

Seanchas Ìle

MACLAGAN MANUSCRIPTS

SUPERNATURAL: Witchcraft

From Ronald Johnstone, Conispie, Islay

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The Buidseach Ruadh of E----- was distinguished for his craft in his day, and his services were in considerable demand. He is said to have obtained his eolas - knowledge - in the following manner. When smuggling once in a cave, one of the Buidsich mòr having lost his way came to the cave. The smuggler took him in, and gave him as much whisky as he could drink, until he was quite drunk, and then began to make a fool of him. The Buidseach mòr revealed the whole secret of his art, and the smuggler went and wrote it down, and ever after made use of it. His eolas was very extensive. He could cure any creature that had been injured by the evil eye, and tell who it was that had done the injury. There was a farmer whose cattle were dying one after another, until the tenth had taken ill. The farmer was convinced that they had been injured by the evil eye, and went to consult the Buidseach Ruadh. The wizard told him that he was too late to save this one; but that the trouble might be removed from the rest of his stock, he was to take a piece from the tip of the ears, the point of the horns, and the tip of the tail of the sick cow, and throw these upon the person who had done the injury, whom he was to know by the Buidseach making his appearance to pass before him. The farmer was quite willing to take the pieces of the ears, the horns, and the tail, but he besought the wizard not to show him who had done the injury. To this the Buidseach Ruadh agreed; and as it would do as well for the purpose of removing the trouble from the farmer's cattle, and would do no injury to his enemy, to throw the pieces into the sea., this was done, and the farmer's cattle thrived afterwards.