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CULTURAL TRADITIONS OF UKRAINE

The everyday life of the Ukrainian people, as well as celebrations, are often accompanied by interesting customs that have passed through the centuries. As a rule Ukrainian youth honor these traditions with pleasure, preserving spiritual continuity with their ancestors.

Many traditions from those times have survived to our time. Family life was traditionally accompanied by various rites and rituals that figuratively and symbolically defined certain stages of life and development and the wedding was a real folk drama, which included games, dances, singing, and music.

Some of them date back to pre-Christian times. On the night of July 6-7, Ukrainians celebrate Ivan Kupala Day – a holiday surrounded by magical rituals and rites. During the time of Kyivan Rus the ancestors of modern Ukrainians also celebrated this holiday, but in June – on the day of the summer solstice. Ivan Kupala is considered one of the most magical days of the year, so holding ceremonies is a mandatory part of its celebration. On this day brave people jump over fire and at midnight people look for a fern flower to get a glimpse into the future and find untold riches. Girls make wreaths from wild flowers. They are released into the water and observed: if the wreath floats, the girl will get married this year, if it sinks, no.

The first mentions of the holiday are noted in the Volyn Chronicle in the context of events "on the eve of St. John's day at the very baths". Ivan Kupala is a traditional holiday of the Slavs, which was celebrated before the adoption of Christianity in Kyivan Rus. Pagans honored the summer solstice, as well as water. That is why all celebrations take place near water bodies.

Also, every spring, people celebrate Easter with joy. This is the brightest holiday of the year, dedicated to the wonderful resurrection of Jesus after his

execution. The date of the holiday changes every year. In 2024, Easter will be late. Ukrainians have rich and ancient Easter traditions, and the holiday itself is equally loved by adults and children.

Before Easter, the Orthodox celebrate a 50-day fast called Great. It is needed for physical and spiritual cleansing to meet the bright holiday in a cleansed body and with pure thoughts.

Preparations for the festivities begin in advance. Before Easter, Ukrainians do general house cleaning, wash windows and bed linen, butcher poultry and cattle for meat. Traditionally, meat dishes (sausages, jello, cabbage rolls) and scrambled eggs are prepared for the holiday, but they are not eaten during fasting. For dessert, butter pastries are baked.

On the day of Resurrection, believers visit the temple, where they consecrate the food for the festive dinner. The whole family gathers at the table, treating each other with paska. On the holiday, games and entertainment related to Easter eggs are popular.

Ukrainians also have a festive greeting before the holiday. During all Easter holidays (that is, from Easter to the Trinity), Orthodox believers greet each other with the words: "Christ is Risen!" – "He is Risen Indeed!".

REFERENCES

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