Elke jaar op 31 Oktober neem baie kinders, uitgevat in kostuums wat wissel van die prettige tot die makabere en self sataniese, deel aan hierdie "ritueel"—sommer net vir die genot daarvan. Die feit dat dit oor baie eeue heen gedoen was en nog steeds gedoen word—maak dit 'n ritueel! Ouers sien dit meesal as onskuldige kinderpret en in baie gevalle help hulle ywerig om die kostuums te maak of te bekom. Kerke raak betrokke deur onskuldige pretaande vir die jeug te reël met die tema: **"Halloween."**

Die vraag is egter is dit so *onskuldig* en waar lê die oorsprong van **"Halloween?"** Is dit iets waaraan 'n Christen kan deelneem en kerke self by betrokke kan raak?

BELANGRIKE DATUMS:

Die heidense (pagan) jaar het vier belangrike datums, **vanuit die Noordelike halfrond gesien** is hulle as volg:

- Die Herfs Dag-en-Nagewening: Die son is regoor die ewenaar (±21 Sept) en dag en nag is ewe lank. Die oestyd was gevier en dui op die sterfte van die natuur—die klem val op die dood.
- Die Wintersonstilstand: Die dag is op sy kortste en die nag op sy langste—23 Desember. Groot feeste was gekenmerk deur dronkenskap, brassery en losbandigheid. Die Romeine wy die tydperk 17-24 Desember aan hulle afgod Saturnus. Die 25ste word as die "Fees van die Onoorwinlike Son" gevier.
- Die Lentenagewening: Weer is dag en nag ewe lank (23 Maart). Dit word as die nuwe geboorte van die natuur gesien—die "opstanding". Nou word allerhande vrugbaarheidsfeeste gevier. Die kernaktiwiteit is orgiastiese seksuele losbandigheid. In die antieke tye was maagde geoffer, vrugbaarheidsgode en –godinne (Pan, Isis, Demeter, Ceres) en die manlike fallus (geslagoorgaan was aanbid).
- Somersonstilstand: Nou is die dag op sy kortste en die nag op sy langste—21 Junie. In Brittanje staan dit bekend as "Midsummer Night" en word gekenmerk aan brassery, dronkenskap en seksuele losbandigheid.

In die lig van hierdie feestye kan ons nou verdere lig op die onderwerp werp deur met die aanvangsdatum van die heidense (pagan) kalender te begin—**Halloween!**

OORSPRONG:

Volgens Michael Judge in die New Age tydskrif, *Common Boundary*, het Halloween sy oorsprong by die Kelte (Druids) enigiets tussen 1 000 tot 100 v.C. Hierdie feestyd was die begin van die nuwe jaar—Sept/Okt. Baäl, die Keltiese god van lente en somer, se regeringstydperk eindig en die heerser van die Dood, Samhain begin regeer. Texe Mars skryf in *New Age Cults & Religions, p.177*: "Toe Julius Ceaser Brittanje in 60 n.C., oorwin het, was hy geskok met die perverse en groteske aard van die godsdienstige stelsel van hierdie oorwonne bevolking. Hy en sy soldate het op rye bloedbevlekte bome, skreeuende swart geklede priesters en geweldadige vrouens afgekom. Hy skryf dat hy ook massa verbranding van mense en diere in massiewe gevlegte hokke aanskou het wat as offerhandes aan die songod geoffer was."

Die Keltiese dag het van sononder tot sononder die volgende dag getel. Hulle fees het dus op die aand van 31 Oktober begin en tot die aand van 1 November geduur. Hulle het geglo dat die normale orde in die heelal gedurende hierdie tydperk gesuspendeer was. Die skeiding tussen die natuurlike en bo-natuurlike was tydelike opgeskort sodat goddelike wesens en die geeste van afgestorwenes vrylik tussen die mense kon beweeg en by menslike aangeleenthede betrokke kon raak. Dit kon selfs geweldadig wees. Hierdie tydperk, "Hallows' Eve," die tyd wanneer die oujaar en die natuur sterf (begin van die nuwe jaar en winter) was die tyd wanneer die dood die land deurkruis het en om hierdie geeste tevrede te stel het die mense geskenke en eet en drinkgoed vir hulle uitgesit.

Gedurende die nag van 31 Oktober, was geglo, het hekse op besems na hul "covens', vergesel deur bosegeeste in die vorm van swart katte, gevlieg. Dit was die nag van dood en menslike offers—die begin van die Sataniese jaar! Mindernag was die belangrike uur ("high hour").

Die Kelte het ook geglo dat dit die tyd was wanneer die geeste truuks ("tricks") met die mense gespeel het en paniek en vernietiging gesaai het. Hulle moes tevrede gestel word—gevolglik eet en drinkgoed! Hierin lê die idee van "Trick or Treat."

Hulle het ook geglo dat die mense wat die vorige jaar gesterf het in diere verander het en om hierdie geeste op hierdie heilige nag te verwelkom, het hulle kostuums wat diere voorstel, aangetrek. Met dagbreek het hulle in 'n groot parade na die kant van die gehug opgetrek in die hoop om hierdie geeste na die paradys te lei.

Die pampoenspook was oorspronlik "Jock/Jack of the lantern"—letterlik *Jack wat in die lantern bly*. Dit word later Jack o' Lantern en vandag Jackolantern. Jock/Jack verteenwoordig die geesgids ("spirit guide") van die betrokke priester of persoon wat in die ding woon. Eers was aartappels of rape gebruik maar toe die Iere na die VSA ge-emigreer het, het hulle daar pampoene gekry wat makliker was om uit te hol. So vind ons dat die oranje/geel pampoen en swart, beide kleure van die dood, vandag nog die sentrale kleure vir Halloween is.

Die hap na appels in 'n bad water kom uit 'n wrede ritueel van die Keltiese priesters waarin mense na appels in kokende olie kon hap om moontlike verbranding as offers aan Samhain vry te spring.

VANDAG:

Volgens inligting uit die VSA is dit die tydperk waartydens die meeste kinders wegraak, aan vergiftiging sterf, vermink raak en selfs deur die bose beset word. Hulle sê dat daar 'n al groter swaai na die okkulte toe te bespeur is en dat hulle in toenemende mate gekonfronteer word met sake soos grafskending, verminking van liggame en die diefstal van troeteldiere wat as offerhandes gebruik word gedurende hierdie nag van die Fees van die Dood—die hoogtepunt van die Sataniese jaar. Bespeur ons nie 'n toename in dieselfde dinge nie?

GOD SÊ:

"Wanneer jy in die land kom wat die Here jou God vir jou sal gee, moet jy nie die afskuwelike praktyke van daardie nasies aanleer nie. Daar mag nie iemand by jou wees wat sy seun of sy dogter as offer laat verbrand nie. Daar mag ook nie 'n besweerder by jou wees nie en ook nie 'n towenaar of iemand wat voortekens lees of 'n goëlaar of 'n slangbesweerder of iemand wat die geeste om inligting vra en dooies raadpleeg nie. Die Here het 'n afsku van elkeen wat hierdie soort ding doen." (Deut 18:9-12) Sien ook Eks 20:3-6; Lev 20:5,6; Deut 7:25,26; 31:16; Joh 3:19-21; 1 Kor 10:20-22; 2 Kor 6:14-18.

Efesiërs 5:6-11 stel dit duidelik dat Christene niks met die werke van die duisternis te doene moet hê nie, maar dit eerder aan die kaak moet stel.

PARTY SÊ:

"Ag wat ek vat dit tog nie ernstig op nie. Ek neem net deel vir die pret daarvan." Maar God sê: "Onthou julle van elke VORM van kwaad." (1 Tess 5:22, Ou Vertaling)

Die keuse is joune! Gaan voort met dit wat jy dink onskuldige pret is en stel jou bloot om deur die Bose meegesleur te word, óf luister na die Here.

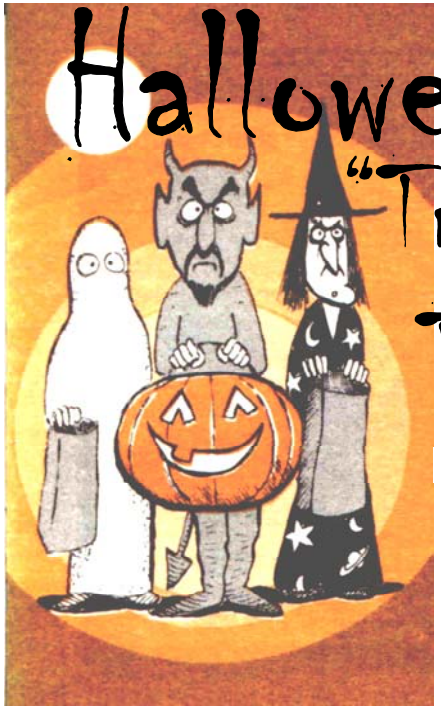
Hierdie traktaat kan bestel word by:

KIES CIEC

Posbus 8009
EDLEEN
1625
Tel/Faks: 011-394-3080
E-pos: kies_ciec@telkomsa.net
Verw: HALTR01

Met erkenning aan: *Holidays and Holy Days, Tom C. McKenney en Watchman Fellowship Inc., se inligtingstuk, "Halloween."*

Halloween "Trick or Trap?"



Each year on 31 October, many children clothed in costumes that range from the cute and sweet to the macabre and satanic, re-enact this ritual—just for the fun of it. That it has always been done and continues to be so makes it a ritual! Mostly parents view it as harmless fun and sometimes eagerly participate in the making or obtaining of costumes. Churches get involved by arranging harmless fun evenings for the young—the theme: **Halloween!**

The question is: "Is it really *harmless* and where or what is the origin of **Halloween?**" Can Christians or churches get involved with it?

IMPORTANT DATES:

The pagan year has four important dates, seen from **the Northern hemisphere**. These are:

- The Autumnal Equinox: This is when the sun is above the celestial equator (±21 Sept) and day and night are of equal length. It was a time of celebrating the harvest. The dying of nature with the emphasis on death.
- The Winter Solstice: The date ±23 December, the day is at its shortest and the night at its longest. This time was marked by great festivities of drunkenness, revelry and debauchery. During the time 17-14 December the Romans honoured their Sungod, Saturn. On 25 December they celebrated "The Birth of the Unconquerable Sun."
- The Vernal Equinox: Night and day are again of equal length—±23 March. It is seen as a time of new life and the resurrection of nature. Festivities include fertility rites, merrymaking and centers on orgiastic sexual abandon. In ancient times virgins were sacrificed to fertility gods and goddesses (Pan, Isis, Demeter, Ceres). It included the worship of the male sex organ, the phallus. The origin of "Maypoles" most probably lie in this worship.
- The Summer Solstice: Now the day is at its shortest and the night at its longest—±21 June. In Britain it is known as "Midsummer Night." This wild and wicked night features festivities of great sexual abandon, revelry and drunkenness.

Against this backdrop let us try and cast more light on the origins of the most important date and start of the pagan year—**Halloween!**

ORIGINS:

According to Michael Judge in his article in a New Age magazine, *Common Boundary*, Halloween had its origin with the Druidic order of the Celtic people in Brittain anywhere between 1 000 to 100 B.C. Their festivities began with the start of their new year Sept/Oct. This was the time that marked the end of the reign of their god of spring and summer and the reign of the god of death, Samhain started. Texe Mars writes in *New Age Cults & Religions, p.177*: "When Julius Caesar conquered Britain in 60 A.D., he was astonished and shocked at the perverse and grotesque nature of the religious system practiced by the conquered peoples. He and his soldiers discovered blood-stained rows of trees; howling, black-clad priests; screaming and violent women. Later, Caesar himself wrote of seeing mass burnings of human and animal sacrifices in giant wicker baskets that were common to these pagans who worshipped the sungod, Hu.."

The Celtic day ranged from sunset to sunset the following day Their festivities began at sunset on 31 October and ranged to sunset on November 1. This was the time, they believed, the normal order of the universe was suspended and the barriers between the natural and supernatural were temporarily removed. Now was the time that the divine beings and spirits of the dead interfered, sometimes violently, in the affairs of men. This time, "Hallows' Eve" was the time the old year and nature died. Death criss-crossed the land and to appease these spirits the people put out gifts of eats and drinks.

It was believed that during the night of 31 October witches would fly on brooms to their covens accompanied by evil spirits in the form of black cats. This was the time of human sacrifices—the beginning of the Satanic year! Midnight was the "high hour".

The Celts also believed that this was the time the spirits played tricks on people and also sowed panic and destruction. Their only satisfaction—eats and drinks! Herein lies the idea of "Trick or Treat."

They also believed that those people who died during the previous year had been transformed into animals. To welcome the dead on this sacred night the Celts would dress in costumes of animals and as dawn comes they would lead the dead in a great parade to the verge of the settlement, hopefully to paradise.

The "Jackolantern" literally means *"Jock/Jack who lived in the lantern."* Later it became "Jock/Jack o' Latern" and today Jackolantern. Jock/Jack represents the spirit guide of the specific Druidic priest who lived in the thing. Originally potatoes or turnips were used, but when the Irish emigrated to the New World (the USA) they found pumpkins an easier thing to hollow out. Thus we have the yellow/orange pumpkin and black, both colours of death, the central colours of Halloween.

Bobbing for apples has its origins in the macabre and cruel ritual of the Druids when people could endeavour to escape being burned alive in giant wicker baskets by trying to bite apples floating in drums of boiling oil. Imagine the agony and mutilations as a result.

TODAY:

According to information from the USA more and more children, teenagers and derelicts are abducted over this time. They are tortured and even used as human sacrifices in Satanic rituals. Police have to deal more and more with cases like the opening of graves and the mutilation of bodies for occult purposes, and the stealing of pets for sacrificing and divination on this Festive Night of Death—the climax of the Satanic year. Is it possible that we also note an increase in these things?

GOD SAYS:

" When thou art come to the land which Jehovah thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found with thee any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, one that useth divination, one that practiseth augury, or an enchanter, or a sorcerer, or a charmer, or a consulter with a familiar spirit, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For whosoever doeth these things is an abomination unto Jehovah…" (Deut 18:9-12) Also see Ex 20:3-6; Lev 20:5,6; Deut 7: 25,26; 31:16; John 3:19-21; 1 Cor 10:20-22; 2 Cor 6:14-18.

Ephesians 5:6-11 clearly states that Christians should not get involved in the workings of the dark; they must rather expose it.

SOME SAY:

"I do not take it seriously and only participate for the fun of it." But God says: "Abstain from EVERY form of evil." (1 Thess 5:22) The King James translation is even clearer: "Abstain from all apearance of evil."

The choice is yours! Continue with what you think is harmless fun and risk being swallowed up by Evil, or listen to God and let go of this evil practice.

This tract can be ordered from:

KIES CIEC

P O Box 8009
EDLEEN
1625
Tel/Fax: 011-394-3080
E-mail: kies_ciec@telkomsa.net
Ref: HALTR01

Credit given to: *Holidays and Holy Days, Tom C. McKenney and an information pamphlet of Watchman Fellowship Inc., "Halloween."*