

# HALLOWEEN: TRICK OR TRICK?

## Introduction

Halloween needs no introduction. Its popularity is growing yearly in the West, and in New Zealand in recent years there has been a phenomenal increase in the celebration. Retailers promote it to boost sales, night-clubs promote it for the same reason, childcare centres and schools promote it as a fun thing to do, adolescents use it as an excuse for another party, and everyone says it is harmless fun.

After a good many hours of research the stark truth emerges. This study will give a concise overview of the origin of the celebration of Halloween.

## The origin

(Note: Some facts about the Druids are disputed or uncertain; there are differences plus geographical peculiarities between early and late Druidism.)

The modern day celebration of Halloween has its historic roots in 'The Vigil of Samhain' (pronounced 'sow' as in pig, and 'ween'), the druidic New Year festival.

Druids were not jolly, happy men like Getafix in the Asterix comics. The druids were the influential magicians and sorcerers of the nature religions that prevailed in early northern Europe. They believed that on the eve of November the 1<sup>st</sup>, Samhain, the Lord of Death (I wonder who that could be?), called forth evil spirits, and that contact with spirit beings was thought to be easiest during this night. The druids led the people in worship ceremonies in which animals and humans were sacrificed in sadistic ritualistic killings. Within three miles of Stonehenge, England, there are over 350 funeral mounds that contain remnants of human sacrifices that proves this isn't just a legend... it really did happen.

*Recent evidence that Druids possibly committed cannibalism and ritual human sacrifice—perhaps on a massive scale—add weight to ancient Roman accounts of Druidic savagery, archaeologists say.<sup>1</sup>*

The last few years have seen a massive revival in druidic pagan religion. In fact, you will find druids meeting at Stonehenge this Halloween carrying out their rituals and sacrifices symbolically. Little do the celebrators of Halloween today realise that they too are unknowingly acting out similar rituals... all in the name of good old fashioned fun.

## The customs and symbols

All of today's seemingly innocent Halloween customs and symbols have very disturbing origins.

### 1. Trick or treat

During the Samhain festival, the Druids believed that the dead would play tricks on mankind and cause panic and destruction. They had to be appeased, so country folk would give the Druids food as they visited their homes. Refusal to give the druids 'treats' would result in demonic 'tricks' being loosed.

When we give treats to cute kiddies at our door, in essence, we are participating in a re-enactment of an ancient occultic practise. All in good fun of course.

### 2. Jack O Lanterns

The Jack O Lantern is an ancient symbol of a damned soul. Jack O Lanterns originated from the Celtic tradition of carving demonic faces on turnips and later on pumpkins. Irish legend told of 'Jack', a villain so wicked that neither God nor the Devil wanted him. Rejected by both the sacred and profane, he wandered the world endlessly looking for a place to rest, his only warmth a glittering candle in a rotten potato.

### 3. Costumes

During the Samhain festival, villagers (remember they were extremely superstitious) believed they could dress in costumes and wear masks to hide their identity from the evil spirits. They believed that the demons who had brought their misfortune upon them would become frightened off by the hideous masks. Hence the tradition of wearing scary costumes and masks today.

### 4. Bonfires

Bonfires originated from the burning of animal and possibly human sacrifices on huge fires during the time of Samhain. Charred remains of bones was all that remained of these fires in the morning, hence the name... Bone-fires.

### 5. Broomsticks

Early nature worshippers smeared hallucinogenic ointment on broomsticks, where they rubbed the 'delicate' parts of their bodies, creating the sensation of 'flying high'.<sup>2</sup> Yes indeed, ancient sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll.

### 6. Black cats

For those involved in the occult and superstition, black cats are thought of as a representation of evil and reincarnation. The Humane Society in America warns that around Halloween black cats in particular may be at risk from children's pranks or other cruelty-related incidents, or slaughtered.

### 7. Bobbing for apples

In honour of their goddess of fruit trees, the Celts would try to grasp fruit, floating in water, without their hands. Bobbing for apples was also used in divination.

## The cast

### 1. Witches

Witchcraft is hugely popular in the west today, and is becoming more and more popular as the media presents it as the en vogue thing to do. Witches are real, they do cast spells, talk with spirits, and tell the future, and they loath fundamentalist Christians. The 'witch' is probably the most popular of all Halloween costumes. In general, witches believe that all natural objects have a soul, there are many gods, and there are multi-levels of reality. They practice divination, sorcery, and spiritism. There are those who say they are white witches (good), and there are the black witches (bad). Most will tell you they are white witches. In reality there is no such thing as a 'white' or good witch...

The Bible clearly spells out God's position concerning man's participation in occultic practices.

<sup>9</sup>*"When you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you, be very careful not to imitate the detestable customs of the nations living there. <sup>10</sup>For example, never sacrifice your son or daughter as a burnt offering. And do not let your people practice fortune-telling or sorcery, or allow them to interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, <sup>11</sup>or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. <sup>12</sup>Anyone who does these things is an object of horror and disgust to the LORD. It is because the other nations have done these things that the LORD your God will drive them out ahead of you. <sup>13</sup>You must be blameless before the LORD your God. <sup>14</sup>The people you are about to displace consult with sorcerers and fortune-tellers, but the LORD your God forbids you to do such things. **Deuteronomy 18:10-14 (NLT)***

<sup>8</sup>*But cowards who turn away from me, and unbelievers, and the corrupt, and murderers, and the immoral, and those who practice witchcraft, and idol worshippers, and all liars—their doom is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This is the second death." **Revelation 21:8 (NLT)***

Many people validate involvement in occultic practices because 'it works'. Just because something works, doesn't mean it is right to participate in. Occultic power, disguised as white witchcraft, will always eventually enslave the person wielding it.

### 2. Vampires

There is a modern revival of vampirism among the youth subculture today. Nightclubs have opened all over America to accommodate this trend. What is modern-day vampirism? Simply, the party by night, sleep by day mentality. Dressing in black, drinking each other's blood, celebrating everything macabre and sensual. What is vampirism's origin? The early Slavs and Britons had a strong belief in vampires (living corpses empowered by evil, craving blood as sustenance), up until the early 1800's. Some occultists today believe vampirism to be a fact.

### 3. Dracula

Dracula was very much a real person, called Vlad Dracul, the Impaler, 1431-1476. He was a demon-possessed madman who massacred more than 100,000 men women, children, and babies during his lifetime in the most sickening, disturbing ways imaginable. Parents would never allow their children to dress up and act like Adolph Hitler, or Charles Manson, and yet they are more than happy to let their children dress up as Vlad the Impaler?

### 4. Werewolves, ghouls and the rest

During the Middle Ages, there were very few true Christians. Darkness reigned (hence the middle ages being called the dark-ages). There were numerous witches, and sorcerers. As a result, there was a massive amount of demonic activity that took place during that time. On many occasions, people saw and were visited by demonic apparitions, ghoulish creatures, etc. The characters of our modern day creature feature films have their origins in these very real occurrences.

## The 'not so subtle' dangers

### 1. Halloween glorifies violence and death

The world reels in shock when violent murders happen and wonder why. They debate the causes on talkback shows, write books on the psychology behind it, and get rich. Meanwhile an entire generation of impressionable children see the blood-splattered-glow-in-the-dark meat cleavers and similar 'toys' on sale in the toy stores during Halloween sales. The world says Violence is fun; Violence and death sells. Just look at the retail advertisements that get posted in our letterboxes two weeks before Halloween.

*Last October, the Teacher of a fourth grade class asked her students to write a short essay on what they would like to do most on Halloween. 80% of her 9-year olds expressed the wish to "kill somebody".<sup>3</sup>*

### 2. Halloween glorifies horror and fear

What causes people to like being scared? What draws people to the cinema to watch the latest horror movie? There has to be a motivating force behind it. We know that God is love and perfect love drives out all fear, so it's definitely not God that makes us want to be scared. People enjoy being scared when they're with their mates and all is fun, but when they are alone at night the memories play on the mind... Have you ever wondered why many adults are still afraid of the dark?

### 3. Halloween glorifies the Occult

As we have already read, Halloween is an occultic celebration in which Satan is glorified in every custom and symbol! Participants in this "night of the dead" unknowingly make themselves susceptible to demonic influences. By being involved in Halloween you are showing by your actions that you approve of, and endorse the work of Satan. Blunt but true.

## Media

*"Whoever controls the media, controls the culture." Allen Ginsberg (Poet, 1926-1997)*

When I was a child, whenever witches, vampires, and the like featured in movies or TV, they were always the 'baddie'. Times have changed in the new millennium, and I don't need to convince you that many of our silver-screen heroes and heroines are the witches, vampires, werewolves and undead. It seems that we are slowly being conditioned into believing that witchcraft is cool, that evil is good and good is evil. It comes as

no surprise then that interest in the occult especially among the younger generations is growing exponentially.

## Conclusion

By understanding the satanic origins of Halloween, we can no longer claim ignorance. If you participate in the customs of Halloween, whether in fun or by ignorance, you are participating in ancient practices that are consecrated to Satan.

*<sup>11</sup>Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, rebuke and expose them.*  
**Ephesians 5:11 (NLT)**

There is very good reason for the above instruction to us. God does not delight in robbing us of innocent harmless fun. On the contrary, He desires that we live life to the full. But as the ultimate loving Father, He grieves when we participate in activities which not only glorify the Lord of Death, but open the door to evil in our lives.

*<sup>10</sup>The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.*  
**John 10:10 (NLT)**

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**For further study:**

[http://logosresourcepages.org/idx\\_halloween](http://logosresourcepages.org/idx_halloween).

<http://www.ankerberg.com/Articles/Halloween/halloween-origin.htm>

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**References:**

<sup>1</sup> <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/03/090320-druids-sacrifice-cannibalism.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.straightdope.com/columns/read/1344/whats-the-deal-with-witches-and-broomsticks>

<sup>3</sup> The Dark Side Of Halloween, by David L Brown Th.M. Pg 10.