



# THE GLAGOLITHIC ALPHABET – THE FORGOTTEN ALPHABET OF EUROPE

**WORKSHOP & OBSCURE TREASURES STAKEHOLDER  
CHALLENGE**



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# THE RETURN OF SPRING

→ Presented by Group nr 1  
Sophia, Tajka, Desislava,  
Magdalena





## ДОБРЕ ДОШЛА

Излез и погледни  
Какви прекрасни дни!  
Сред клони разцъфтели  
Са птиците запели.  
И всеки млад листец,  
И всеки бял цветец  
Към слънцето нагоре  
Е чашчица разтворил!  
По градове, села  
Добре си ни дошла,  
Зелена, свежа, росна,  
Ти, пролет цветоносна!

Елисавета Багряна

## WELCOME

Go out and look  
what wonderful days!  
The birds have blossomed among the  
branches

And every young leaf,  
And every white flower  
Has opened its cup to the sun! In  
cities, villages  
You have come to us,  
Green, fresh, dewy, You, flower-  
bearing spring!

Elisaveta Bagryana



**Stonehenge, England**  
Summer Solstice Sunrise



**Chichén Itzá, Mexico**  
Spring and Fall Equinox



**Angkor Wat, Cambodia**  
Spring and Fall Equinox



**Mnajdra Temple, Malta**  
Spring and Fall Equinox



**Serpent Mound, USA**  
Summer Solstice Sunset



**Temple of Karnak, Egypt**  
Winter Solstice Sunrise





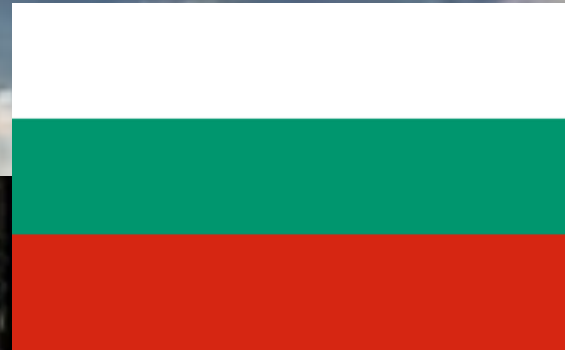
# SPRING TRADITIONS AS A PART OF EUROPE'S SHARED HERITAGE

Europe is a continent rich in diverse traditions that have shaped its shared cultural heritage for centuries. Spring rituals are an important element of the identity of European nations, combining folk beliefs, Christian traditions, and pagan roots.

Despite regional differences, common themes can be observed - symbolic welcoming of new life, rituals of light, and bidding farewell to winter. The presence of these traditions in various European countries reminds us of our shared roots and unites people through the preservation of ancient customs in a modern context.







# MARTENITSA

A Martenitsa is a red-and-white bracelet or decoration given on March 1st to celebrate Baba Marta (Grandmother March). It symbolizes health, luck, and the coming of spring. People wear it until they see the first stork or blooming tree, then they tie it to a branch for good fortune.

This tradition is also popular in other Balkan countries, such as North Macedonia, Romania, and Moldova.





# HISTORY OF MARTENITSA



The first martenitsa was made by Ahinora, the wife of khan Asparuh. Ahinora waited for her beloved for a long time and finally she tied a twisted white thread to the foot of a swallow and released the bird to send her message of health and love. Eventually, the bird found Khan Asparuh and landed near him on March 1st.



# CUSTOMS

In the Razgrad region, at sunrise in the morning, every housewife throws a red cloth on one of the fruit trees in the garden, "to make Baba Marta laugh". In the Troyan region, on March 1st, before sunrise, the housewives of every home tie red wool on the door locks, in the fruit trees and on the horns of the cattle.



BIGSTOCK

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# KURENT

Kurent is a main character of Slovenian traditional Kurentovanje carnival. Young men are dressed in furry sheepskin coat, belt with five cowbells fastened on it and mask with long nose, tongue sticking out of it and colourful ribbons on top of it.

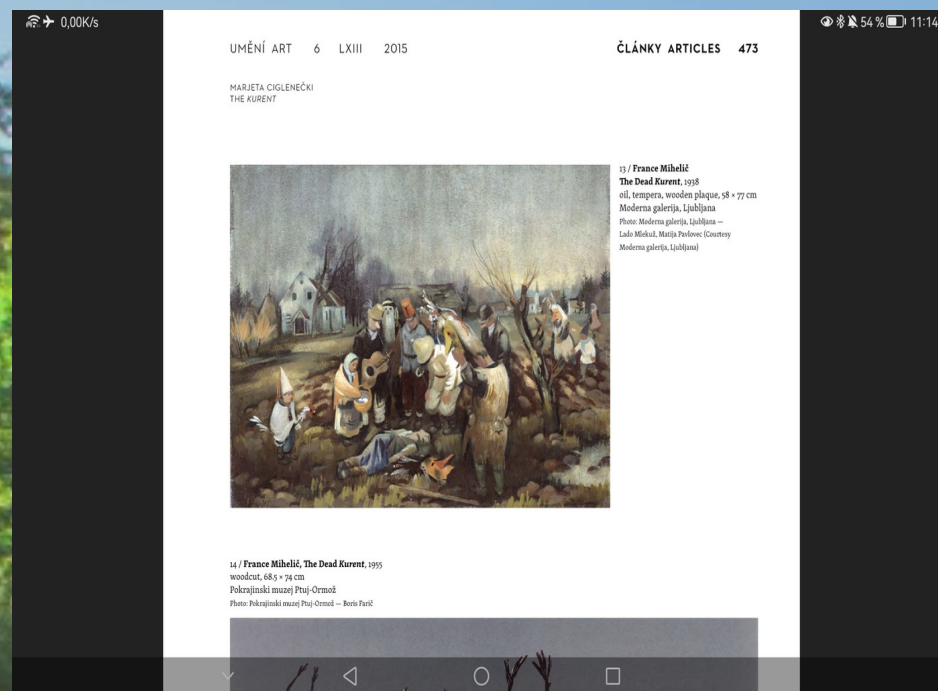
Their main task is to scare away the winter, bring prosperity to those houses who offered them gifts and cause general mischief.

The door-to-door rounds of Kurenti is protected by UNESCO.

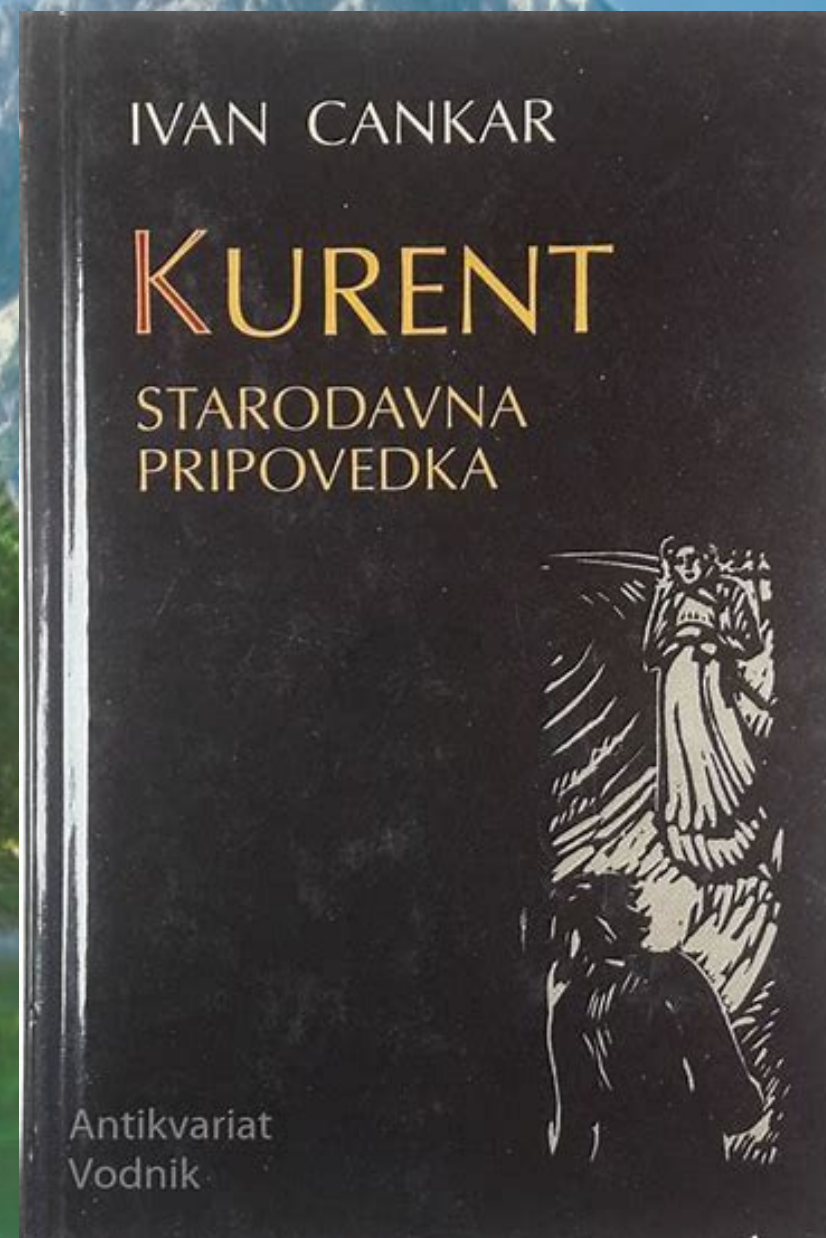




# KURENT IN ART



Dead Kurent  
- France Mihelič, 1938,  
1955



Ivan Cankar - Kurent,  
1909



Stojan Kerbler - The  
Kurents are Coming, 1967



# MARZANNA

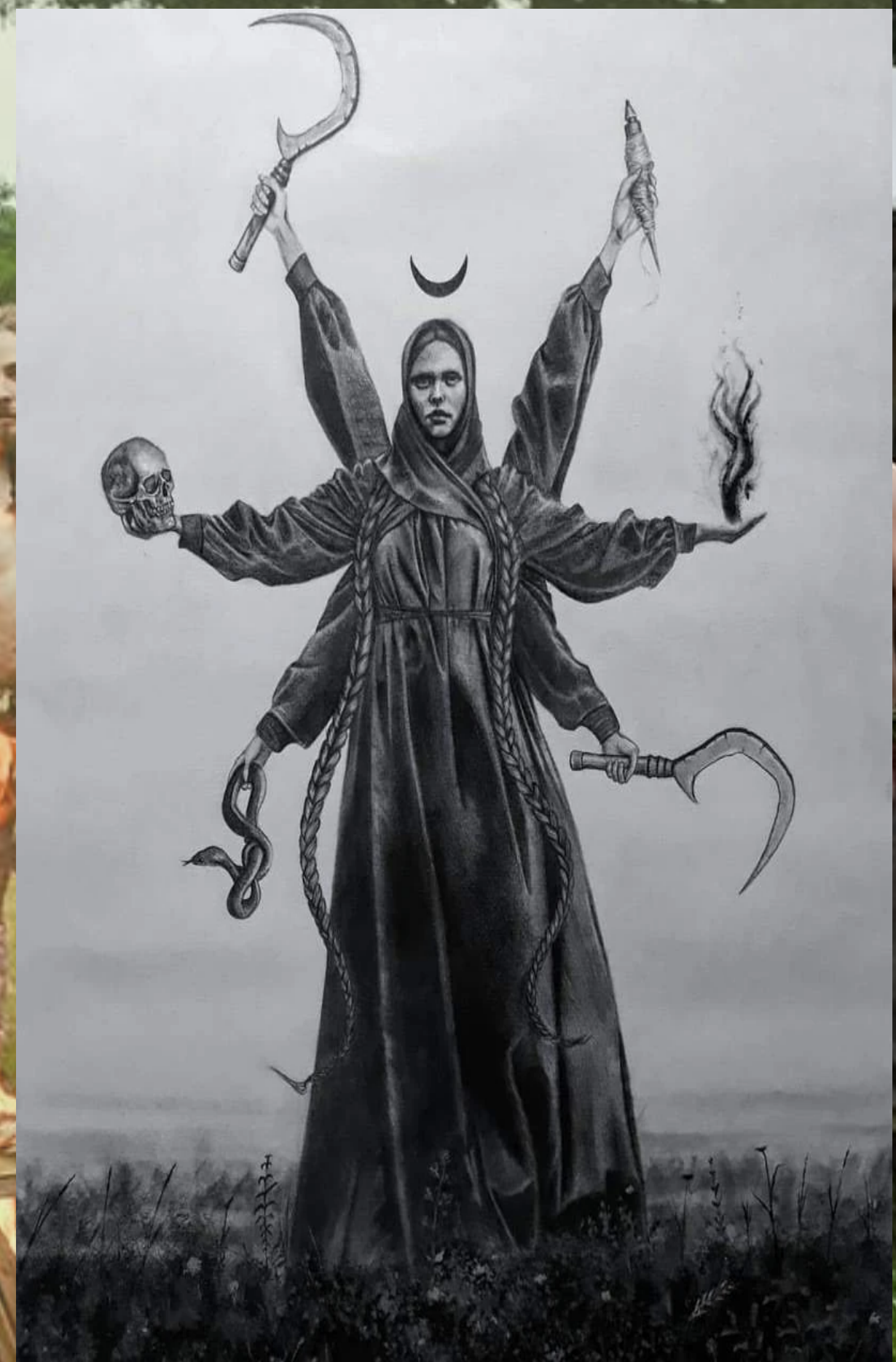
Every spring, usually around the spring equinox or March 21st, people create a straw effigy of Marzanna, dress it in white, and then ritually drown or burn it in a river to bid farewell to winter and welcome spring. This tradition, rooted in pagan Slavic customs, symbolizes the cycle of life, renewal, and the changing of seasons.





# FROM DEATH TO REBIRTH: THE LEGEND OF MARZANNA

Marzanna was a Slavic goddess of death, symbolizing winter and the death of nature. According to beliefs, her symbolic death was meant to announce the arrival of spring and revive the world of nature. She was known in Poland and Central-Eastern Europe by different names, such as Mara, Magdalena, Mora, Morana, and Marena. The custom associated with Marzanna involved drowning or discarding a doll, signifying the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Despite attempts by the Church to ban the tradition, it endured. Today, it is still practiced by children who carry the Marzanna doll in search of signs of spring.





# SPARGELZEIT! (WHITE ASPARAGUS)

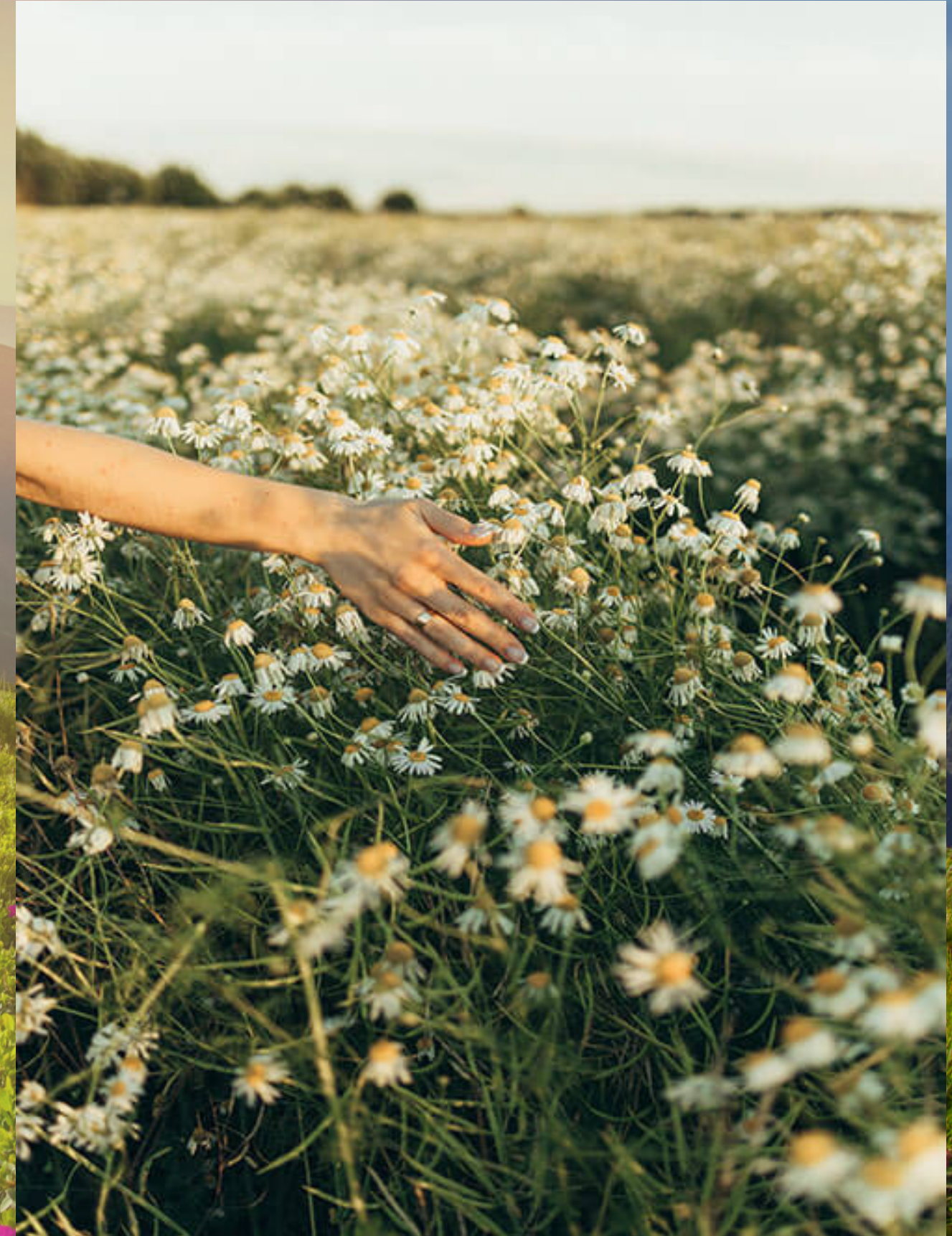
Beginning in mid-April, German people enjoy the return of “Spargel” (Asparagus). When the spargel peeling machines are rolled out at the local Aldi and fresh bundles are displayed on the shelf. The white asparagus is especially known for its milder and sweeter taste and is enjoyed in a variety of dishes.





# CONCLUSION

All mentioned traditions carry the spirit and the energy of spring, particularly the new beginning and the awakening of all around us. We examine the various rituals, associated with this arousal in several European countries. All of them have similar lines, but the idea is common for everyone - to be healthy, happy, lucky and successful.







THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION



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