



### *What Is Superstition?*



Click on the pictures for an **ARTICLE** and a **DOCUMENTARY** about witch-hunts in Europe and the USA

It is hard to distinguish between **superstition** and **religion**: what is viewed as a religious principle within a faith is often viewed as superstition by those who do not belong to that faith.

Superstition boils down to attributing natural phenomena to supernatural forces due to the **ignorance** of the natural causes behind it. This explains its inherent association with religion: for example, when humankind was unable to give account of the **thunder**, it would resort to **divine wrath** to explain it.

If you feel like debonairly smiling at superstitions as if they were harmless popular quirks, then you may also want to pay a thought to the **2,000 victims** caused by **witch-hunters** in **Canton Vaud** alone (Switzerland) between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Consider also that superstition is not a vague threat lurking from a dark past: every time someone kneels down to fulfill the will of an imaginary being, the **irrationality** of superstition still poses a threat to social and moral integrity...