



HALLOWEEN AND SATANISM

By Fr. Augustinos Hanna

summer...The souls of the dead were supposed to revisit their homes on this day and the autumnal festival acquired sinister significance, with ghosts, witches, goblins, black cats, fairies and demons of all kinds said to be roaming about. It was the time to placate the supernatural powers controlling the processes of nature. In addition, Halloween was thought to be the most favorable time for divinations concerning marriage, luck, health, and death. It was the only day on which the help of the devil was invoked for such purposes..

PROMOTING THE SPRIT OF FEAR:

Halloween practices are meant to arouse the spirit of fear and Agoraphobia. These sorts of fear of demons, witches, goblins and superstitions are not of God and against Christianity, because fear is not of God.

In today's society, fear is the entertainment industry's stock in trade. This fear plays a leading role in TV and theater productions. People want to be, "scared to death". And are usually not knowledgeable, or don't care, about the ill effects that fear, whether in reality or in 'fun', has on our health and general well' being. While we have had the Dracula of the past as well as the present, today the movie industry promotes fear' inducing films in vivid color and in the most explicit manner. If fear is not of God, then why do Christians still attend these horror movies that were especially designed to generate and promote fear?

Sad to say, many people cannot or will not defend their faith against the multi-million dollar productions presented by Hollywood. Let us stop Satan in his tracks by being aware and putting on the armor of God! "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against he wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11). *"For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father"* (Rom. 8:15).

Again, the Bible says, *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear; because fear has torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love"* (1 John 4:18). If fear is not of God, then Halloween is not just a time for innocent fun.

A CELEBRATION OF DEATH:

If you thought Halloween was a time for cornstalks, pumpkins, apples, and apple cider, a time for children dressed in cute costumes of witches, goblins, ghosts or devils to knock at your door calling, "Trick or Treat", you had better 'wise up"! There is much more in Halloween. Did you know that Halloween is a day 'witches' celebrate above all other days? Witches have eight major festivals throughout the year. The major witchcraft festival is October 31 or Halloween.

Witchcraft is not child's play. It is an abomination in the eyes of God: Listen to what God says in the Bible, "You shall not follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, *or one who practices witchcraft. Or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord*" (Deuteronomy 18:9-12). Yet today, witchcraft has gained acceptability by many people. Even the IRS, the Internal Revenue Service has given tax exempt status to the church of Wicca (the official church of witchcraft), which means your gift to witchcraft is a tax deductible, charitable donation of a religious nature, the same as if you were tithing to the church of Jesus Christ! As if there is no difference. (Continued on P.)

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THE HALLOWEEN WITCH:

The Halloween witch is a strange-looking female in black cloak and peaked hat riding a broomstick along with her symbolic cat. Her name is derived from the Saxon word wica, which means "wise on"! The peeling of church bells was believed to be a defense against aerial witches. The black color of the witch's cloak reminds us that Halloween is a 'festival of the dead'.

The horned god: The Archbishop of Canterbury, England, set punishments for "those who go about in the masque of a stag of bull-calf... those who by their

craft raise storms, sacrifice to demons, and consult soothsayers who divine by birds.” The people described by the Archbishop worshipped a horned god.

This god usually was a goat, bull or ram, but sometimes a man or woman wearing skins and the head of an animal. During their magical rites they would dance about in a circle, barking and howling. At midnight, using a bronze sickle, they would gather herbs. Spells were cast or enemies bewitched by sticking thorns into a wax model of the person. The skins of snakes and the saliva and intestines of animals, wings of bats also went into their brews. At the end of the ceremony they sacrificed and ate the animal god.

NECROMANCY:

Probably the most black of the ‘black arts’ is necromancy, communication with the dead. Necromancy can be divided into two main branches: divination by means of the ghosts, and divination from corpses, both which represent related forms of forbidden knowledge.

According to the Biblical story of Saul and the ‘witch’ of *Endor*, the king failed to obtain an omen of the future from God, by dreams, or by lots, or by prophets, and consulted a medium who summoned up for him the shape of the prophet Samuel. The ghost appeared as an old man dressed in a robe, and foretold Saul’s imminent death and the defeat of Israel (1 Sam. 28). Of course it cannot be Samuel’s spirit, because no witch or demon has authority over the spirits of the dead, rather a great prophet, but surely it was a deceiving evil spirit according to God’s word.

THE PENTAGRAM:

The five pointed star, used for centuries by witches, is called the pentacle, or pentagram. With the two points up it is called the sign of the goat or Satan. One point up symbolizes witchcraft. When witches want to talk to demons they often will stand within a pentagram.

THE ORIGIN OF HALLOWEEN:

In A.D. 835, Pope Gregory IV designated November 1 as All Saints Day or All Hallow's Day. The eve before this, October 31, was known as All Hallow's Evening.

Long before the church gave this name to the evening before All Saints Day (a celebration in remembrance of saints and martyred saints), it had been celebrated in various ways in many places around the world.

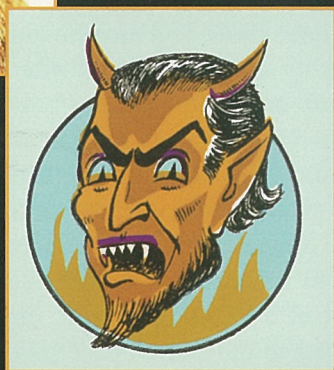
Then over the years, this idea was influenced by the ancient Druids, who were the learned or priestly class of the Celtic religion. The Celts were the first Aryan people who came from Asia to settle in Europe. In fact there are certain similarities between Druidism and the religion of India. They believed that on October 31, the night before their New Year and the last day of the old year, the Lord of Death gathered the souls of the evil dead who had been condemned to enter the bodies of animals. The souls of the good dead were reincarnated as humans!

Thus, the Celts believed that on their New Year's Eve (our Halloween) ghosts, evil spirits and witches roamed about. In order to honor the Sun God (Belenus), and to frighten away evil spirits who allegedly feared fire, large bonfires were lit on hilltops.

On this night, evil or frustrated ghosts were also supposed to play tricks on humans and to cause supernatural manifestations. As part of the celebration, people donned ugly masks and danced around the great bonfires often pretending they were being pursued by evil spirits. Because the celebration has marked the beginning of a new year, an interest in divination and fortune-telling became an important part of this holiday. When the Romans conquered Britain, some of their customs were added to those of the Druids while others, such as human sacrifice were banned.

WHAT DOES ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA SAY?

"In ancient Britain and Ireland, the Celtic Festival of *Samhain* was observed on October 31, at the end of



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