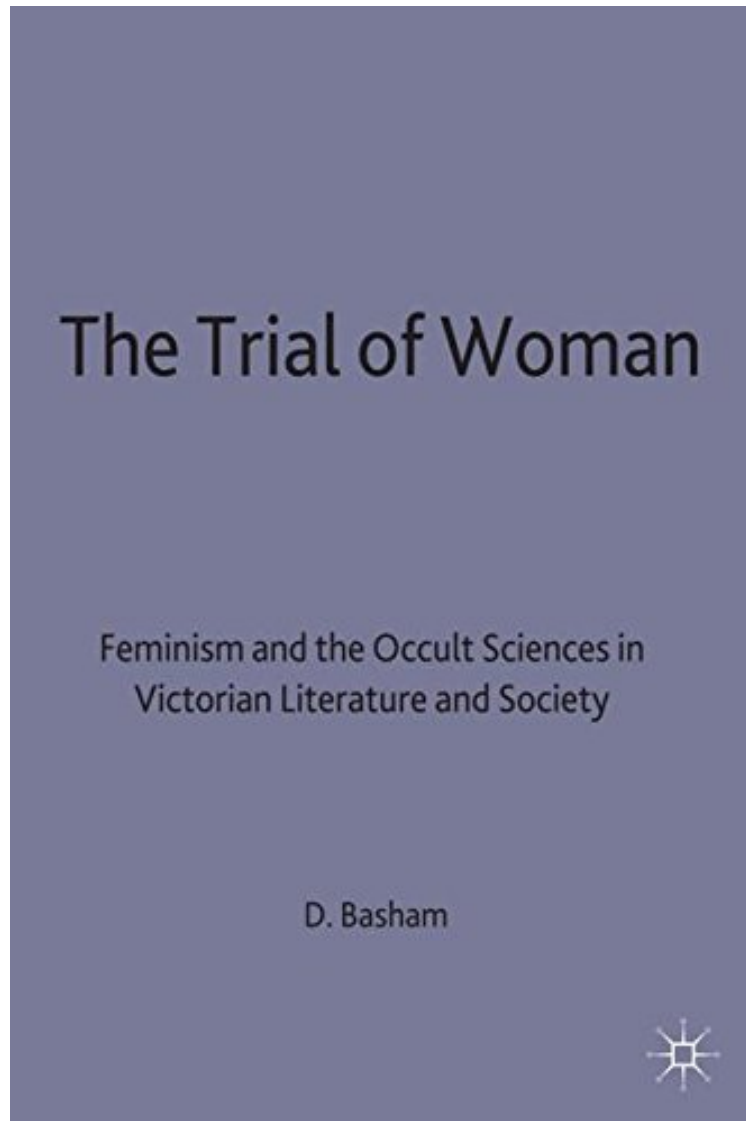


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# **The Trial of Woman: Feminism and the Occult Sciences in Victorian Literature and Society (Feminism and the Occult Science in Victorian Literature and)**

*D. Basham*

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## Literature and Society (Feminism and the Occult Science in Victorian Literature and):

The Trial of Woman examines the impact of the nineteenth-century 'Occult Revival' on the Victorian Women's Movement, both in the lives of individual women and in the literature surrounding 'the Woman Question'. The book explores the Victorian Myth of Occult Womanhood and argues that the notion of female occult power was deeply influenced by the advent of Mesmerism, Spiritualism and Theosophy. This myth was itself a determining factor in women's struggle for legal and political rights.

" is a wide-ranging, amply detailed, and ethically intelligent book with clear political stakes."-Rain Taxi,"Pahl intends his work as a call to take up the opportunity missed after 9/11, to 'shape a remarkable global consensus against religious violence.' This work's basic paradox is that religions 'produce violent power' but exist ultimately to 'eliminate violence.' That paradox captures the troubling message but hopeful conclusion to the work."-CHOICE,"A true achievement of Empire of Sacrifice is its untangling of the 'blissful logic' that preserves American virtue at all costs. Illuminating the cultural and religious assumptions that justify subtle and not-so-subtle forms of violence, this book invites a healthy self-critical stance on American civil religion and social practices. After reading Empire of Sacrifice, it is impossible to avert one's eyes to the disturbing, complicated confluence of religion and violence in American culture."-Jennifer Beste, Xavier University"By uncovering the many ways Americans have misused religion to justify violence, Pahl holds up hope to end the histories of dead men walking. His work contributes to a more peaceful, forgiving, loving and just future for America."-Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of "Dead Man Walking""Pahl exquisitely illumines the pathway by which religion has made possible American empire and poignantly sketches those who have had to sacrifice to create the superpower we know today. Empire of Sacrifice is an admirable experiment in pulling back the curtain on the religious and cultural mechanisms that are often lost in what Pahl calls our national obsession with 'innocent domination.' His case studies are finely tuned windows into the ways in which religion has both abused and freed Americans along lines of gender, race, and class. This book acts as a clarion call for us to think twice when we are called upon to 'sacrifice' in the name of God--a strategy that all too often hides our violence in the cloak of religion."-James K. Wellman, Jr., author of "Evangelical vs. Liberal: The Clash of Christian Cultures in the Pacific Northwest"About the AuthorDIANA BASHAM