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Elbert Benjamine
Remastered

Halloween

Festival of the Dead

Astrology for Aquarius



Elbert Benjamine

Beware when the Great God turns a Thinker lose on this Planet. Then all things are at risk.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Nourish your soul with the Religion of the Stars and the teachings of the Brotherhood of Light.

Halloween

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Introduction

Halloween is celebrated each year on October 31: the day when the Sun in the sky is in the death decanate of the death sign, Scorpio.

This decanate is pictured by the constellation Ophiuchus, the man who wrestles with a serpent. In symbolic pictograph it relates to procreation and the mental struggle associated with feral, untamed sexual impulses.

It also commemorates the destruction of the world by fire and flood and is associated with the greatest tragedy humanity has ever known – the sinking of Atlantis.

On October 31 as Ophiuchus sets in the west, vanquished by the great destruction, Lepus the hare rises in the east, and is shown fleeing from the ruin and devastation as fast as his fleet legs will carry him.

Halloween is the day before All Saints day – a religious holiday celebrated by the Catholic Church and some Protestant and Eastern Orthodox Churches on November 1. It honors all saints.

All Soul's Day – November 2 – is observed by many western churches and is a day devoted to alms giving and prayers for the dead.

Internet sources will tell you that Halloween dates back 2,000 years to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain when people lit bonfires and wore costumes to ward off ghosts.

Believing that ghosts came back to the earthly world on Halloween the Celts placed bowls of food outside their homes to prevent them from entering. They also believed that bad spirits would take the form of cats and other animals on the night of October 31.

The original Jack-o'-Lantern was not a pumpkin. Ancient Celtic cultures in Ireland carved turnips on Halloween and placed an ember on them to ward off evil spirits.

But time brings change and while Halloween is not a federal or public holiday in the United States it is widely celebrated.The festivities include trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, parades, costume parties and eating sweets.

It started out as a very limited celebration but as the beliefs and customs of different ethnic groups integrated a distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. In the late 1800s the focus was on ghosts, pranks and witchcraft but as 1900 ticked over Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day.

Then, newspapers and community leaders began to encourage parents to take the 'scary' stuff out of the celebrations and Halloween began to lose its superstitious and religious overtones. By the 1920s and 1930s, Halloween had become a secular, community-centered holiday featuring neighborly get-togethers, but vandalism still plagued some celebrations and it wasn't until the 1950s that town leaders successfully limited the vandalism and Halloween evolved into a holiday for the young.

Between 1920 and 1950, the centuries-old practice of trick-or-treating was revived. Families could prevent tricks being played on them by providing neighborhood children with small treats.

It's estimated that in 2015 around 65% of Americans celebrated Halloween by spending $6.9 billion on candy, costumes and pumpkins; and as of 2019 there have been eleven films made in the Halloween movie series.

Many Halloween traditions, rituals and superstitions are no longer practiced but the movies are scarier than ever. And its true meaning and significance are preserved in the sky by the message encrypted in the constellation where the Sun is located on October 31.

Halloween: Festival of the Dead – was written by Elbert Benjamine and published in the October 1934 issue of the Occult Digest magazine.

Halloween: Festival of the Dead

On a particular night each year Jack-o'-Lanterns, white-sheeted figures, black cats, witches on broomsticks, bats, the Moon and the stars take their place as an accepted part of ceremonies, the most annoying features of which is the wholesale destruction of property.

If such an unusual rite were performed by a single obscure group of people it would seem strange enough, but when we find the natives of almost every land doing similar things at the same time it calls for more than a superficial explanation.

The Moon and stars, which are a part of Halloween decorations, obviously point to astrology and the prediction of events. So, no argument need be advanced that this tradition, handed down through the avenue of worldwide popular custom, is in some way significant of the position of the heavenly bodies on the night of October 31.

The Sun each year on this date is in the death-decanate of the death-sign of the zodiac, Scorpio.

This decanate, or ten degree section of the zodiac, is pictured in the sky by the constellation Ophiuchus; a man in a life-and-death struggle with a huge serpent.

It would seem logical to conclude from the astro-data that people upon the Earth somehow came to grips with a mighty force symbolically represented by this starry serpent; that they had been warned in advance of this force by astrologers; and that death was intimately associated with the event predicted when it transpired.

The destruction of Atlantis

The greatest number of deaths ever recorded to have taken place at one time is mentioned in an ancient Mayan book written in Yucatan long after the event.

When the Spanish reached America their priests attempted to destroy every remnant of the writings of the Maya and Aztec. Their histories, astrological treatises, mathematical tables and records were collected and demolished or burned.

Only three Mayan books escaped the vigilant eye of Bishop Landa and persist to this day: the Persianus Codex now at the Biblioteque National, Paris; the Dresden Codex, now at the Royal Library at Dresden, and the Tro-Cortesianus Codex, now at the Royal Academy of History, Madrid.

These books give an account, among other things, of the destruction of a continent which had been the homeland from which various centers of civilization throughout the world had been colonized.

Having been apprised by the astrologers that such a catastrophe would occur when the Sun, Moon and stars would occupy definite relations to one another some of the more enlightened had carried their knowledge of the stellar religion into these colonies.

That date, so far as the time of year is concerned, is now called October 31.

Here is a quotation from the Tro-Cortesianus:

‘In the year 6 Kan, on the 11 Muluc, in the month of Zac, there occurred terrific earthquakes which continued until the 13 Cheun without interruption.The country of the hills of earth — the land of Mu (some translate this Atlantis) — was sacrificed.

Twice up-heaved, it disappeared during the night, having constantly been shaken by the fires of the underneath. Being confined, these caused the land to rise and sink several times in various places. At last the surface gave way and the ten countries were torn asunder and scattered. They sank with their 64,000,000 inhabitants 8,060 years before the writing of this book.'

Tradition holds that this ancient land sank because those who had gained the power to use occult forces no longer devoted them to the welfare of the people, but chiefly to gain a selfish advantage.

The country had become infested with witches and black magicians, a condition still commemorated by the pictures of witches on broomsticks on Halloween.

Black cats and bats

A continent sank some 11,000 years ago, and the magicians were held responsible for the tragedy, as signified by witches riding high on broom handles. But what about the black cats, always an omen of ill luck?

The sign of the zodiac in which the Sun has its home is Leo, pictured by a lion. A cat also belongs to the same family of animals and signifies the same zodiacal sign, and was used to indicate the light from the Sun. A cat,due to its ability to see in the dark, represented knowledge and the wise use of the creative solar forces. It was thus an emblem of white magic.

But when the cat was black it signified that knowledge and the power of the creative energies were no longer devoted to unselfish ends, but were under the dominion of the powers of darkness.

A black cat thus became a symbol of black magic, in particular of the curses dispensed by witches and of the ill luck they were supposed to bring.

Furthermore, at the same time of the sinking of the continent, the Vernal Equinox, pointer of the Precessional Cycle, had just backed from the sign of the cat, Leo, into the sign of water, Cancer. In fact, this last decanate of Cancer is pictured among the constellations as Argo, the ship, in which the wiser ones made their escape from the ill-fated land.

Exactly across the zodiac from Ophiuchus, the man wrestling with the curse placed upon him by wicked magicians, as indicated by his death struggle with a serpent, is the constellation Lepus, picturing a rabbit in full flight. It belongs to the first-decanate of the sign Taurus.

This rabbit in the skies is running away from the place where the struggle is taking place. In fact, he is just as far from it as he can get, as were those wiser ones who, warned by their understanding of astrology, left the ancient land before the cataclysm occurred.

The foot is symbol of understanding and as a symbolical token of the power of understanding to save its possessor from any 'jinx' the rabbit is still in high favor. To ward off the ill luck signified by the black cat there are many who believe in the potency of the rabbit's foot.

The bats of our Halloween decorations are creatures that hide away in dark caves during the day and hunt their prey only at night. They dislike facing the light. They're symbols of the iniquitous forces of darkness, the elemental messengers which are sent forth by witches and magicians to carry out their nefarious works.

Halloween paints a gruesome picture but it does relate to the most terrible disaster that humanity has ever experienced; although other cataclysms are to be expected in each Precessional Cycle when the vernal equinox backs from Leo into Cancer and from Aquarius into Capricorn.

The Aztecs

The Maya and other peoples had more definite knowledge of the astronomical factors which coincide with such vast upheavals as are celebrated by Halloweenthan the later Aztecs.

It appears the Aztecs had lost the knowledge of the large precessional cycle, but retained the knowledge that the year of destruction within the larger cycle could be determined from a 52-year periodwhich they observed called xihuitmolpia.

They held, from sound astrological considerations, that the destruction of a portion of the world would occur on the closing night of one of these 52-year periods. It was a night of abject terror.

All fires were extinguished and the inhabitants moved out of the city to the tops of the surrounding hills to anxiously await either destruction or the coming of the dawn. If the sun rose in the morning it signified that there would be no cataclysm for another 52 years at least, and all went back to their homes rejoicing.

Jack-o'-lanterns

The tradition is that many persons were takenout of their bodies in a single night at the time the old continent was destroyed, and that some of these, especially those wicked and devoted to the black arts, were unable to make quick and proper adjustment to the next-life plane and, being earth-bound, remained adjacent to the Earth.

These shadows that walked the Earth after the cataclysm of October 31 are represented by the Jack-o'-Lanterns and white-sheeted figures of our day.

With the same significance the Australian Bushmen paint white stripes over their ribs and limbs to represent skeletons, and spend the night dancing in the firelight.

Among the people of many countries, such as the French of Paris, it is still the custom at this time to place food on the graves of the dead.

Those taken violently from the body, especially those of coarse appetites, do not change their desires immediately. They still crave the foods to which they have been accustomed.

Tradition holds that when the continent sank the survivors placed food before the dead that they might draw from its aromas sufficient etheric nourishment to assuage their craving: And that those who possessed the proper knowledge of spiritual laws devoted the two days following the cataclysm to assisting those who had died to become reconciled and adjusted to the new life where they now found themselves.

Thus do we have, following Halloween, All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day, given to observances commemorating the passage to the next life, and to prayers for the dead.

The most outstanding feature of the Halloween ceremony is, of course, the making of a terrific noise and the destruction of as much property as can be done without reprisal from the authorities.

This racket is the expression of man's racial memory of the noise which accompanied the great catastrophe; and the destruction of things and the mischief wrought are pantomime representations of the destruction of a continent of old.

Astrology times vast upheavals

To clarify a common misconception the Precession of the Equinoxes, by which the zodiacal signs shift back through the constellations at the rate of 30 degrees in about 2,160 years, is not due to the Sun moving in an orbit.

Our Sun, together with the other stars of the Milky Way, doesapparently move in a giant spiral, but in an orbit so tremendous in extent that no astronomer has ventured to compute its vast cycle of duration.

The Precession of the Equinoxes, which brings the various ages, such as the Piscean Age just finished and the Aquarian Age into which we have now moved, has nothing whatever to do with any movement of the sun. It is due to a wobble of the Earth.

Halloween commemorates cataclysmic destruction and tradition holds that the time when such cataclysms occur may be timed by the position of the Pleiades, a group of stars behind the shoulder of the Bull, in relation to the precessional cycle. As the Bull faces eastward toward the Earth as it rises, and as its whole rear half has been destroyed in the cataclysm, the Pleiades come up first, as Lepus pictures that section of the sign Taurus first to rise.

Noah quickly left behind his sinful companions when he entered the ark. Lot left Sodom in great haste: and legend says that the wise ones of Atlantis, warned by the position of the Pleiades, went from their doomed land at top speed.

And when this Precessional Cycle, about 2,000 years from now, brings the Pleiades directly overhead just at sunset, on the day of the Vernal Equinox, the fiery constellation Crater will rise in the east.

And according to tradition the year will have started,when another destructive Halloween will purge the Earth, this time by fire, after the manner of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.