

understanding of collective consciousness and what it can make not only one person, but a group of people believe. Collective consciousness manifests through symbols or narratives that embody certain groups. Throughout time we have developed these shared beliefs and morals without realizing. A prime example of collective consciousness in our society is burials that were brought into being through rituals, which gave us a sense of collaborative meaning.

In the podcast, the speaker talks about an Irish legend, where many believed that if a baby, child, or even adult had certain illnesses or disabilities they were changelings, fairies taking over the person. Changelings were said to inhabit a person, taking over their life, leaving the family poor and left to deal with it. The speaker describes scenarios where people would hold babies over fire, drown them in water, or force them to drink tea made from poisonous flowers in an attempt to force the fairy, or changeling, out. In some cases, these people that believed in changelings would end up burning or drowning their children to death. One man thought his wife became a changeling due to her being sick for nine days straight, doctors and priests tried to help her until family and friends took matters into their own hands. They gathered to give her “fairy medicine” from herbs, upon her refusal they held a red hot poker in her face. After various remedies, nothing worked, the husbands’ fear drove him to burn her alive. He was blinded by this superstition of changelings and had convinced himself that his wife was no longer herself but would return once he killed the fairy, however this was not the case.

This podcast shows how collective consciousness can become something completely irrational and a terrible thing. During this time these people believed changelings were real, they justified their actions from having these shared beliefs. Our desire to belong to a group makes us susceptible to social influence. Although we like to think of ourselves as being “different”, we all

gives us this unification that is necessary to function collectively, giving us stability.