

A SPRING RITUAL FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS: **HIDIRELLEZ (EDERLEZI)**

Khidr/Khizr or Hizr: The enigmatic "Green Man" who has gained immortality by drinking from the Fountain of Life, the man capable of turning arid land into green, making flowers blossom out of barren earth, the holy man who is believed to be the one who helps those in need. Elias/Elijah/Ilyas: the patron saint of abundance who travels across the waters to bless people with riches. According to an Anatolian myth thousands of years old, the two holy men, Khidr and Elias meet every year on a shore, on the night between 5th and 6th of May to grant the wishes of the faithful.

As the mythos says, the power released by their meeting will suffice for every living creature on earth. For summer to be good and plentiful, the air and the water must be blessed. The nature rejuvenates by the rejoining of Khidr and Elias, the sky is to be brighter while the sun gets warmer and the water becomes full of life. Khidr represents warmth whereas Elias represents water. This beautiful day of their gathering is the spring festival of people celebrating with joy and full of colorful rituals. The day symbolizes the awakening of a new life for every living thing.

In pursuit of the elixir of life

As the mythos says, Khidr and Elias go on a quest with a mighty king and his army seeking the fountain of life. During the journey, the two men wander away in search for fish to feed the army and they stop by a waterfront to rest. As water splashes on the dried fish that they carry by coincidence, the fish comes back to life and jump into the water. Thus the the elixir of life, also known as elixir of immortality is found. At that very moment an angel appears and tells them that they would live forever... Khidr on land and Elias on water, helping those in need wherever they go. The two righteous men who were known and respected by their wisdom and kind hearts are now two immortal souls with a holy mission.

The miracle of fire, water and roses

There are two natural miracles that identify with Hidirellez, fire and the rose tree. Rose happens to be one of the strongest flowers in the world of plants, and it reflects its energy to those around. Therefore, it is believed that tying wishes to the branches of a rose tree lifts our energy levels enhancing our frequencies. Fire is believed to ward off evil spirits, protecting us from illnesses while it also symbolises fast pace. During many religious and spiritual rituals, people light candles while they make wishes, hoping that the light of the candles will provide a speedy grant of their wishes. On the night of Hidirellez, people gather around a bonfire, jumping over the flames wishing for health, happiness, prosperity and even love. Spending the day close to a water body, contemplating its vastness and purity is another important ritual of the day.

Is there any better time than the one that heralds the spring to release to the blue skies our colourful, sanguine wishes? We wish that all your days fill with the joy and freshness of spring, like Hidirellez, the day of Khidr and Elias.

#MarvyCelebratesHidirellez

#Hidirellez

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