# Anna Trapnel

Anna Trapnel was a 17th-century English prophetess and Fifth Monarchist, known for her religious visions and trances during the turbulent period of the English Civil War and the Interregnum. One of her most famous experiences is the "Whitehall Trance" of 1654.

## The Whitehall Trance

In February 1654, Anna Trapnel fell into a prolonged trance at Whitehall in London, where she claimed to receive divine visions and prophecies. The trance lasted for several days, during which she did not eat or drink, and her condition attracted considerable attention from both supporters and sceptics.

During the Whitehall Trance, Trapnel claimed to have received visions of the imminent downfall of Oliver Cromwell's government and the establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth, in line with the beliefs of the Fifth Monarchists, who anticipated the imminent return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of a godly rule. Trapnel saw Cromwell as a tyrant who had betrayed the cause of the English Revolution, and she prophesied that God would soon overthrow him and other corrupt leaders.

In her visions, she described seeing angels and hearing divine voices that conveyed messages of judgment against the rulers of England. She also saw the impending restoration of a more just and godly government, which would pave the way for Christ's return. Trapnel’s visions were infused with apocalyptic imagery and reflected the intense religious fervour and political radicalism of the time.

## Impact and Interpretation

Trapnel’s Whitehall Trance was seen by her followers as a divine endorsement of their cause, but it also led to her arrest and examination by authorities who were concerned about the subversive potential of her prophecies. Many claimed that these visions and prophesies were brought about by demons, not God, and the authenticity of the experience was questioned. Her experiences were recorded in pamphlets, contributing to the spread of her ideas and the wider Fifth Monarchist movement, which sought to bring about a theocratic rule in England.

**r/witchcraft . 5 yr. ago [deleted]**

# I asked for a vision and I think that i was visited by Cernunnos?

Novice Witch here. I have been struggling with feelings of being disconnected with my inner voice. I have neglected my guides and I have just felt like no one is willing to listen to me, let alone do any craft work. I feel like I'm numb. I received news from my mom that distressed me. As I was trying to get my mind off of everything I noticed on a r/pagan that a user posted a photo of their alter to Cernunnos. I was interested by the statue as I had seen it before but wanted some more information on the history of his worship and how modern people worship him. I was reading a poem someone had written and a though popped into my head. "I need to focus my intention on a message. I need to ask Cernunnos for clarity." So, without any type of ritual, I just asked that I know I am on the right path. I went to bed and didn't really think anything else about it. I had a very strange dream. I am very used to having vivid and often terrifying dreams. I don't remember much but I remember that I was leading a group of people passed a massive earthen structure covered in ancient drawings. It was a combination of all types of prehistoric depictions of Gods. I was stunned and immediately started to dance and sing out in praise. It was like I was on an acid trip. I saw a kaleidescope of earthy colors. It was amazingly beautiful. I stopped dancing when I heard a deep almost luxurious voice start speaking. It felt like my heart was flooded with emotion. Like the world was calling out to me. The sky was bright blue but the kaleidescope browns began to fluctuate as the voice spoke. It called itself, "The Old One" and "The power which is ancient." It was like I was given a gift of seeing the energy of the world coming to me. I was told something but I can't quite remember what was said. All I know is that I woke up with a strange sense that it was an answer to my sudden prayer. What do you think? Am I reading too much in to this? I didn't specifically hear the voice identify himself at all, it is more of a feeling. As if I know that it was Cernunnos. It was very male and very old. Any suggestions on how I can interpret this or what tools I can use to better understand this?

**curiousdoc25 . 5y ago**

It sounds like you already know the answer to this in your heart. It's time to re-connect with your intuition.

Cernunnos has reached out to you, now reach back. Meditate, pray, leave offerings, do some divination. Focus on re-connecting with your intuition rather than asking others what you should do. You have all the tools you need.

**[deleted] OP . 5y ago**

I have had a lot of thought about it today and it feels like a rebirth almost. Like my anxiety is high but it is more of a "I need to focus on my light! My vision! My creativity!" Thank you for your insights!

deleted, account. “I asked for a vision and I think that i was visited by Cernunnos?” 2020 January 2020. *Reddit r/witchcraft.* 30 August 2024. <https://www.reddit.com/r/witchcraft/comments/euuhkj/i\_asked\_for\_a\_vision\_and\_i\_think\_that\_i\_was/>.

# The Angels of Mons

Surrounded by the Germans who outnumbered them five to one, 4,000 Commonwealth soldiers fought their way through and were saved from certain death. They had barely returned to camp when a rumour began: angels from heaven had led the way.

## Doomed to death

While the Battle of Mons raged and they had lost count of the number of British soldiers who had been killed by enemy fire, the 8th brigade was fighting tooth and nail to defend Mons. On the evening of 23 August, as night was falling, the situation was serious. The 21,000 Germans involved in the battle had made it to Mons from the East. They were occupying the city and threatening the British rear. On the right, the situation was just as dire, the Commonwealth soldiers had to tackle the 7th Bremen Regiment, which was holding Spiennes. Despite all this, the 8th Brigade miraculously made their way out. They managed to find their way through the darkness to get to their camp.

## Saved by angels

The story might have been left there, if a rumour hadn’t started to spread among the soldiers. Some claimed to have seen angels in the form of archers. They supposedly stopped the Germans in their tracks so that the British could retreat. Fiction or reality? Of course it’s hard to say. The Great War gave rise to plenty of legends. On some parts of the front line, soldiers are said to have been helped by celestial figures to stay alive. (Visit Mons)

Some Tommies swore it had been St. George, the warrior saint of England. Others said the “Angels of Mons” might have been St. Michael, since he carried a gleaming sword. A few said they couldn’t tell, but it had definitely been an angel, maybe more than one. Some men were sure they had seen three wonderful, tall figures towering above the smoke and dust of the battlefield. For others it had been a brilliant light, a golden aura against a brilliant sky, or a cloud in which indistinct but heroic figures had come and gone, aided by phantom archers from the olden days of the English warrior-kings. Whatever it was, the soldiers agreed, it had saved their lives. No amount of civilian scoffing would ever change that.

Skeptics back in England and America did scoff, but that was to be expected. Well-meaning clergymen and physicians made wise and condescending remarks about hysteria, battle fatigue, and fear. Others shook their heads knowingly and tut-tutted about superstition and overactive imaginations. Perhaps that was what had caused these “visions,” as the newspapers called them. But the naysayers and doubters hadn’t been there. They hadn’t fought against enormous odds, with comrades dying next to them, baked by a remorseless sun and drenched with rain. And they hadn’t walked the dreadful road west from Mons itself.

References

Smith, Robert Barr. “Were the Angels of Mons in World War I Real, or Mass Hysteria?” *Military*  August 2005. <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/world-war-i-miracle-the-angels-of-mons/>.

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