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**Woman's Story Of Weird Rites
And A Living Sacrifice In The
'Temple Of Mr. Aleister Crowley**



MISS BETTY MAY (Mrs. Betty Sedgwick), author of "Tiger Woman," who gave evidence yesterday

Eerie stories of magic ritual in the Sicilian temple of Mr. Aleister Crowley—one of which was alleged to have involved the sacrifice of a cat on an altar—were told in the King's Bench Division yesterday by a woman author.

It was the third day of Mr. Crowley's action for alleged libel against Miss Nina Hamnett, authoress of "Laughing Torso," and against the publishers and printers of the book.

Mrs. Betty May Sedgwick (author of "Tiger Woman") was giving evidence.

She told her story in brief, vivid sentences.

She described arriving at the villa on the hillside one night after dark, with her young husband.

WOMAN IN RED CLOAK

She told of a woman, "Leah," who wore a red cloak, was known as "the Scarlet Woman," and who, she said, was Crowley's spiritual wife.

She said that the household awoke each day to the thrumming of a tom-tom, that all faced the sun in "adoration."

Crowley, she said, slept all day—and lived at night.

Then she told the story of the cat. "It wandered into the temple," she said. "It was a rule that no animal should enter the place.

"It scratched Crowley. He said that in three days it would be sacrificed."

Her husband, she declared, was ordered to kill it with a long, curved knife.

He obeyed, and was told to drink a cupful of its blood.

Mr. Crowley emphatically denies the incidents. "There was no sacrifice, no animal, no blood, no drinking," he said.

To-day the hearing will be continued.

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