

The drowning of Marzanna



Marzanna is the Polish name for a Slavic goddess associated with death, winter and nature. Every year, on the first day of spring, people would make an effigy, set it on fire, and then drown it in a river. The aim of this pagan ritual is to chase off winter and encourage the return of springtime.



Marzanna doll is traditionally made of straw, white canvas and colorful ribbons. There are a few superstitions: to ensure you avoid bad luck, you must be careful not to touch the Marzanna doll while she is in the water. On the way back, you must also not look back towards where the Marzanna doll is, as this is rumored to cause illness or disease.



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