

Halloween: A History Lesson for the advocates of Halaloween

All praises belong to Allah the Lord of all that exists, and may Allah exalt the mention of His slave and messenger Muhammad ibn Abdullah.

The Prophet ﷺ said: ““Whoever imitates a people is one of them.” (Abu Dawood)

Halaloween” is a despicable innovation crafted to distract Muslim children from Halloween while not appearing to the non-Muslims as intolerant or extreme.

Origin of Halloween: Celtic nations such as Ireland and Scotland held a festival called Samhain (SAH-win) –summer's end – in preparation for the darker half of the year. They believed there was one day a year –October 31 – where the season of life meets the season of death and the dead spirits could walk among the living.

They lit bonfires (which later became jack o lanterns) and dressed in costumes to confuse the “spirits”. Later when the Irish migrated to America due to famine they added to this tradition the practice of “souling” – a practice of going door to door on All Souls Day to solicit gifts of food in exchange for prayers for the dead.

In the 8th century when the Christians came to spread Christianity in the Celtic region they wanted to **distract them from this pagan holiday**. Thus Pope Gregory III established All Saints' Day, known as All Hallows day – on November 1st – to honor all saints known and unknown. **It is widely accepted that the early church missionaries chose to hold a festival at this time of year in order to absorb existing native pagan practices into Christianity, thereby smoothing the conversion process.**

The pagans accepted this holiday but kept their traditional holiday as well. Their holiday Samhain; held the night before All Hallows Day, became All Hallows Eve which then became Halloween. (History.com)

Today, Americans spend an estimated \$6 billion annually on Halloween, making it the country's second largest commercial holiday second only to Christmas; while All Saints' Day – the original objective of the Church – is all but forgotten.

وَدَّرِ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا دِينَهُمْ لَعِبًا وَلَهُمْ وَعَرَّتَهُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا ﴿٧٠﴾

And leave alone those who take their religion as play and amusement, and are deceived by the life of this world. (Soorah Al-'An`ām 6:70)