

FEATURES

Witch Craze Formed Modern Stereotype

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When one thinks of a witch, he or she most likely will see an older woman wearing a pointed black hat with a long crooked nose holding a wart on the end. These witches are thought to have an old shack somewhere in the middle of the woods with a black cauldron in the middle of it. At this dwelling, the witches call in children to be sacrificed and eaten.

According to halloween.com there is a different story to the average witch. The word "witch" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "wicce". In the days of old, people did think however, that witches could perform some type of magic related to their religion.

"Today, a witch is a woman or man who practices a life-affirming, earth and nature oriented religion, honoring divinity in female as well as (or instead of) male aspects."

The witches' religion is known to some as "the craft." Different witches practice this "craft"

differently. Some worship different gods, some choose to pray, while others may only meditate on the deities of their choice. The deities worshiped can be very complicated. If one were to ask about a witch's deity is, he or she would probably get as many different answers as there are witches. There is not just one god to focus on like in most monotheistic cultures. However, the most

common one worshipped is the Goddess, or the Divine Feminine. This Goddess can be called by many different names and be seen in many different forms. She can be seen as the Maiden, the Mother, or the Wise.

witches since the beginning of time is that they worship satan. This started in the early days of the missionary church. The European pagan horned god with goat-hooved feet was said to be evil by the church in order to get people to convert. This depiction has given people the image of satan as being horned with goat feet. However, this horned god, known as Pan in the Greek culture, is not evil at all. It is a source of energy in nature and all life during all good times, such as dance, music, intoxication, and even lovemaking.

It is easy for one to see why the witches of Salem were treated wrongly. Because of witches' mystery and mystical being, it is easy for a society to cast them out and assume the worst about them. It is hard to think of what Halloween would be like without the witch. If witches had never been wronged with false accusations, one might never think of a broom in flight or a black cauldron full of bats' wings and frogs feet; the perfect witches' brew.



Staff Photo

One

of the most common thoughts about

WITCHES

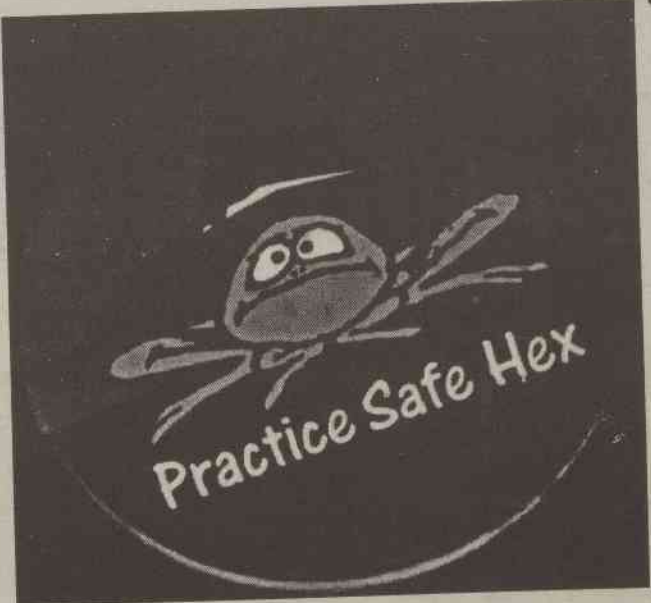
Happy Halloween
Cubwibe
Ghost
Trick or Treat

Boo
Pumpkin Carving
Candy
Costume

Witches
Parties
Goblins

Puzzle By Sarah E. Cadarette

HAPPY HAUNTING!



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