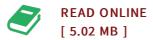




## Discerning Spirits: Divine and Demonic Possession in the Middle Ages

By Nancy Caciola

Cornell University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 352 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 5.7in. x 0.9in.Trance states, prophesying, convulsions, fasting, and other physical manifestations were often regarded as signs that a person was seized by spirits. In a book that sets out the prehistory of the early modern European witch craze, Nancy Caciola shows how medieval people decided whom to venerate as a saint infused with the spirit of God and whom to avoid as a demoniac possessed of an unclean spirit. This process of discrimination, known as the discernment of spirits, was central to the religious culture of Western Europe between 1200 and 1500. Since the outward manifestations of benign and malign possession were indistinguishable, a highly ambiguous set of bodily features and behaviors were carefully scrutinized by observers. Attempts to make decisions about individuals who exhibited supernatural powers were complicated by the fact that the most intense exemplars of lay spirituality were women, and the fragile sex was deemed especially vulnerable to the snares of the devil. Assessments of womens spirit possessions often oscillated between divine and demonic interpretations. Ultimately, although a few late medieval women visionaries achieved the prestige of canonization, many more were accused of possession...



#### Reviews

An extremely wonderful book with lucid and perfect information. It is one of the most awesome publication i have read. Your life period will probably be enhance the instant you total looking at this pdf.

-- Prof. Dan Windler MD

It is really an amazing publication i actually have at any time read. It is really simplistic but unexpected situations inside the 50 percent of your pdf. Its been written in an exceptionally simple way in fact it is just right after i finished reading this ebook where actually transformed me, alter the way i really believe.

-- Dr. Celestino Spinka III

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Petrucci Library Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 26 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 6.9in. x 0.3in.Percy Grainger, like his contemporary Bela Bartok, was intensely interested in folk music and became a member of the English Folk-Song Society soon after his arrival in...