



101 Uses for a dead bat. Nos. 13-32 "Eye of Newt, and toe of frog Wool of bat* and tongue of dog"

Macbeth iv:1:15



As Halloween draws close, maybe now is the time to dust down that spell book and start casting.



With apologies to all the witches amongst you for the use of such stereotyped imagery

For men

If you want a girl to dance with you, write her name in bat's blood on a piece of paper and drop it on the ground. If she walks on it she is yours.

For women

According to an ancient Egyptian papyrus to attract a man, take the eye of a bat while still alive, then let it go. Take uncooked flour or unrefined wax and make a dog figurine out of it. Insert the bat's eyes into this model. Place it in a vessel and leave it at the crossroads. The man will then come to you

To punish an erring husband

Place a live bat in a pot and roast it. The man will feel the same pain
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Protection spells

According to an old Syrian text "Put a bat's head in the covering of thy head and though shall never be



vanquished. Hang its eyes on thy person and thou shalt not be afraid of the scorpion".



USA Ozark pioneers believed that to protect yourself from bullets, you should carry a powdered bat's heart about your person

To become invisible

If you are a **Tyrolean gypsy**, carry a bat's left eye with you. In **Oklahoma** carry the right eye of a bat which has been pierced with a brass pin. In the **West Indies** drink bat blood.

To see in the dark or darken sight

Some spells say that rubbing bat's blood into your eyes. Helps you see in the dark, though another spell says you do that to blind an enemy

To induce lust

A spell from **Texas**:- Place a bat on an anthill and leave it there till all the flesh is removed. Wear its wishbone around your neck. Pulverise the remaining bones and mix with vodka. Give this to the object of your affection and you're home and dry.

There is a **German** version of this spell that involves mixing pulverised bat bones in beer



Pliny, a first century Roman wrote that surreptitiously placing a clot of bat's blood under a woman's pillow would induce desire.

To stop a baby crying

Apaches used to attach a bat skin to a baby's cradle to stop it being frightened. In **Canada**, the head and dried intestines of a bat were dried and hung over the baby's crib to make it sleep all day



To remain vigilant at night

Didymus the Blind, a fourth century mystic claimed that if you cut the head off a live bat, tied it up in black skin and placed it by a person's left arm they will not sleep until the parcelled bat is removed. A **Greco-Roman** spell for preventing sleep involved putting an engraving of a bat under your pillow



Native American **Dog soldiers** were elite warriors one of whose task was to guard the camps at night. Their ferocious appearance was designed to scare Their totem animal, perhaps not surprisingly, was the bat.

And finally, just in case you think only nasty pagan types come up with rituals involving bats: -

To save souls

It was once believed that damaged souls came back as bats, which might explain the following grotesque Christian ritual. Take a bat and let it bleed to death over a piece silk. Each drop of blood you count is one soul saved from hell

The Bedfordshire Bat group strongly advises its members **not** to try any of the above at home or Inspector Phil Cannings will be knocking at your door, not because your man-summoning spell has worked, but, because it is illegal to harm bats

*wool of bat is probably a reference to a plant, but what the heck