

Many people view Halloween as a time of innocent fun. Children love to dress up as their favorite characters. They will go door to door saying the infamous words "trick or treat". Many adults also love Halloween, because it gives them a chance to let loose and act silly. Every year in the U.S.A. alone, millions of dollars are spent on Halloween goods. Halloween is the second highest grossing money maker outside of Christmas. The promotion of Halloween by the television moguls, the advertisers, and not to mention the blockbuster sales of movies and rentals this time of year. Everyone can see Halloween is big business. A lot of people do not see the harm in all of this Halloween hoopla. But yes, there is a darker side to Halloween than anyone dares to imagine.

THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWEEN

Unlike our modern-day Halloween, theirs was not a children's holiday. The Celts and their priests, the Druids, from Great Britain and Ireland. They celebrated "SAMHAIN". It was a festival that marked the eve of the Celtic New Year, which began on November 1. The fall harvest was complete and winter was looming ahead. The Celts believed the sun was fading away, at this time of the year. For the next several months, darkness prevailed. The Celts believed that during "Samhain" the veil separating life from death was at its thinnest. On the evening of October 31, the evil spirits and souls of the dead passed through the barrier and visited the world of the living. The Celts believed these spirits could cause all kind of havoc. They also believed that they could talk with the dead, departed loved ones and such. They also believed that they could devine the future. The powers of darkness were conjured up on "Samhain". The Devil himself, would be called upon to foretell of future events.

THE ORIGIN OF "TRICK OR TREAT"

The Celts tried to appease the evil spirits: ghosts, goblins, and demons. Huge "Samhain" bonfires were built to light the way for all the spirits to find their way in to the world of the living. They would leave out food, hoping that this would please the spirit world. If they did not leave a thing, then hence, the spirits would play evil "tricks" on the living in that house. The Druids required human sacrifices, they would go door to door asking for the virgin daughters. If this was not obtained at the chosen homes, then a hexagram was painted on the door in blood to show the appointed evil spirits to cause all kinds of evil to fall on the home. In some cases, even resulted in death.

THE ORIGIN OF THE "JACK O' LANTERN"

It is a story about a man named: "Stingy Jack" He was an old Irish drunkard that invited the Devil to have a drink with him one Halloween night.

"If you pay for it" the Devil replied.

"But you can change yourself into anything you want to" Jack protested. "Change yourself into a sixpence. After I've paid for the drink, you can change yourself back." The Devil agreed. He mumbled a spell, disappeared, and there on the

counter was a shiny new sixpence. But Stingy Jack quickly put the coin into his pocket, where a silver cross prevented the Devil from getting out. "If you leave me alone for a year, I'll let you out," Jack promised. The Devil agreed and was released. Jack intended to repent, take his pay home to his wife, and go to church and give to the poor. But as soon as he was out of danger, Jack soon returned to his old ways.

The next Halloween Jack met up with the Devil on a lonely road. "He's come to take my soul now" thought Jack. But this time he tricked the Devil into sparing his soul for ten years. But before the ten years were up, Jack died. He was turned away at the gates of heaven, Jack made his way to the gates of hell.

"Go away," shouted the Devil.

"Where can I go?" said Jack. "Go back to where you've come" ordered the Devil. "You tricked me, and made me promise not to claim your soul." snapped the Devil.

Jack began his long trek back through wind and darkness. As Jack trudged on, eating a turnip as he went, the Devil threw him a live coal out of the fires of hell. In desperation to find his way, Jack put the live coal inside the turnip. Ever since that time, Jack is said to be roaming the face of the earth with his "Jack O' Lantern", searching for a place to rest.

When the Druids went door to door, requiring the human sacrifice and it was given over, the Druids would leave a turnip carved out to resemble that of an evil spirit. The turnip would be lit up with a candle usually made from human fat. This they would put at the doorposts of the homes that gave the "Treats". The evil spirits would then "pass over" the house they thought.

The customs from Great Britain and Ireland, are now in modern-day America. The only difference now is that the "globe-faced" pumpkins that sit on the porches, fenceposts and in the windows of American homes at Halloween are a reminder of the turnips of old. Even today we continue the same tradition of carving out the face of the pumpkin to resemble the evil faces of the spirits.

THE ORIGIN OF "BOBBING FOR APPLES"

The tub was filled with water and apples floated on the surface. The person dunks his or her head in the tub and hopes to grab an apple with the teeth, believed that the person who is successful at this is said that good luck will abound. In some circles the custom is said to be also that the person will be lucky in romance with the lover of their choice. The apple bobbing is a form of divination used to foretell the future.

THE ORIGIN OF THE "BLACK CAT"

First of all cats are very spiritual animals. Out of all the animals, the cat can sense the presence of spirits, both good and bad. But the all black cat holds a high significance to the witches and Satanists. The black cat, they believe has special powers. To them they believe the black cat represents incarnated humans, malevolent spirits, or the "familiars" of witches. This is why that many black cats are in danger around Halloween. If you have a black cat, do not let them roam the streets at night, keep them inside. Also the local SPCA's won't even let anyone adopt a black cat around Halloween time, in fear of the cat might be harmed.

THE ORIGIN OF THE COLORS: "ORANGE AND BLACK"

The colors orange and black can be traced back to the occult. They were connected to the commemorative masses for the dead, which were held in November. The unbleached beeswax candles used in the various ceremonies were orange. The ceremonial caskets were covered in black cloths. And let's not forget the modern-day "Jack O' Lanterns" orange in color.

THE ORIGIN OF THE "COSTUMES" ON HALLOWEEN

The Celts and Druids believed that by wearing masks and costumes, they would confuse the spirits into thinking they were one of them. Therefore the evil spirits would leave them alone. They would usually wear these while dancing around the big Samhain "bonfires." Also it is to be believed that they thought by wearing the costumes they could communicate with the spirits.

THE ROOTS OF PAGANISM

The whole Halloween thing is steeped in paganism. Halloween is a celebration of death and all that is evil. By decades of letting foreigners into our land, they have brought with them every occult practice and all of their idols. Now because of this, our children are suffering the consequences of the iniquities of the third and fourth generations of witchcraft and things of the demonic world. We as Christians are to stand up and boldly proclaim our heritage of what this country was founded on. This country was to be a Christian nation. By us not speaking out, look at our country today, every evil thing is trying to take away our freedom.