

*Christmas: images
and symbols in
Ukrainian literature*

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Christmas in Ukraine: vertep

Vertep is a group of performers, often dressed in traditional costumes, who present short plays or scenes that depict the Nativity story

Atheistic Soviet state severely persecuted religion and the associated elements of culture, and by 1930s the tradition of Christmas verteps was virtually eliminated.



Christmas in Ukraine: Christmas Eve



Christmas Eve, known as "Sviaty Vechir" in Ukrainian, is a special and cherished time in Ukraine, filled with unique traditions and customs

The images of traditional Ukrainian Christmas in literature: Mykola Hohol and his story "Christmas Eve" or "The Night Before Christmas"



Christmas in Ukraine: kutia

Kutia is a ritual dish made from boiled wheat, honey, poppy seeds, and nuts. It holds a symbolic meaning, representing the unity of the family.

In some regions of Ukraine there is a tradition to bring kutia to your godparents on Christmas Eve. This tradition can be seen in **Olena Pchilka's** short story “**The Embarrassing Supper**”.





Hutsul Christmas Eve tradition in “ Shadows of forgotten ancestors” by M.Kotsubynsky



Hutsuls - a Ukrainian ethnographic group living in the Carpathian Mountains.





“Ivan was always in a strange mood on Christmas Eve. Imbued with something mysterious and holy, he would reverently perform all the actions as if serving Mass.”





“Palahna looked at her husband, and they knelt together, begging God to allow to come to their table the souls nobody knew, the souls of people lost or killed at work in the forest, or crippled on highways, or drowned in deep waters.”





Christmas War projects

Carols

Carol, carol, caroling!
Winter cold - not an enemy!
Quicky open house's door,
Hearing generators' roar!

Коляд, коляд, коляда!
Холод взимку – не біда!
Двері швидше відчиняйте,
Генератор запускайте!

Carol, carol, a joyful sound
Our victory's all around!
To every home, bring cheer and glee,
A year that's happy, rich, and free.

Колядую, колядую,
Перемогу нашу чую!
Хай приходить в кожну хату
Рік щасливий і багатий.

Ethnomusicologist and folk singer Oleksiy Zayets

"Give, Lord, to our army health and strength in
battle"



Ukrainian writer Maryana Savka wrote the musical
"Write letters to St Nicholas!"





I understood, starting with a full-scale war, that a miracle happens every day and is created by people whom the Lord weaves into unions and associations.

Thank you for your attention!

