Paranormal "U"

Origins of Halloween

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Halloween is one of the most popular holidays in America. Most of us celebrate it in one way, shape or form, but how many of us truly know the actual origin of the holiday itself? Halloween, or All Hallows Eve, comes from many centuries ago. It is a holiday that has evolved over time and has a varied meaning depending on your belief system. This belief system may be religious based, secular based, or both.

Wikipedia defines Halloween as: first attested in the 16th century and represents a Scottish variant of the fuller *All-Hallows-Even ("evening")*, that is, the night before All Hallows Day. Although the phrase *All Hallows* is found in Old English (*ealra hālgena mæssedæg*, mass-day of all saints), *All-Hallows-Even* is itself not attested until 1556.

Halloween is thought to have originated from the Celtic festival of Samhain, where people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III made November 1st a day to honor all saints known as All Saints Day. Some of the traditions of the Samhain, such as pagan harvest festival and the festival to honor the dead, were incorporated into the All Saints Day celebration. This holiday also has influences from the Druids, early Romans, and early Christians. The evening before November 1st became known as All Hallows' Eve and later on just Halloween.

Over the years, Halloween became a more community-based secular event as child friendly practices were added to the holiday, such as: trick or treating, bobbing for apples, making candied apples and/or popcorn balls, hanging decorations, creation of a Jack-o-lantern, going to "haunted houses" and watching horror movies. The origins of the jack-o-lantern and a witches broom are interesting as well, but we won't go into those traditions here. Feel free to research them for yourself.

The religious attitudes toward the holiday are very diverse.   Some religions, such as the Anglican Church, choose to stick to the traditions of the All Saints' Day holiday and some Protestants as the Reformation Day, while others view it as just a secular holiday in which we dress up and "beg" for candy. Other religions, such as Pagans, view this season as a holy time of the year.   There are some Christian denominations that do not celebrate the holiday at all due to their faith.

If you ask most American children today they just know it as the day you dress up like a ghost, goblin, Spiderman, or Sponge Bob and go door to door and say "Trick or Treat". The person at the door either gives you candy or you perform a trick on them.   We at TnT Paranormal like to think of it as a fun holiday to celebrate with family and friends. We hope everyone has a safe and fun Halloween this year.

Sources:

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