

Raw Egg Divination

By Aigeann Lus

I have been doing some personal research about haruspicy which as you may or may not know, in ancient times was when the seer interpreted the acceptance of the ritual by the Gods by inspecting the liver of a sacrificed animal. Afterwards, the meat was roasted and all the celebrants shared a sacred meal. This was practiced throughout Europe in pre-Christian times.

My apologies to any vegetarians and/or vegans on this list for any offense. I can't help it though, its just what they did back then.

Considering how little we actually know about the actual practices of the original Druids, I find this fascinating. I should, however, probably explain my family had a working cattle ranch in eastern Oregon and am comfortable looking at the innards of animals.

Based upon my research it seems that the sacred space was created and the animal blessed. Its liver was inspected. The abnormalities found or not found and their location dictated whether or not other sacrifices, at this point non-animal based, were to be made and to which Gods.

Which is all a bit backwards of how most of us do our rituals, especially if we are Druids.

The creature had to be domesticated because it was felt their connection to humans was necessary in order for it to give an appropriate reading. Wildlife had so little connection to humans that it was felt it was impossible for them to give an accurate omen.

This practice can be duplicated by using an egg. In ancient times, priests memorized which parts of the liver were connected to which of their Gods and what offerings those Gods demanded as well as which sections of the liver predicted a positive or negative omen. This same idea can be applied to an egg and many of us will have eggs as a part of our upcoming Spring Equinox ritual.

You could make this divination system as eclectic as you wished. You might simply take the omen at the usual time in the ritual. Decide ahead of time which section was connected to Eostara, or whoever you are invoking, as well as what

the possible abnormalities might mean and what specific types of sacrifices they would require. For example a nice healthy egg with no blood specks or broken yolk might mean that deity was happy and no further sacrifices were needed. Abnormalities could warrant different offerings and the possibilities could include spring flowers, peeps in the shape of chicks and/or chocolate bunnies into the ritual fire, etc. After the ritual, you could then add the divination egg with others in an omelet as part of your post-ritual feast.

For further reading on this type of divination which includes a more detailed ritual for using raw eggs, please see:

<http://www.cs.utk.edu/~mclennan/OM/BA/Har.html>

For more information about Haruspicy, I recommend ADF's Archdruid Skip Ellison's book "The Divine Liver". And, no I'm not making this up.

See:

http://www.dragonskeepfarm.com/Book_Page_Divine_Liver.htm