

## Content Analysis: Feasts of Joy

While the specific customs, rituals, and significance of these feasts vary widely among different religions, they all share the common theme of spreading happiness and reinforcing religious beliefs.

Celebrating festivals is an integral part of human culture. A pluralisation of festival culture can also be observed. However, all festivals have basic forms of communication such as joy, common prayer or blessing. What differs, however, is the religious reason for the joy: Christians, for example, rejoice at Christmas over the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour, whereas Jews remember the reopening of their temple at Hanukkah and thus God's sign that he helps the weak over the strong. Eid, the festival of breaking the fast, is celebrated as a gift from God. Over time, the religious origins and customs of these three major festivals have intermingled in many ways (Melton, 2011). That is why it is important to bring both - the religious content as well as the customs - closer to children.

Holidays, festivals, and celebrations have an important place in almost every culture in the world (Cudny, 2014). Celebration times, which enable the expression of social identity and belonging, are special days that nourish the sense of unity and solidarity, which is one of the important dynamics of social life. Rejoicing together can make people feel that they are part of a greater meaning and make them feel valuable to be alive. Holidays/festivals/celebrations are also important times for reflecting and keeping alive the cultural richness of a society. Traditional dress, food, music, and dance are an effective and enjoyable way to create a bond between generations during times of social celebration. Similarly, celebrations provide a special atmosphere for realising the meaning of symbols and rituals in human life and their role in bringing people together.

Special occasions are break times that can create a break in the perception of time, which sometimes becomes monotonous in human life and sometimes flows rapidly. These breaks caught between the compressed life requirements provide morale and motivation to people. It gives the opportunity to make an accounting of what has been experienced and what is desired to be experienced, to be renewed, and to make new beginnings. Festivals and celebrations reflect and remind the search for the good life (eudaimonia) as the common goal of religions and philosophies (Riofrio, 2021). They call people to celebrate life and encourage them to build a better world.

Coming together with loved ones is one of the activities that make people happy and motivate them to live. These moments allow people to mourn the loss of loved ones and celebrate the lives of newcomers together. These special times, which reveal empathy and sensitivity, also mobilise individuals in terms of solidarity and social responsibilities.

**Key Words:** Feasts of Joy, Festivals, Rituals, Celebration.



## Bibliography

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