

# HALLOWEEN

HARMLESS FUN *or*  
RISKY BUSINESS?



# HALLOWEEN

HARMLESS FUN OR  
RISKY BUSINESS?

DIANA WALLIS TAYLOR



WHITAKER  
HOUSE

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *New King James Version*, © 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV®, © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188.

All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from *The Living Bible*, © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

Boldface type in the Scripture quotations indicates the author's emphasis.

Dictionary definitions are taken from *Merriam-Webster's 11th Collegiate Dictionary*, electronic version, © 2003.

## **HALLOWEEN: Harmless Fun or Risky Business?**

ISBN: 978-1-62911-164-3

eBook ISBN: 978-1-62911-165-0

Printed in the United States of America

© 2014 by Diana Wallis Taylor

Whitaker House  
1030 Hunt Valley Circle  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
www.whitakerhouse.com

### **Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data (Pending)**

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical—including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system—without permission in writing from the publisher. Please direct your inquiries to [permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com](mailto:permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com).

# CONTENTS

Preface.....	7
Introduction .....	15
1. The History of Halloween.....	19
2. Modern-day Druids .....	27
3. The Day of the Dead.....	31
4. Ghouls and Zombies.....	37
5. Trick or Treat.....	41
6. Black Cat Bone.....	49
7. Owls .....	53
8. Apple Bobbing .....	57
9. Jack-o'-lanterns and the Legend of "Irish Jack" .....	61
10. Ghosts .....	65
11. Psychics and Fortune-tellers.....	73
12. Witches.....	81
13. Closing the Door on Satan.....	91
About the Author .....	96





## PREFACE

I didn't want to write this book, not because it wasn't needed, but because I knew I would be harassed by the enemy in every way for exposing him.

My introduction to the world of darkness and demonic forces was my grandmother. She lost my grandfather to the influenza epidemic of 1918. An engineer, he had been away on a project, anxious to finish and get home to his family. He assumed he'd contracted a cold and thought he could keep working, but he died within two days. My grandmother was left with three children: my aunt, who was only a year old; my uncle, who was six; and my mother, who was eleven. As

the oldest, my mother had known her father longer than any of her siblings and was the most devastated to lose him.

Struggling with the responsibility of three children, my grandmother took a job as a secretary in a dentist's office. She also sought something to heal the loneliness inside, and found a religious group who called themselves the "Ascended Masters," or the "I Am." This was an offshoot of the Theosophical Society headed by Madame Tingley, a well-known psychic and Spiritualist who built a compound on the site of what is now Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, California.

Those who are part of the Ascended Master teachings believe that there is one god, the "Universal All-Pervading Presence of Life," or the "Mighty I Am Presence." Each person is believed to be an incarnation of an "Individualized Presence" of the "Most High Living God"—a part of his or her very own nature and being.<sup>1</sup>

My grandmother had pictures in shades of lavender around her living room of bearded men who looked like prophets. When I inquired about them one day, I was told they were the Ascended Masters. Jesus was one of them. She would go through two hours of "decrees" each morning, praying to each of these "blessed saints" before she started her day. For over forty years, my grandmother wore white on Sundays, went to a "temple," and was a vegetarian. She had a lot of literature, and as a teenager, I read it avidly. I dearly loved my grandmother, and since my family didn't go to church, I thought she was very religious. I even went to the "temple" with her on occasion.

Because of her involvement in this seemingly innocent religion, my sweet little grandmother was demon-possessed

1. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ascended\\_master](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ascended_master).

in her eighties. She had inadvertently opened a door to the enemy. Within a year or two of her coming to live with my mother, a series of strange events occurred as the enemy began to manifest himself. When my mother went on a vacation with a couple of friends, the caregiver called me in a panic. When I arrived, I found my grandmother out of control, yelling in a strange language, which I finally recognized as her native tongue, Bohemian. My grandmother was a small woman of five feet two inches and weighed about ninety pounds. It took four strong nurses to tie her in restraints. Her gentle hands had soothed my tears; her favorite expression had been “Bless your heart.” Now she was cursing and snarling at me from her hospital bed! The eyes looking at me were like dark pools; they were not the eyes of my grandmother. Shocked and terrified, I ran out of the room and spent two hours on the phone calling friend after friend until I tracked down my mother in Sedona, Arizona. “Come home now,” I cried into the phone.

My mother divorced my father when I was three years old and my brother was four. She raised her children alone, like my grandmother, and started looking for something to fill the void. This is when she turned to fortune-telling, horoscopes, astrology, books by well-known psychics, and other forms of the occult.

My mother had eventually professed Christ and left the group she’d been involved in, which claimed to be from outer space. She had begun singing in the choir of Kathryn Kuhlman, a well-known healing evangelist in the 1960s. When she returned from Arizona, she took my grandmother, who had calmed down and had finally been released from the hospital, to the next Kathryn Kuhlman service in Los Angeles. My grandmother was healed and delivered that night. She finally discovered who Jesus really was. She was

baptized six weeks before she died at the age of ninety. From the glow on her face, I believe that one day I will see her again in heaven.

Like my grandmother, many people who seek peace or spirituality are lured into cults like the Ascended Masters. I am so thankful that my grandmother at last realized that Jesus was not an “ascended master” but the Master of the universe and also her Savior.

Yet my own conversion was a long time coming. I read a lot of books by psychics. Like my mother, I had a curious mind, and I thought that using Chinese fortune sticks and reading horoscopes every day for direction were just fun things to do.

When I was about ten, we moved to a small beach community, and my mother became involved in a spiritualist church in the back canyon, a place associated with the dark arts. She took me along several times, and it frightened me, but I didn’t know why. I remember the leader, a woman who called herself a healer, asking for my locket so she could give me a “reading.” About the time Mother got involved with them, I had several close calls. I was molested by a plumber who grabbed and French-kissed me when I arrived too early for ballet practice at a local hall and escaped his further intentions by kicking him in the shin and dashing out an open door. I also was nearly kidnapped while walking home one day. I developed a fear of the dark and began to have strange nightmares. It wasn’t until years later that I learned that the cause was my mother and my grandmother’s dabbling in the occult, which I had no knowledge of at the time.

You see, they had opened the door to the enemy. Satan doesn’t care if a person is an innocent child. If you enter his territory, you give him the right to afflict you. My

grandmother innocently opened the door when she joined the I Am religion.

My mother told fortunes with a deck of cards to entertain her friends. She taught me how to do this as a child, and I nearly became obsessed with making sure my “fortune” was good each day. We talked about astrology, and we knew all about the zodiac signs. We would find out someone’s birthday and look at his zodiac sign to learn his personality and thereby “understand” him.

My mother’s intellect and curiosity led her to seek out everything that “interested” her. How I wish that, in my early years, she had sought the Savior who could fill her lonely heart and give her the peace she sought.

I mentioned I had nightmares and feared the dark. The enemy also attracted the wrong men into my life. I was married to an alcoholic for twenty-one years until we divorced. At that point, one of my mother’s strong Christian friends told her she needed to pray for me. My mother responded, “I do pray for Diana.” The woman looked at her and said, “There is a spirit who sits on her shoulder and brings men into her life who will hurt her.”

My mother told me of this conversation, passing it off with a shake of her head. When I got home, out of curiosity, I said out loud, rather flippantly, “So, if you are sitting on my shoulder, what is your name?” Instantly I felt a chill come over me, and the word *loneliness* came to my mind, as clear as if someone had spoken it out loud. Satan doesn’t play games.

I was in my thirties and had three children when God delivered me from this spirit. I was invited to a luncheon gathering of Christian women from churches all over the city. After the luncheon, those who wanted prayer were asked to come to the side of the room.

I went over for prayer about a personal situation I was facing. But God had other plans, and the spirit that had been with me since childhood manifested itself. It felt as if steel bands clamped around my chest, and I could hardly breathe. The leader prayed for discernment and was given insight into my problem. She asked me if I had been involved in certain things, and when I said yes, she showed me in the Scriptures how they were abominations to God. I was counseled to renounce them. I did so, naming everything I could think of. The women prayed for me for two hours, and when the enemy was finally exposed, and I had renounced the things of my past, it left me with a sound like a wail.

Fortunately, I was able to go to the home of my Bible teacher and friend, who carefully explained to me what I had experienced. She showed me the many instances in the New Testament where Jesus dealt with demon spirits.

This is why I feel so strongly that it is wrong for Christians to participate in Halloween. As believers, we must consider what we associate with. As the saying goes, “the eyes are the windows of the soul”; so what do we see? What are we allowing into our minds? And, most important, what will be the consequences of our dabbling in areas that belong to the enemy?

As Christians, each of us needs to take this issue before God and ask Him what our course of action should be. If we earnestly seek His will, God will make it clear. His Word is full of direction for our future. It is a love letter from our heavenly Father to each of us. Do we know when the end of the world will come? No. Do we know what will happen tomorrow, next week, or next year? No. But we do know who holds the future. In Jeremiah 29:11, God tells us that He has plans for us, to give us a future and a hope. When my mind

turns with questions about what will happen in different circumstances, I've learned to take them to my heavenly Father and leave them at His feet. He shows me the answers—in His time, not mine.

And I have also learned that God is patient. He does not show us all our sins at once, lest we be overwhelmed, and He does not condemn us. As a loving Father, He clearly shows us in His Word what is sin. Then it is our responsibility to acknowledge and renounce our sin. This is what I had to do after He delivered me from the spirit that had been with me from childhood. As you read this book, I pray that your eyes will be opened and your heart will be receptive to the Holy Spirit's leading.





## INTRODUCTION

While passing through a shopping mall a few years ago, I noticed a poster in a vacant store window advertising a Halloween costume company coming that September. On the poster was the face of an evil green monster and Dracula with his famous bared fangs. It made me shudder. There were no little costumed children trick-or-treating. A ghost hovered in the background, but he didn't look anything like *Casper the Friendly Ghost* of my children's childhood.

For most people across the United States, including Christians, the word *Halloween* conjures up visions of young children trick-or-treating—showing at their door

with bags, plastic pumpkins, or pillowcases held out for a “treat.” Homemade costumes used to be the order of the day, and people gave out apples, candy, freshly baked cookies, popcorn balls, or treats to their young nighttime visitors. Unfortunately, a few mentally deranged or simply malicious people hid razor blades in apples or baked a little marijuana into the cookies; due to safety reasons, it became more acceptable to hand out commercial candy.

I participated in Halloween for many years when my children were young, and for years after, I tried handing out homemade cookies along with Christian tracts to those who came to my door. When the number of children exceeded my capacity of cookie baking, I started handing out candy bars with the tracts. Soon it seemed there were more teenagers than small children, and they did very little in the way of costumes. The tracts were tossed on the front lawn. They just wanted the candy. It became too much, and so the next year, we turned off the porch light and left the dark house to go out for a quiet, leisurely dinner.

The past two years, one of our neighbors has gone all out to entertain the kids on Halloween. It is quite a show, with a “live” E.T. rising from a bed, strobe lights with scary music, and spiders and ghosts. Last year, children came by the dozens, and, with the advantage of texting, I presume they invited all their friends. From what I heard, it was a great party, but the hosts ran out of candy around eight thirty, overwhelmed by over 250 trick-or-treaters!

In 2013, the National Retail Association, which keeps track of American consumer spending, estimated that 158 million people would participate in Halloween spending in 2013. The average American would spend around \$75.03. Total spending, including costumes, candy, and decorations,

was expected to reach 6.9 billion dollars. Of that, some 330 million would be spent to outfit our four-legged friends.<sup>2</sup> Among children, the most popular costumes were princesses, Batman, and animals; among adults were Dracula and zombies.

So when did a seemingly harmless holiday become a night of horror and the epitome of everything evil? The truth is that it didn't *eventually* become evil. Halloween has always represented the forces of darkness, which are disguised in many ways.

For years, I had a nagging feeling in my heart that I needed to forgo celebrating Halloween. But why? It took me a while to finally realize that the Lord was convicting me of celebrating a holiday that does not honor Him.

When the subject of Halloween came up at my daughter's home, my twelve-year-old granddaughter was surprised when I said I ignored the holiday. "What is wrong with celebrating Halloween?" she asked. I decided to research the basic origins of Halloween customs and share them with her. I will share many of my findings in this book, some of which surprised even me. The sources are listed at the back.

If by what I share, including my own experiences, I can reach one family with the reasons for not celebrating this darkest of days, it would be worth all the time gathering this information.

---

2. [https://www.nrf.com/modules.php?name=News&op=viewlive&sp\\_id=1668](https://www.nrf.com/modules.php?name=News&op=viewlive&sp_id=1668).





# THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN



**H**alloween has never been a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter. It has always encompassed witchcraft, pagan rituals, and strange beliefs, with a few Christian customs thrown in the mix. Some Christian groups call it the “devil’s birthday.” It began as a pagan New Year’s celebration and evolved into a harvest festival, a merchant’s heyday, a time for fall parties and a chance for children to satiate themselves with candy.

Historians believe that Halloween began with a group of people called the Celts, who came from Asia and settled in

northern France and the British Isles. They mined, farmed, worked with metals, built roads, used medicine, and had a legal system, among other things. Their priestly class was the Druids. While they worshipped hundreds of deities, they did not keep written records. Some inscriptions in Greek, Latin, and Irish—much of which was recorded by early Christian monks—reveal some information about their celebrations and festivals. They were skilled in the occult arts (the word *occult* means something secret or hidden from those with ordinary knowledge) and worshipped nature, attributing supernatural qualities to it. They also believed that they could be reborn as animals.

They worshipped over four hundred gods, including the sun god, Belenus, and the lord of the dead, Samhain, the chief Druid deity. The former was worshiped on May 1, and the latter on October 31, and both were times for human sacrificing. The victims were chosen by lot in the form of bits of cake handed out to the people. The piece with the black bottom, deliberately burned beforehand, identified the hapless victim who was to be offered to the gods to insure the fertility of their herds, a good harvest, or victory when they went to war.

The holiday of Samhain was a time to settle debts and to pay taxes, much like our tax day, April 15. It was the end of summer and the beginning of winter. They gathered up their crops and brought in their livestock from the fields. They slaughtered their cattle and pigs to serve as food for the winter, leaving only their breeding stock alive for the next year.

The Celts considered certain fruits, legumes, plants, and trees to be holy, including apples, acorns, and hazelnuts.

The Celts gathered at Tara, the seat of ancient kings, for playing sports, paying taxes, and delivering justice to those

guilty of crimes. Those who were found guilty of particularly grave crimes were executed.

Before the eve of Samhain, the Celts extinguished their home hearth fires and constructed bonfires on a nearby hill. Embers from these fires were distributed to each household, and a tax was collected for the service. In the days leading up to the Celtic New Year, young children would approach their neighbors and ask them to donate materials to fuel these fires, which were known to ward off evil spirits and “rejuvenate” the sun.<sup>3</sup>

The Druids believed in an afterlife, and that on the night before the New Year, October 31, the door was opened to the underworld. The Celtic day began when the sun went down; so, as darkness fell on October 31, the people began the ceremonies honoring Samhain, the lord of the dead. They believed that on this night, the dead came back to life and that fairylike creatures crossed over into the land of the living to bedevil human beings.

Samhain was believed to summon the souls of the dead who had committed evil and had been condemned to enter the bodies of animals. It was on this sacred day that Samhain decided which souls would advance, in a sense, by being reincarnated as humans, and which ones would remain in the bodies of animals. The Druids believed they could lessen the punishment heaped on their loved ones by praying and offering sacrifices to Samhain.

Furthermore, on this night, Samhain allowed the souls of those who had died the previous year to return to earth for a few hours to associate once more with their families. As a result, the Celts taught that on October 31, ghosts, evil

---

3. Ankerberg, John, John Weldon, and Dillon Burroughs, *The Facts on Halloween* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1996, 2008), 10.

spirits, and witches roamed the earth. Large bonfires were lit to frighten away these demonic spirits, which were believed to play tricks on humans and cause supernatural manifestations. People dressed up in animal skins to chase away the spirits and wild animals that might try to approach them during the celebration. This practice may have been the beginning of the tradition of dressing in costume on Halloween. Women dressed as men, and men dressed as women, to fool the evil spirits. Others put on grotesque masks and danced around these great bonfires, pretending to be chased by evil spirits, or the evil dead. Some people would dress in masks and costumes to “trick” evil spirits into thinking they were someone else, so that they would leave them and their townsfolk alone. But they would set out food and drinks to welcome the good souls.

At the time of this New Year, fortune-telling and divination (the magic art of interpreting the unknown from random patterns and symbols) were prevalent. The feast of Samhain was a holiday to peer into the future, to divine fate, and to communicate with the supernatural. One way they foretold the future was by sacrificing animals and observing their innards.

When the Romans conquered the Celts, they brought their own gods and goddesses with them, and many of their customs were blended with the Celts'. Yet these ancient English communities did not want to give up their pagan festivals.

Around 600 BC, in the Dark Ages and early Middle Ages, Catholicism grew as priests, including Saint Patrick (who Christianized Ireland), began to spread Christianity throughout the Celtic world. The Roman Catholic Church soon became the authority in the land. It opposed these pagan

festivals and soon found that it was easier to convert the Celts by offering them alternatives. Pope Gregory III changed the date of the feast of the martyrs to November 1, the date of Samhain, and indicated that it was to be a celebration of all the saints of the church, not just the martyrs. So, the Church sought to replace pagan customs by making November 1 All Saints' Day, and November 2 All Souls' Day. The pope felt it would make the change from pagan religion to Christianity a little easier on the people. He permitted new converts to keep some of their pagan feasts, but from then on, they would be celebrated as "Christian" feasts. Instead of praying to their pagan gods, they were now admonished to remember the deaths of the saints and to pray for them in order to help them escape the torments of purgatory (a place where deceased sinners go to be rid of their sins prior to going to heaven).

Some of these beliefs live on in the customs of various cultures surrounding All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Catholics believe that they could save their deceased loved ones from suffering in purgatory by praying and giving alms on their behalf, similar to the "indulgences" that could be purchased from the church for this purpose in the Middle Ages.

The Druids believed in something like purgatory, as mentioned earlier, and that the sinful souls of those who had died and had been relegated to the bodies of animals could be freed to enter heaven by their gifts and sacrifices. Only Samhain could judge these souls and decree what form of body, whether of a human being or an animal, they could inhabit.

On All Souls' Day in Belgium, people eat special "all souls' cakes" and believe that with each one they eat, they save

a soul from purgatory. In Sicily, they eat cakes that resemble skulls and skeletons. In France, people pray for those who are in purgatory.

First John 1:9 tells us, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* The Scriptures tell us that no human being, no matter how holy they are, has the power to forgive our sins, only God.

On the “Day of All Saints,” November 1, the church service or mass was celebrated as “Allhallowmas.” The night before this mass was called “All Hallowed Evening.” It became “All Hallows’ Eve,” and then, when “All” was dropped, it was shortened to “Halloween.” Again, it was a deliberate attempt to replace the pagan holiday of Samhain with a Christian holiday. The priests encouraged their parishioners to remember the dead with prayers rather than sacrifices. The first recorded Roman Catholic celebration of Halloween was the “Festyvall” of 1511 in England. Special foods were baked, a custom already common in the land, and were given to Christian souls.

There has been controversy among historians over how much Samhain really contributed to the modern celebration of Halloween, but a study of the Celtic festivals, pagan rites, and beliefs shows how much of this holiday is retained in our present celebrations.

After Henry VIII ascended the throne of England in 1509, he wanted a divorce, which is forbidden by the Catholic Church. So, he started the Church of England to separate from the Vatican. Both he and his daughter Queen Elizabeth I considered All Saints’ Day a papal holiday and tried issuing proclamations to eradicate it. Bell ringers continued a superstitious ringing of the bells on All Hallows’

Eve, starting in the evening and lasting all night long. Henry VIII tried fining them, but the bells continued to ring as the people perpetuated their occult beliefs.

While the church intended Halloween to be a holy evening, it has become a night that is anything but holy. It may not be as harmless and innocent as some assume it to be. Many people say, “Well, that was long ago. We don’t do all those things in this day and age. Halloween is just a fun holiday for kids.”

But is it really? Let’s take a look at some similar customs associated with Halloween that are celebrated around the world.