

HALLOWEEN - what you should know about it!

In the last few years, the new not-to-be-missed and not-to-be-overheard custom of "Halloween" has established itself in Austria. Hardly anyone knows what is really behind this custom, but because it is "nice and spooky" and also brings the children some sweets, the background of Halloween is rarely questioned. Moreover, the origins of this custom are only treated superficially in the relevant literature, and the dark, horrible facts are often concealed for economic interests.

The name "Halloween" comes from an old English language and probably means "Holy Eve." From its name, it is likely to indicate the "day" before All Saints' Day (Duden). The roots of Halloween are not to be found in America, as many people think, and certainly not in Christianity, but with the Celtic Druids in the 2nd century BC. The Druids were, among other things, "religious" officials, soothsayers and sorcerers of the Celts, who were feared in Gaul, but above all in England, Scotland and Ireland. They practised special types of ritual murders, in which they also locked people up in a huge straw or willow web and burned them alive as an offering to the gods. The druids demanded the terrified and innocent people to bring them a child, a boy or a girl, at midnight on 31 October as an offering to their god of the dead, in order to make him merciful and guarantee their well-being. They hollowed out a pumpkin, put a light inside and placed it on the doorsteps of the chosen houses. When the druids returned to these houses and found no child, they painted a sign in blood on the door of the house. By morning, all the inhabitants of the houses were found dead.

This compilation is largely taken from the specialist literature: "The World of Celtic Magic" by Miranda J. Green, Econverlag: "Die Kelten" by Hermann Noelle, W. Ludwig Verlag.

From the Bible: "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths." (2 Tim 4:3-4).

Do you still think Halloween is funny? It's very macabre that in our country children are taught to glorify such dark machinations, when they were the very victims. If, on some National Socialist anniversary, children with swastika armbands went from house to house demanding sweets ("trick or treat") there would rightly be great indignation, and those responsible would certainly be held accountable. But is the "Halloween party"? with such a horrible background ethically justifiable? Apart from the fact that hardly anyone enjoys it when the doorbells are ringing every few minutes for hours on end and possibly even the house is being graffitied, Halloween legalises naughtiness and vandalism among children, which in turn lowers the inhibition threshold for criminal acts.

Instead of celebrating Halloween parties, it would be appropriate to establish a national minute of silence on 31 October to remember the innocent victims of the Druids, the Holocaust, and abortion.

If you have civil courage, then stand against the reckless handling of the atrocities of the past! Please take your responsibility, be it at the school, kindergarten or in your own family! A responsible and considerate society will also be of benefit to you. History teaches us: if we do not stand up against the crimes of the past, they will be repeated in a different form.