

VAMPIRISM IN SLAVIC FOLKLORE

SUBCONSCIOUS HUMAN BLOODLUST?

CONSUMING HUMAN BLOOD IS A COMMON THEME IN MANY SLAVIC FOLKTALES AND TRADITIONS.



In Orthodox Christianity, Communion is a ceremony in which the blood and body of Christ are consumed: bread for the body and wine for the blood.

The Blood of Christ

In *The Brigand Madei*, Madei must become an apple tree to repent for his sins. Once apples begin to grow, a priest promised to let him confess his sins and enter the kingdom of heaven. However, years later, upon finding these apples on Madei's tree, the priest becomes overwhelmed with the desire to consume the apples. These apples are actually a part of Madei and are filled with his blood. Was it the blood in these apples that made the priest desire them so?



The Blood of Madei



The development of vampire lore is humanity's way of distancing itself from its own subconscious desires. The stark contrast between humans and vampires is a way to conceal our animalistic urges. Are we really so different in the end?

"As I drink this glass of wine, so let another man perish."

~Peter Browne