

slaviti proljeće / celebrating spring



- spring celebration, **St. George's day**, called **"Jurjevo"** (HR) or **"Đurđevdan"** (SRB) or **Ederlezi (Gypsy)** in ex. Yu is a mixture of Christian and pre-Christian, Slavic elements

1. **Christian: St. George = Sveti Juraj = Sveti Đorđe**
2. **Slavic: Zeleni Juraj**, god of vegetation and fertility

Common ground: Both Sveti Juraj and Zeleni Juraj are celebrated on the same day; both have been fighting the dragon.

The Slavs / Slaveni

- Slavs – European tribe that came to Center, Eastern and South Eastern Europe after the 6th century
- ***Over half of Europe's territory is inhabited by Slavic-speaking communities. The worldwide population of people of Slavic descent is close to 400 million, making Slavs among the largest panethnicities in the world.*** (wikipedia)
- Slavs can be Catholic (Croatian, Slovenian, Polish), Orthodox Christian (Russian, Serbian) or Muslim (Bosniaks)
- Slavs use latin letters (Croatian, Slovenian, Polish, etc.) and cyrillic (Russian, Serbian)

Slavic languages

Dark green: East Slavic languages

Light green: West Slavic languages

Dark: South East Slavic languages

(Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian, Montenegrin,
Slovenian, Macedonian, Bulgarian)

**- Around 20 million people speak
Serbian and Croatian languages**



Slavic mythology / Mitologija Slavena



- Ancient Slavs viewed their world as a huge tree (oak)
 - **Perun** – heavenly **god of thunder and lightning** who **rules the living world** from high *above*, located on the top of the highest branch of the World Tree
- Names of mountain tops in ex Yu are derived from Perun's name

Perunika (Perun's flower) / iris – Croatian national flower. Grows from ground that had been struck by lightning.



- **Veles** (snake/dragon) – Perun’s opponent, god rulling the **world of the dead** or place of eternal spring called “Virej”. He is located at the roots of the sacred tree.

Cosmic battle between Perun and Veles:

- **Changing of season:** The dry periods results from Veles' thievery (of Perun’s cattle, wife or son). The following rain is the triumph of Perun over Veles and re-establishment of world order.
- It is believed that wherever the thunderbolt strikes, Veles is hiding at the moment.

Žrnovica, Croatia, church from the 8th century: Perun defeating Veles (bear)



Juraj and Mara

- **Jura/j and Mara – husband and wife, twin children of Perun**
- **Zeleni Jura/j** was a kid when kidnapped and taken to Veles. In the springtime, he overcomes Veles (=winter, dragon) and lets the spring out. Thus he becomes god of fertility and vegetation
- **Mara/Morana** – Juraj's wife and sister. She kills Juraj after he cheats on her, thus becoming goddess of death and winter

Sveti Juraj (HR) or Sv. Đorđe (SRB) - patron of soldiers, knights, farmers, cowherders



St. George kills dragon / Sv. Juraj ubija zmaja (HR) / Sv. Đorđe ubija aždaju (SRB)

- *The people of Silene used to feed the dangerous **dragon** two sheep every day, and when the sheep failed, they fed it with their children, chosen by lottery. It happened that the lot fell on the **king's daughter**. The king, distraught with grief, told the people they could have all his gold and silver and half of his kingdom if his daughter were spared; the people refused. The daughter was send out as a bride, to be fed to the dragon. **St. George** was passing by chance and, with the help of the cross, managed to wound the dragon easily. St. George then called to the princess to throw him her girdle (opasač), and he put it around the dragon's neck. When she did so, the dragon followed the girl like a meek beast on a leash.*
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_George_and_the_Dragon

Paolo Uccello: *St George and the Dragon*, 1470.



Hrvatska: Jurjevo

- Northwest Croatia
- Celebrated after Easter, on **23. 04.**
- St. George slayed the dragon
Victory of good over evil, spring over winter
- Bathing in cold spring water before sunrise - for good luck



Elementary school students in North Croatia singing and dancing





Obredni pohod Svetoga Jurja

- ***Glejte ga, glejte, Juru zelenoga!***
- Center of the procession is Zeleni Juraj (Green St. George), a guy covered in leafs going through the village



Proljetni krijes (Bonfire)

- Young people are jumping over the fire to be healthy during the rest of the year





Dodole – 5 girls walking through village singing traditional songs



Oj Dodole, mili Bože

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FB0fPwp9X6I>

- Naša Doda Boga moli Boga moliti = to pray to God
Oj Dodo, Dodole
- Sitna kiša da zarosi, sitna kiša = dew
Oj Dodo, Dodole
- Naša polja da natopi natopiti polja = to water the
fields
- Oj Dodo, Dodole
- I da rodi nam pšenica, roditi pšenica = bear wheat
Oj Dodo, Dodole
- I kukuruz na dva klasa kukuruz = korn
Oj Dodo, Dodole

Dodola – Slavenska božica kiše

- **Dodola** = Slavic goddess of rain, maybe Perun's wife
- **Dodola brings the rain** when she milks her heavenly cows, the clouds
- Each spring Dodola flies over the woods, and decorates the trees with blossoms.

Dodole performed **during summer dry seasons**

- Dodole ritual – singing dodole songs and dancing ritual dance
- Usually performed by children. In the center of the group is a girl all covered in leafs.
- They visit village houses and perform "dodole" ritual. The master of the house comes out from house and throws water on dancers, which is **ancient way of invoking the spirits of rain.**

Mi idemo preko polja, oj dodo oj dodole
A oblaci preko neba, oj dodo, oj dodol
Da udari rosna kiša, oj dodo, oj dodole
Da orosi naša polja, oj dodo, oj dodole
I pšenicu u zimnicu, oj dodo, oj dodole
I dva pera kukuruza, oj dodo, oj dodole
Oblaci nas prestigoše, oj dodo, oj dodole
Žito, vino orosiše, oj dodo, oj dodole

polje = field
oblak, oblaci = clouds
udari kiša = to rains
orosi = dew falls, refreshes
pšenica = wheat
pero kukuruza = corn clip
prestići = outrun
Žito = wheat

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaXakol2B-E>

Srbija: Đurđevdan

- Celebrated on May 6th
- Ritual bathing in spring waters
- **Đurđevdanski vijenac** (Garland for St. George's day)
Girls making garlands to decorate entrance to the house, wells or cattle



Boys stealing girls' garlands

- **Boys:** celebrating dawn before Đurđevdan.
- Before the sun sets, on their way home, some would steal a garland of the house where a girl lived. Sometimes, they would even move the gate (“kapija”) a bit further away from the house. This meant that the girl should get married in the fall (to get her garland back) and that the entrance to the house is opened for the young men to ask for her hand in marriage.
- Belief that if a young man wants to marry a girl, he should steal a garland from her gate, put it to soak in the water for 3 days, and afterwards wash his face with the water and have at least one sip of it . Till the next Đurđevdan, he will marry that girl.

Romi: Ederlezi

- Erdelezi, from Turkish Hıdırellez and Arabic “**akhdar**” meaning “**Green**” – **god of fertility and vegetation**
- Biggest holiday among Roma people
- decorating the home with flowers and blooming twigs, washing the walls of the house with water
- taking baths with flowers
- Feast dinner: grilling lamb
- dancing and singing, traditional Brass bands





“Ederlezi” - song

- Goran Bregović

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GG2jench7Kg>

- Bijelo Dugme – Yu rock band

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BulswNN7bbg>

- Borat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2R57PIZFAeM>

“Ederlezi” in Romani language

- Sa me amala oro khelena All my friends are dancing the oro
- Oro khelena, dive kerena Dancing the oro, celebrating the day
Sa o Roma daje All the Roma, mommy
Sa o Roma babo babo All the Roma, dad, dad
Sa o Roma o daje All the Roma, oh mommy
Sa o Roma babo babo All the Roma, dad, dad
Ederlezi, Ederlezi Ederlezi, Ederlezi
Sa o Roma daje All the Roma mommy
- Sa o Roma babo, e bakren chinen All the Roma, dad, slaughter lambs
A me, chorro, dural beshava But me, poor, I am sitting apart
Romano dive, amaro dive A Romani day, our day
Amaro dive, Ederlezi Our day, Ederlezi

Bijelo Dugme: *Đurđevdan*

- Evo zore evo zore zora = dawn
Bogu da se pomolim Bogu se moliti = to pray to God
Evo zore evo zore
Ej đurđevdan je Đurđevdan = St. George's day
A ja nisam s onom koju volim
- Njeno ime neka se spominje spominjati se = to be mentioned
Svakog drugog dana
Svakog drugog dana
Osim đurđevdana



- In March of this year following countries will jointly nominate “Jurjevo”/”Đurđevdan”/”Ederlezi” for **UNESCO’s heritage list**: Srbija, BiH, Hrvatska, Crna Gora, Makedonija, Turkey, Iraq, Moldavia and Romania

