



The Joy of Exploring Village Life

Bulgarian Traditions



Otec Paisii High School – Stamboliiski - Bulgaria



Eniovden (Midsummer day)

It is a traditional Bulgarian holiday celebrated on June 24th every year.

There are a number of pagan beliefs, legends and stories about the mystical powers of this day.



On Midsummer day the sun reaches the ultimate point of its journey to summer.

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That's why it rises very early in the morning — to say goodbye to the world that it will not see until next year.

The sun flickers then, and whoever sees that, will be healthy for the whole year.



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When the sun rises, one must look at his own shadow – if it's definite, he will be healthy; if it's unclear, he will be sick.



There is also a belief that if there is treasure buried underground, on this day flames are coming out of the ground to indicate its location.



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On Midsummer day, the sun, on its long path around the earth, stops to rest, and baths in "living water".

People believed that water acquire healing properties after the Sun had bathed in it.



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That's way before the holiday each family prepares a wreaths (one for each member of the family) and puts them in a caldron with silent water which is left over the night "under the stars", under a rose bush.



Early in the morning everyone washes his face and hands with this water.

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The cult for the Sun is also related to ritual tours of the farming land with a lot of singing and performing the ritual Eniova Bulia.



Enio's Bulia is a little girl aged between 3 and 5. It is dressed as a bride with a red veil and villagers are taking it around the wells and rivers to predict health and rich harvest.



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There is a herb for every ailment, a proverb goes. In the folk tradition illnesses are 77 and a half.



There is a cure for 77 of them, and for this half only herbs picked on Eniovdnen can help.



So, another ritual step is also a must on this day – picking herbs.





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*And now, let me show
you how we celebrate
Midsummer day in our
town and school.*

Early in the morning





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Our caldrons



Singing



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Time for picking herbs



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In the afternoon with teachers and friends



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In the evening at home



Now we have herbs with curing powers for the rest of the year.





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We all respect our customs and traditions

