Duende

Posted by TressesOfNephthys - 05 Nov 2011 13:37

From Wikipedia:

A duende is a fairy- or goblin-like mythological creature from Iberian, Latin American and Filipino folklore. While its nature varies throughout Spain, Portugal, Spanish and Portuguese-speaking America and the Philippines, analogues from other cultures include the Danish-Norwegian Nisse, the French lutin and nain rouge, the Irish clurichaun, leprechaun, and far darrig, the Manx fenodyree and mooinjer veggey, the Scottish/English brownie, the Welsh tylwyth teg, and the Swedish Tomte. The etymology of the word "duende" reinforces the equivalence to the latter (tomte from tomt="home") as it shares the same origin as the Spanish word dueño, "owner" (the "real owner" of the house). As Federico García Lorca uses the term, it seems closer to fairy as a realm of being. Duendes may also have some traits similar to goblins and kobolds.

The word is often considered to be the Spanish equivalent of the English word "sprite" or the Japanese word yokai and is used as an umbrella term for any fairy-like being such as goblins, pixies and elves.

The word is also used in Portuguese folklore, being used to describe Goblins, pixies, brownies and leprechauns. They are believed to be of a small stature wearing big hats, whistling a mystical song, while walking in the forest. Using their talent, they are believed to lure young girls to the forest causing them to lose their way home. Conversely, in some Latin cultures the Duendes are believed to be the helpers of people who get lost in the forest so they could find their way home. In the folklore of the Central American country of Belize, particularly amongst the country's African/Carib-descended Creole and Garifuna populations, Duende are thought of as a forest spirit called "Tata Duende" who lacks thumbs.

In Hispanic folklore of Mexico and the American Southwest, duendes are known as gnome like creatures who live inside the walls of homes, especially in the bedroom walls of young children. They attempt to clip the toenails of unkempt children, often leading to the mistaken removal of entire toes. They are also known for taking items from young children. They have also been able to barter with the mother of young children so that they can take the child and have them to eat. They appear at night when children are at play with a ball, and watch the children and later make their appearance and confront the children.

Chamorro people believe in tales of taotaomonas, duendes and other spirits. Duende, according to the Chamorro-English Dictionary by Donald Topping, Pedro Ogo and Bernadita Dungca, is a goblin, elf, ghost or spook in the form of a dwarf, a mischievous spirit which hides or takes small children.

Filipinos also believe in Dwende, which frequently live in rocks and caves, old trees, unvisited and dark parts of houses or in ant hills where they are called nuno sa punso (old man of the mound). They are either categorized as good or evil depending on their color - white or black respectively and often play with children.

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Re: Duende
Posted by crystalcross - 05 Nov 2011 13:59

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Very interesting. Is there any information as to how tall they are? Or how they manifest?

When I see the write-up it conjures visions of a Chupacabra.

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Re: Duende
Posted by TressesOfNephthys - 05 Nov 2011 14:21

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I found this image:

www.google.com/imgres?q=duende&hl=en...;ved=1t:429,r:0,s:20

They seem to manifest as a short shadow figure with the little pointy hat visible.

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Re: Duende
Posted by crystalcross - 05 Nov 2011 16:04

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You know sometimes I think its amazing how different people think of the same thing at the same time. THe other day when we were having our "Live Investigation" feed from the Antique Emporium of Brevard for Halloween, at 6pm on Oct 31st, I saw a little dark shadow standing by one of the glass doors. I thought at first it was a cat seen from the front since it was not lengthy like a cat or dog is. It was like a little gnome-like figure. It clearly moved and then walked off the scene. I though for sure at the time it had to be a cat or small animal. But when I confronted the owner they said there were no cats or other animals in the building. Actually he said that at that time there was nobody in the building at all.

When you brought this up, I instantly started thinking about what I saw there. And now that you show me that picture I have to say that it sure looks almost identical to what I saw in Camera #2 for about

10-30 seconds. It was a back-light silhouetted figure, and only saw the dark shadow it created just like in your image. But it was clearly a solid object as it was blocking out the fairly bright light from the room behind it. And it could not have stood taller than 12-18 inches tall.

Very odd.

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Duende

Posted by TressesOfNephthys - 05 Nov 2011 18:52

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Haha awesome, that is the cosmic consciousness at work.

I'm going to post another one once my computer can stop freezing for 4 seconds.

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