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Easter traditions in my family

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Springtime... Nature is waking up from a long and deep winter sleep. I think, spring is the most beautiful season of the year. Seeing spring in the nature, it makes me think of Easter. Easter is celebrated and known by people all over the world.

All countries have different traditions at Easter. In Latvia every family has its own traditions of four special traditions which we follow every year. These traditions are: egg painting, egg beating, egg rolling and swinging.

Egg painting in my family is done with natural colorus, and not with those which you can buy in supermarkets. We usually paint eggs in onion peels, and then eggs are reddish-brown. There are other natural colors such as beet juice, gray-blue eggs are obtained from blueberry jam, green eggs are obtained from rye frontispiece, and light yellow eggs are obtained when they are boiled in orange juice. Before laying eggs in a large bowl with a mixture that you want to use for egg painting, eggs can be wrapped by the yarn or you can attach a dandelion or any other plant's leaf, then the eggs will have a beautiful ornament. If you want shiny eggs, you can cover them with oil.

Painted eggs have to be used. One of the uses of eggs is an egg battle. Also, the ancient traditions and beliefs say that in egg battles our ancestors found out who will live longer –the person with the strongest egg will live longer. Each person has his own methods to find the strongest egg. Egg battles are organized this way: each person takes an egg and one egg is knocked against another. The person who breaks the other person's egg wins. The person who remained with a broken egg gives it to the person who broke the egg. The egg must be eaten with salt, then that person won't tell lies all year.

One of the Easter traditions is egg rolling. It happens in this way: the first person rolls the egg down a wooden plank, if your egg touches the opponent's egg, you get two eggs, if not, then person must leave his own egg, and the next person who will roll the egg will have a chance to get it. In this game wins the person who has collected the most eggs. In my family almost every year I gather the most eggs and I become a winner.

Like egg painting, swing hanging and swinging are one very important Easter traditions. Swinging is obligatory part of the Easter ritual. Swinging high in the air ensures that in summer gadflies, mosquitoes and snakes won't bite you. Swinging is a magical ritual that symbolizes the sun's swaying and dancing on Easter morning. In my house we build a swing and I swing very, very high every year.

Every Easter morning I and my mom hurry to the church. No one should eat breakfast before we arrive home with the so – called "Blessing". "Blessing" includes eggs, meat, salt, butter and bread. Usually my mom bakes the bread herself.

These and many other traditions should not be left neglected. These traditions cannot be replaced by anything else. Our traditions should be maintained not only for ourselves but also for future generations, so they do not forget the history of their ancestors. To my mind, traditions are like footbridge between the past and the future...