



Science or Sorcery?



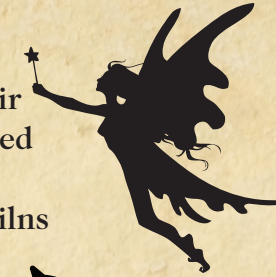
Legends of the Lime Kilns...

What happens when you combine super high heat, weird smells and a process that turns a useless rock into a powder that makes crops grow better? Some people call it making lime, but for others it meant dark magic. Rumors about lime kilns have been around for a long time:



Legends say that lime kilns were used to summon evil spirits!

There were farmers who claimed that their livestock was destroyed by fairies, supposedly disturbed when the kilns were built.



In Ireland it's reported that Halloween rituals took place at lime kilns less than 100 years ago...



Of course the truth is a bit different! Here's the real story...

Some of the oldest lime kilns are in Turkey and were in use 7,000 to 14,000 years ago.



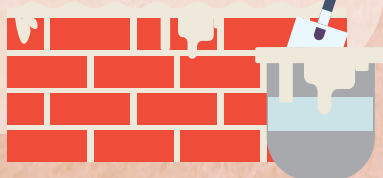
Limestone is made up of corals and shells (some millions of years old) squeezed together—interesting, but not very useful. Heat the limestone up, and that changes!



Heating limestone (900° or more) changes the texture and chemical makeup of the stone. What's left is crumbly stuff called lime or quicklime which can be used to make all sorts of things:



Mix lime with sand and you'll get mortar (the stuff that holds bricks together!).



Mix lime with water and glue to make whitewash—a super weatherproof white paint.

