Bat was not a bad omen, but rather a reminder for your mum to stand in her own power and to be proud of her life choices. He was encouraging her to tackle rumour and slander without offering excuses or justification for her ways. Bat's wisdom will teach your mother to open the hearts and minds of those around her who choose to remain in the shadows due to their prejudices, by offering them understanding, illumination and an expanded view of life.

IN YOUR FACE BATS

I have dreams about Bats. I am in an alley and hundreds of Bats fly at my face, but as they get about 30cm away, they fly up into the sky. I don't fear them in my dream or on waking. What does this mean?

Raven, Wagga Wagga, NSW

Just as a baby hangs upside down in the womb waiting for its birth, the Bat hangs inverted in its cave waiting for night to fall, with your alley symbolically representing the birth canal. The Bat promises new beginnings after a time of disintegration or rebirth after a symbolic 'death'. To have Bats fly at your face suggests an awareness of what must 'die', to have removed or given up, but a refusal to acknowledge it. The Bats are telling you that although you are aware of something that must be brought to a conclusion (something that is probably staring you right in the face), for some reason you are denying it an honourable death. You are refusing to admit that you must deal with something (possibly detrimental in nature) or take responsibility for its existence. The Bats, however, are offering you the wisdom or a chance to rebirth yourself and to recreate your life.

BITTEN!

Lately, I've been dreaming about animals biting me. About three or four days before the Full Moon, I had a dream that I was walking through a web with a spider in it, and it bit me on the base of my neck. Then on the night of the Full Moon I dreamt that I was trying to back away from a big, bright green snake that bit me on my hand and left a small hole. In the dream I thought it was small so didn't bother about it, and after the bite I wasn't scared of the snake any more. Both of these dreams have been very real. I also have a big spider web forming from a small group of spiders on the outside of my bedroom window. Any ideas?

Elise Jones, via email

Every night the Spider weaves her web. Every morning she pulls it apart and prepares to reweave it again that night. Her web is symbolic of life. We are all vital strands in the Web of Life, each of us