



FROM PAGAN TIMES TO CHRISTIANITY: HALLOWEEN AND SAINT PATRICK'S DAY IN GREAT BRITAIN

Iliyna Daria

HALLOWEEN

This holiday started in Ireland. Halloween was originally a festival of the dead. It is celebrated on the 31st of October. Halloween means All Hallows Eve. You know, the 1st of November is All Hallows Day. People thought that the evening (eve) before is the time when the veil between the living and the dead is lifted and witches, ghosts and other creatures are about. So this holiday is associated with death and supernatural. It is very popular with children and teenagers. Halloween is celebrated today according to Christian and pagan rites. On this day, people decorate their homes making them scary. They organize rides where they scare visitors and have parties. On this holiday, many horror and scary cartoons are shown on TV. On this day, you can show your imagination and live a little in the world of the dead.



The main entertainment of children on Halloween is begging for sweets. Children dress up in masquerade costumes and masks, go from house to house and say: "Treat, or we'll play a joke." Neighbors give the kids treats like candy, fruit, and change so the kids don't play a trick on them. At night, children and teenagers tell each other scary stories and legends, the most popular is the legend of Bloody Mary. They say that if you call her name three times, looking in the mirror, then her ghost will appear. Food also plays a big part of Halloween. Toffee apples are very popular and so is anything made from pumpkin. In addition, fortune-telling and games are common on Halloween. Fortune telling is an important part of Halloween. For example, a coin, a ring and a thimble are baked into a pie. It was believed that whoever finds the ring will soon marry or get married. Whoever finds the coin will get rich. And the one who finds a thimble will never marry or will not marry. Today people use fortune telling on cards and fortune telling by hand.



COMPARISON OF HALLOWEEN WITH CALADAS

Also, the main symbol of Halloween is a pumpkin with a frightening face carved on it. A lighted candle is placed inside the pumpkin. It was believed that a pumpkin left on All Saints Day near the house wards off evil spirits. An Irish legend says that Halloween lanterns (jack-o'-lanterns) are named after a man named Jack. He could not go to heaven because he was a curmudgeon, and he could not go to hell because he was playing evil tricks on the devil. As a result, Jack is forced to roam the earth with his lantern until Judgment Day. The unofficial anthem of the holiday is the song "Monster Mash" by singer Bobby Pickett.

People once believed that the earth was full of witches and that they met on October 31st to worship the devil. People today don't believe in ghosts and witches, but they love to tell stories about them on Halloween.



A vibrant, painterly illustration of a winter scene. In the foreground, a small yellow bird is perched on a snow-laden branch. The middle ground features two cozy houses with warm, glowing windows, nestled among snow-covered evergreen trees. In the background, a church with a prominent golden onion dome rises above the treeline. The sky is a deep blue with soft, white clouds, and a gentle snowfall is visible throughout the scene.

KALYADY

There is a similar holiday in Belarus, but it is called kalyady. It is celebrated for more than one day, but it is celebrated every week from January 6 to 19. In the city, the celebration was different from the village; at that time there were festivals and fairs. Balls and dance evenings were organized for wealthy citizens. Children also liked this holiday: they could enjoy performances, dances, a Christmas tree and gifts. People dress in specific costumes such as a goat costume, men with a sword in their hands, and a baby. They wear scary animal masks and costumes to ward off evil spirits and evil spirits. People went from house to house, sang songs and received treats for this, otherwise the owners of the house would be in trouble. On this day, people can find out their future, how can one guess about this holiday.

KOLYADA

Kolyada is the god of the Slavic calendar. He is considered the patron saint of farmers. He was also a god who sowed peace between neighboring peoples. Legends say that the peoples following Kolyada have always lived in complete harmony. Kolyada was especially honored by the characterists. He was considered the personification, the Newborn Sun, depicted as a baby. Kolyada is a young deity. It symbolizes the young sun, which replaces the old one, tired after a year of work.



THE CELEBRATION OF KALYADY



The celebration of Kolyada in the old days was quite noisy. Now Kalyadu is considered a family holiday. Gifts and treats were always presented for carols. Those who don't give anything as a reward for the performance of winter holiday songs and poems, if not ruin, then serious problems with money awaits. The youth went from house to house in costumes of wild animals. People believed that carols performed by people strangers to the house had undeniable power. They traded the treats for the welfare that the carols brought to their homes. Baking in the form of animal figures was often served as a treat - it symbolized fertility, good harvest, health of domestic animals and prosperity.





ST. PATRICK'S DAY

HAPPY

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day is a holiday honoring the Irish patron saint, St. Patrick. St. Patrick's Day is a public holiday in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Montserrat Island and the Canadian provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador. Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17th. This day symbolizes the adoption of Christianity in Ireland and is also a celebration of the cultural heritage of Ireland in general.

SAINT PATRICK

Who is Saint Patrick? It is believed that Saint Patrick's name was Mavin Sukkat, and he was born in 389 in Britain. His father was a deacon. When the boy was 16 years old, robbers kidnapped him. As a result, the boy was sold into slavery, where he grazed cattle for years.

According to legend, it was at this time that Mavin checked into God, when he showed him the way that brought him out of captivity. Further, fate brought the saint to Gaul, and then to Britain, where he had a vision that he should return to Ireland and try to convert the inhabitants of the country to Christianity. It was he who managed to spread and establish Christianity in these lands. Saint Patrick lived for 104 years.



SYMBOLS OF THIS DAY

On St. Patrick's Day, costume parades are held on the central streets, live music is played in pubs, fireworks are organized in the evening. People dress in green clothes. This color symbolizes green valleys. Also one symbol is the shamrock. It is believed that if a person finds a shamrock, he will be happy for the whole year.

One of the symbols of the holiday are leprechauns - fabulous shoemakers who own a hidden pot of gold.

If a lucky treasure seeker manages to catch a leprechaun, then this creature must tell the person where his treasures are hidden. If you suddenly catch the shoemaker, they can deceive the treasure seeker.



On March 17, sweets covered with emerald glaze are baked in the shape of a trefoil. The traditional Irish dish is corned beef with stewed cabbage, but there are also dozens of recipes for various dishes based on real Irish beer and whiskey. For the holiday, almost all bars offer visitors green beer.



On this day, all people, dressing up in different costumes, and went to visit each other. And, of course, they brought gifts to each other. This tradition still exists today. People give each other various gifts symbolizing the holiday. For example, figurines of leprechauns, a shamrock, various green garments, red fake beards and wigs. But the most pleasant gift on this day may be a clover with four leaves, it is believed that it will bring good luck to this person. And a person who finds a four-leaf clover on St. Patrick's Day will carry twice as much.



KUPALA

Kupala is one of the oldest folk festivals dedicated to the sun and the prosperity of the earth, which is celebrated in mid-summer.

Ancient pagan and later Christian traditions were closely intertwined in Belarusian rites. The people believed that on this night the rivers glow with a special unreal light, and the souls of the dead bathe in their waters in the form of mermaids. Witches, wizards and spirits walk the earth trying to harm people, plants and animals talk, and the sun "plays" on the ashes.

FERN FLOWER

They also organize this holiday, dance around the fire, guess in different ways and look for a fern. There is one belief that the fern, which blooms once a year, gives an extraordinary ability to see the future and find all the hidden treasures of the world. The search for "fern flowers" is one of the most mysterious rituals of the Kupala night.

