

CrossTalk

April CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2005

Of Eggs and Bunnies

Easter is usually celebrated in April, but this year, it fell earlier than usual on the 27th of last month. It is the day that Christians believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For many Christians, the resurrection of Christ is the **confirmation** that life continues after death. But, some of the more "common" Easter traditions observed around the world by Christians are mixed with much older **pagan** traditions that have very similar **significances**.

For example, the Easter Bunny was originally an Anglo-Saxon symbol representing their spring **fertility** goddess Eastre in her earthly form (note the similarity to Easter). Eastre, at spring time, brought new life to the world after winter, and this is the time when rabbits, or hares, could be seen hopping around all over the place.



As with the Easter Bunny, the Easter Egg **predates** Easter also. From the earliest times, the egg has been a symbol of **rebirth** in most cultures. Eggs have been wrapped, painted or decorated in various ways for thousands of years throughout the world – all in celebration of the continuation of life, or the **conquest** of life over death.

Today, children can be found at Easter running around like little rabbits, looking high and low, here and there, under, over, everywhere to gather chocolate eggs that have been hidden by their parents or older siblings.

And, what could be a more fitting image of **eternal** life to **coincide** with the outbreak of spring each year than this?



Glossary

(These words are in **color** in the story)

confirmation 証し
fertility 命の誕生
conquest 征服

pagan ペーガン教
predates 早い時期
eternal 永遠の

significances 意味合い
rebirth 復活
coincide 一になる

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: Yes, Spring has Sprung! We are all talking about it; how the weather has suddenly changed and how pleasant it is to have warm days again. We have many new students to welcome to Crossroads too. Another event is about to take off, as well. It's Cricket season again!! So, keep your eyes on the Notice Board for dates of our games and come along and give us some support!

Junko Says: I have found another great web site to help with your English studies. www.audiobooksforfree.com. Here you can download complete books, novels, classics, etc., and listen to them while you improve your comprehension - all the better if you have the printed version to follow as you listen. You have to join and register, but it is well worth it!



Adam Says: The rumor on the street these days is that April is the time of year to celebrate the farewell and forthcoming of friends and family. Oddly enough, but in North America, this type of celebration is fulfilled 365 days a year. I haven't lost any close friends lately, but what about all of you?

Greg Says: Hello everyone! I understand why the Japanese don't celebrate Easter (difference in religion), but in saying that they do celebrate Christmas, although only on a commercial level. So can someone tell me why wouldn't the stores cash in on the commercial aspect of selling chocolate eggs for Easter? To all of you for whom Easter means something extra special...I hope you had a great time.



Natacha Says: This year, I was in Hawaii for Easter but the same excitement I used to feel as a child filled my heart just thinking of the traditional hunt for little gifts from the Easter bunny! As a child, my father used to hide Chocolate Easter Eggs and I would search high and low looking for them. Now-a-days, I'm the one doing the hiding while the kids go searching for the eggs. But the chocolate tastes just as good!

Steven Says: Many of the Aromatherapy students have been suffering with spring allergies due to the high content of pollen in the air at this time of year. A simple remedy for those seeking "drug free" relief is Nettle Tea. It can be purchased at your local health food store and comes conveniently packed in teabags.



Magnolia Says: Many people seem tied or bored with their work and lives. But, if today was your first day at work, what would you do differently? Would you dress differently? Would you be early? Would you feel proud to belong to your company? Would you try harder to do your best? Changing your attitude takes time and effort, but attitude is everything! "Your work should be a challenge, not a chore; a blessing not a bore."

Natasha Says: Last month we enjoyed Maslennitsa (Spring Festival) week (March 7-13). There were big parties all over Russia on March 13 with drinking, dancing and eating Bliny (pancakes). At the parties we burnt big female dolls, which symbolize winter, to say goodbye to winter. This would remind you of Toudo-Yaki Matsuri in Japan and it is always interesting to find the similarities between different cultures.



Yuka Says: Spring has finally come! Like many of you, I like this season. It's getting warmer and warmer and we can enjoy lots of beautiful flowers and young leaves. Everything looks so fresh and full of energy. So, why don't you get out of your room and take a walk? You may find something new and interesting. But, be sure to put sunscreen lotion on to protect yourself from the dangerous effects of the sun!

A Word From You

Shinobu Says: If you go to a restaurant in Korea, You will notice silver, metallic chop sticks which look flatter and much heavier compared with Japanese ones. But, this makes me think about recycling materials. I think we should learn to use metallic chopsticks. Who knows, this could become yet another trend from Korea!



Elijah Says: My purpose in life is to create happiness at all times. Now I'm happy because I have many purposes: prizing my family and friends, some hobbies, a job and everything related to life! These things will always continue, and I create new purposes from them as I go along. If I lose my way, I remember my father's advice; "Try something you want to do, even if you trouble someone else. But, it's important that you take responsibility for the results". This is my motto.

Easy English Lesson - VOCAB brush-up!

* For collecting eggs at Easter.



* This is an image of an ancient f _____ g _____.

* Easter eggs symbolize the c _____ of life over death.



* These flowers bloom at springtime.



* This Chick is wearing an Easter b _____.

Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet!*

It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

Why do we give Easter eggs at Easter? Find out why, and lot's more at:

<http://www.night.net/easter/egghist.html-ssi>

And, don't forget to take a look at the **NET NOTEBOOK** in our Open-house lounge. You'll find games, news and English study sites.

Notice Board

Remember me?



I just came along to remind you that it's CRICKET season again.

Here are some dates to watch out for:

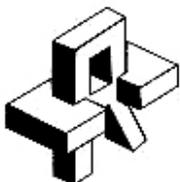
* *April 10: The MCC (that's us) V Takamatsu at Tobe Athletic Field (you missed that one, didn't you?)*

* *May 8: The MCC V Hiroshima at Tobe Athletic Field)*

* *July 30-31: West Japan Cricket Cup at Tobe Athletic Field (to be confirmed) Watch here for further information...*

Good luck to Elijah who is going to New York this month to live and study music.

Best wishes from the Crossroads staff and students!!!



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