

What is Dark Celtic Paganism?

The Concept of Evil

What truly appears to be that which is in the way of anything that's dark in any manner is the equalization of dark and evil in Western culture. Let us begin by looking into the meaning of the word 'evil'. There are two forms of the word 'evil'. One is an adjective, the other is a noun. The adjective is synonymous with 'wicked', which in itself is synonymous with the word 'sinful'. The noun 'evil' is synonymous with 'sin', all according to the Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary of 1964. The dictionary also gives explanations to what is considered 'evil', but my focus will be on the direct translation of the word. So, I look up the word 'sin' and find out that this means, and I quote the aforementioned book, "an offense esp. against God" or "a weakened state of human nature in which the self is estranged from God". What we find is that the root of the modern concept of evil, is in the root Judeo-Christian. Being fairly unfamiliar with Islam I cannot speak for their beliefs when it comes to sin, but from discussions with Muslims, I have learnt that the concept of evil is found even there. In fact, it has very much the same beliefs as Judeo-Christian faiths when it comes to magic being 'evil'.

What I wish to come to is that good and evil don't exist, in the extremity which they are described. No human, nor action is evil, nor the opposite. Many argue against this, and it is true that it is hard to see this when you or kin is being hurt. It's also hard for some to see what wasn't evil about Adolf Hitler or war in general... but one must remember that one man with bread leaves another dead. The argument that rapists and murderers are evil often comes up as well, but that is only if you or kin are a victim. To the one performing the act it isn't. The same goes for war... there's always someone who gains something from it. For him it was good.

Celtic Darkness

In the Celtic world view darkness precedes light, and while darkness may have been a danger for the Iron Age Celt, if he was to move through a dark forest, he recognized that it was not evil. If we look at the Celtic deities which we have come to call dark, we see the destructive ones, the bloodthirsty ones and those whose actions we don't fully comprehend. This is without remembering that many of them have a parental side to them, a less brutal one. So what is dark about Celtic Traditionalism and Reconstructionism? Is anything about life dark at all -one could ask. I chose the word darkness, because it is that which one has

to know well to be completely safe in. That is the Otherworld, death, and yes even fertility... but why fertility? It leads towards the beginning of a life, and all begins start with darkness. That is one of the reasons, I think, I have so early on in my life strayed towards this path... because this is the beginning. Most likely, there will be a lighter middle, and a darker end.

There is no black magic within this path... and it isn't all about darkness... it is about a balance between the light and the darkness, but since there are so many websites on the light side, and since I don't favour it over darkness, I have decided to dedicate this website to the "Slighe Dubh", the dark path.

Balance

Without light there wouldn't be darkness. Didn't we ever feel good, we'd never feel bad. There are two sides to every coin (never mind those mobius strips right now). There is the feminine and male... the dark and the light... love and hate. A lot of people, especially pagans, are much for balancing all opposite aspects against each other for absolute peace within oneself. Much like Buddha's teachings of how the middle road is the happy road.