



The Origins of the Christ-mas Tree

Once upon a time, in the middle ages, people in Germany would put on special plays called Mystery Plays and they would perform a specific Mystery Play to tell the story of Adam and Eve. These plays, called "Paradise Plays," were performed on Christmas Eve, the day that honored Adam and Eve. The centerpiece of the play was a big evergreen tree called the "Paradise Tree." Which represented the Tree of Life, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

This tree was decorated with apples, which represented the story of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit. Later on, white wafers or candy were added to symbolize the promise of a savior, Jesus, who would come to save humanity.

As time went on, people stopped performing the plays, but the tradition of the tree lived on. In Germany, families began to set up their own "Paradise Trees" in their homes, decorating them with apples, wafers, and eventually, other ornaments like hearts, stars, and angels. They also began to call this tree the "Christbaum," or "Christ tree."

Over the centuries, the tradition spread far and wide. The Christmas tree, as we know it today, came to symbolize the story of Adam and Eve, the fall of humanity, and the hope of redemption through Jesus. So, when you see a Christmas tree, remember it started as a reminder of these stories, and maybe even add a shiny apple ornament to honor its origins.