

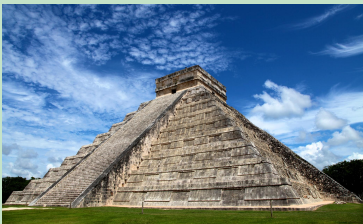


The Quarterly Incantation Spring 2022

Holi

Think Spring Equinox!

The Spring, or Vernal, equinox is a timeless tradition celebrated the world over in almost every culture. In most of those cultures, the spring equinox is a time of rebirth, the return of the sun, and growth. However, not all cultures celebrate this annual holiday in the same way. Each has their own, unique take on how to honor the shift from winter to spring. A couple of the oldest but still celebrated spring traditions are Mexico's Spring Equinox at Chichen Itza, and Holi in India.



Here in the US, the most common spring celebration is Easter. While seen as a church holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, Easter has much earlier origins. The name 'Easter' is derived from the names of early Germanic and English goddesses Eostre and Ostara. The delicious chocolate eggs and bunnies that fill the baskets of delighted children are based on the symbols given to these fertility goddesses by their ancient worshippers.

One of the most anticipated celebrations in the Hindu culture is the Spring Equinox - Holi. Holi is also known as the "Festival of Colors" due to the use of brightly colored powders. Traditionally, (and as it should be done) these were made using natural dyes such as 'Henna' or plant powders. On the days of Holi, the powders would be brought into the streets where there would be dancing, singing, and the unabashed throwing of glorious, colorful powder. It was not all without reason, though. There are deep, sacred meanings to the practice.



According to the Society for the Confluence of Festivals in India, Holi was first mentioned in the Hindi sutras dating back more than 3000 years ago. The origin of this colorful event were purported to be the rituals done beneath the full spring moon by married women for the purpose of protecting the health and well-being of their families. Today, the **(cont.)**

(Holi Continued) Spiritual meaning of the festival resides in good overcoming evil. The Holika (lighting of the bonfire) happens at the largest crossroads in the community where effigies of the demon king's sister is placed and burned because she tried to kill a true devotee of Vishnu, one of the principle deities of Hinduism. This is followed by the celebration of color and feasting.

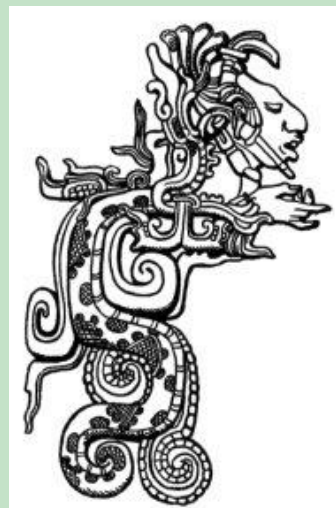
For more information on the celebration of Holi, please visit the [SCFI website](#).

The Spring Equinox at

Chichen Itza

The temple at [Chichen Itza](#) was built in dedication to Kukulcán (Quetzalcoatl). On every equinox the sun of the late afternoon creates the illusion of a snake creeping slowly down the northern staircase. Symbolically, the feathered serpent joins the heavens, earth, and underworld, day and night.

A modern collection of folklore from Yucatán tells how Kukulcán was a winged serpent that flew to the sun and tried to speak to it but the Sun, in its pride, burnt his tongue. The same source relates how Kukulcán always travels ahead of the Yucatec Maya rain god Chaac, helping to predict the rains as his tail moves the winds and sweeps the earth clean.



People believe when [Kukulcán](#) returns to Earth, it is to provide a blessing for a full harvest and good health to his worshippers.

Calendar of Events

April

- ❖ 4/9/22 - CNY Wine & Food Festival

May

- ❖ 5/14-5/15 - May Faire on the Green

June

- ❖ 6/4-6/5 - Greystone Castle Summer Craft Fair

Featured Bundle

Spring Equinox Bundle - \$20

It's that time of year! Rebirth, renewal, and the return of spring! This bundle contains everything you need to welcome in the season and start out fresh. Limited time from 3/21/22-4/21/22 or while supplies last.

