

SHAKESPEARE'S USE OF THE SUPERNATURAL

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Shakespeare's Use of the Supernatural by J. Paul S. R. Gibson

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J. PAUL S. R. GIBSON

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USE OF THE
SUPERNATURAL**

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SUPERNATURAL

Shakespeare's Use of the Supernatural

BEING THE

*Cambridge University Harness
Prize Essay 1907*

BY

J. PAUL S. R. GIBSON B.A.

LATE SCHOLAR OF SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

"He that will have a cake out of the wheat, must needs tarry
the grinding."

—*Troilus and Cressida*, I. i. 15.

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

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MCMVIII

To
My best friend
and
Beloved

273198

REFERENCES

The Shakespeare references are according to the "Temple Classics Edition" of the plays.

Those from *Doctor Faustus* and *Friar Bacon* are according to the *Old English Drama*, by A. W. Ward.

Those from the *Witch of Edmonton* according to Dekker's Works in the "Mermaid Series."

LIST OF AUTHORITIES

Works of Shakespeare.
Commentaries on Shakespeare—Gervinus and others.
New Variorum Shakespeare—H. H. Furness.
Concordance to Shakespeare—Mrs. Cowden Clarke.
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Various Notes on Shakespeare's Plays.
Notes on Shakespeare—De Quincey.
The Ghost Belief of Shakespeare—Alfred Roffe.
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The Supernatural in Shakespeare—Hall Caine.
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Critical Essays and Plays of Shakespeare—Wm. W. Lloyd
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Shakespeare Manual—F. G. Fleay.
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Doctor Faustus—Marlowe.
The Witch—Middleton.
Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay—Greene.
The Alchemist—Jonson.

PREFACE

I am specially indebted in Chapter I. to certain ideas taken from *The Ghost Belief of Shakespeare*, by Alfred Roffe ; in Chapter II. to *Folk-lore of Shakespeare*, by Thiselton Dyer ; in Chapters III. and IV. to Moulton's Works ; in Chapter VII. to certain data taken from Furness and Fleay.

In all cases, however, the arrangement and working out has been my own, and practically every reference has been verified.

Chapters V. and VI. are original work. By this I do not mean that the ground has not already been covered, but that in writing the chapters I was seldom conscious of indebtedness to a previous writer.

The term *The Supernatural* has been taken to mean—"Phenomena subject to laws and powers beyond or exceeding those of Nature, as she is at present understood by Science."

J. P. S. R. G.

CAMBRIDGE,
February, 1908.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

	PAGE
SHAKESPEARE'S BELIEF REGARDING THE SUPERNATURAL	1 ✓

CHAPTER II

VARIOUS FORMS OF THE SUPERNATURAL USED BY SHAKESPEARE	11 ✓
---	------

CHAPTER III

EVOLUTION OF SHAKESPEARE'S CONCEPTION OF THE SUPERNATURAL	49
---	----

CHAPTER IV

INFLUENCE WHICH SHAKESPEARE ALLOWED THE SUPERNATURAL TO HAVE OVER HIS CHARACTERS	78 ✓
--	------

CHAPTER V

COMPARISON BETWEEN SHAKESPEARE'S USE OF THE SUPERNATURAL AND THE USE OF IT BY HIS CONTEMPORARIES	86
--	----

CHAPTER VI

SHAKESPEARE'S DRAMATIC USE OF THE SUPERNATURAL	111 ✓
--	-------

CHAPTER VII

SOURCES OF SHAKESPEARE'S SUPERNATURAL CHARACTERS	136
--	-----

CHAPTER VIII

CONCLUSION	142
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