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Survakane is a typical Bulgarian custom, which has pagan roots. It is practiced early in the morning of 1 January or during the first hours of the new year.

Bulgarians have a proverb which says: “New year - new luck”.

It is believed that the arrival of the new year closes the cycle and it begins again. The beginning of the year will be good if certain rituals for purification and cleansing from evil spirits and summoning of good spirits are performed. Survakane is namely such a ritual.

Only young boys and young men can be Survakars. With the advent of new year they start visiting the houses in the village and carry their survaknitsi with them, which are needed to perform the ritual. Survaknitsi are cornel rods which side branches are tied to the form of the Cyrillic letter F (“Ф”). After the twisting of the branches, the survaknitsas are decorated with strings of popcorn, coins, ribbons, foil, colored threads, etc. Every region of Bulgaria has its different techniques for decorating them, but in general the method and the shape are the same.
Armed with their survaknitsi, boys begin the ritual of survakane, starting from the oldest person in the house. With light lashes with their survaknitsi on his back, they tell their wishes for good luck, health, prosperity and fertility. After that the ritual continues with the other members of the household and end with the domestic animals and the livestock.

Nobody refuses welcoming the survakars in their households and everyone eagerly wait the survakars at home. In gratitude the members of the household give small gifts to the boys - money, sweets and fruits.

In order to prepare a survaknitsa for your child, you need a cornel stick, about 70 cm long, popcorn, dried fruits, dried peppers, whole walnuts and wool, colored threads.

The most popular spell in survakane is:

**Surva, surva year (happy, fertile year)**

*red apples in the garden*

*a house, full with silk*

*live healthier next year*

*next year and so forth.*
1. Prepare the required materials.

2. Wrap the colored yarn around the side branches, bend them and tie them to the stick; shape it in the form of the Cyrillic letter F (“Φ”).
3. String the dried fruit on a thread.

4. Attach the string to the stick.
5. Wrap the rod or its side branches with wool.

6. String the kernels on another thread.
7. And attach it to the survaknitsa.

8. Make a third string - with popcorn - and attach it to the stick. Your Survaknitsa is now ready.
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SURVAKNITSA
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