

TRADITIONS OF BELARUS



JUST LIKE ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD BELARUS HAS ITS OWN CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS.

KUPALLE IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A CELEBRATION WITH PAGAN ROOTS. ON THE NIGHT OF THE 6TH OF JULY GIRLS PICK FLOWERS, TWINE THEM INTO A WREATH AND THROW THEIR WREATHS INTO RIVERS AS A METHOD OF FORTUNE TELLING. PEOPLE STAY UP ALL NIGHT DANCING, PLAYING GAMES AND JUMPING OVER RIVER-SIDE FIRES.



KUPALLE CELEBRATE ON JUNE 21. IT IS A TRADITIONAL AND THE MOST LOVED HOLIDAY IN BELARUS.

KUPALLE IS A PAGAN SUMMER CELEBRATION OF FERTILITY IN THE NAME OF A FEMALE GOD - KUPALA. LATELY IT WAS RENAMED INTO A CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION OF MALE SAINT-IVAN KUPALA.

KUPALLE USUALLY INVOLVES YOUTH GOING INTO A FORESTS AND THE MEADOWS, WEARING FLOWERS AND GRASS GARLANDS, DANCING IN KARAGODS (CIRCLES AROUND FIRES), JUMPING THROUGH FIRES.

A POPULAR KIND OF KUPALLE WAS FORTUNE-TELLING – PUTTING WREATHS ON WATER. PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT ON KUPALLE NIGHT THE FERN HAS A VERY SPECIAL FLOWER-"PAPARATS-KVETKA"- GLOWING IN THE DARK. IF YOU FIND THE FLOWER, YOU'LL BE HAPPY. BUT NO ONE HAS FOUND "PAPARATS-KVETKA" YET.



BUT TRADITIONS ARE NOT ONLY HOLIDAYS. FOLK SONGS, DANCES, GAMES, FAIRY TALES, LEGENDS, RIDDLES, PROVERBS AND SAYINGS — THEY ALL REFLECT THE WISDOM AND LIFE EXPERIENCE OF BELARUSIANS. IT IS GREAT THAT TODAY IF YOU WANT TO LISTEN TO BEAUTIFUL OLD BELARUSIAN SONGS, YOU NEEDN'T GO TO THE COUNTRYSIDE. IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAVE APPEARED A FEW BELARUSIAN FOLK MUSIC GROUPS THAT PERFORM TRADITIONAL MUSIC IN CLUBS AND AT OUTDOOR VENUES



ONE MORE IMPORTANT PART OF NATIONAL CULTURE AND TRADITIONS IS FOOD. TRADITIONAL CUISINE IS AN EXPRESSION OF CULTURAL IDENTITY. IN BELARUS THERE ARE A LOT OF TRADITIONAL DISHES. THE MOST POPULAR ARE DRANIKI (THICK POTATO PANCAKES), MACHANKA OR VERESHCHAKA (SAUSAGE AND MEAT DISH, A SORT OF DRESSING FOR PANCAKES), HOMEMADE SAUSAGES, KALDUNY, KLETSKI (DUMPLINGS), BABKA (BAKED GRATED POTATO PIE).



BELARUSIAN SPRING HOLIDAY MASLENICA

ONE OF THE OLDEST SLAVIC HOLIDAYS IS MASLENICA. ON THE CALENDAR THIS HOLIDAY WAS NEVER CELEBRATED, AS IT HAS NO CERTAIN DATE, THE MASLENICA IS CELEBRATED EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE EASTER. A WEEK AFTER MASLENICA, THE GREAT POST BEGINS. THE CHURCH CALENDAR CELEBRATES THIS HOLIDAY AS "CHEESE SEDMICA." THE PEASANTS WERE IN AWE OF THE HOLIDAY AND PREPARED FOR IT IN ADVANCE. DURING THIS PERIOD, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A LOT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS ON THE TABLE, BUT MEAT WAS CATEGORICALLY FORBIDDEN TO EAT.



BAPTISMS ARE A FAMILY HOLIDAY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORTHODOX SACRAMENT OF THE BAPTISM OF A CHILD. BELARUSIAN FAMILIES PREPARE FOR THIS EVENT IN ADVANCE, CAREFULLY CHOOSING GODPARENTS, USUALLY AMONG CLOSE RELATIVES OR FRIENDS, AND INVITING GUESTS. PREPARATION OF A FESTIVE TABLE WITH SKILLED YADES BECAME A TRADITION OF THIS HOLIDAY



ALTHOUGH MOST BELARUSIANS FOLLOW THE TRADITIONS OF CHRISTIANITY, A LOT IN THEIR CULTURE ORIGINATED FROM PAGAN BELIEFS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE BELARUSIAN COUNTRYSIDE, THE RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS OF CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY ARE FUSED WITH PAGAN “KALYADY” RITUALS. FROM LATE DECEMBER INTO JANUARY, GROUPS OF VILLAGERS DRESS UP IN COSTUMES AND GO HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SINGING TRADITIONAL “KALYADKI” SONGS, FOR WHICH THEY ARE REWARDED WITH TREATS.



ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS IN BELARUS IS EASTER. THIS HOLIDAY IS CONNECTED WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF DIFFERENT RITES AND TRADITIONS, MANY OF WHICH ARE PERFORMED NOW. ON EASTER IT IS ACCEPTED TO OVEN KULICHY, MAKE A PACK AND PAINT EGGS - THESE ARE MANDATORY ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLIDAY. AND IT IS ALSO DESIRABLE ON THIS HOLIDAY TO VISIT THE ALL-NIGHT SERVICE AND SEE THE PROCESSION - THE SPECTACLE IS TRULY FASCINATING.

