

## Shmanners 306: Ostara

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[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hello, internet! I am your husband host, Travis McElroy.

**Teresa:** And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

**Travis:** And what are you listening to? Why it's *Shmanners*.

**Teresa:** It's ordinary eti— it's... what did you do?

**Travis:** I just needed to change the vibe up a little bit—

**Teresa:** [laughs softly] Okay.

**Travis:** ... because I was feeling tired, so—

**Teresa:** It's extraordinary etiquette...

**Travis:** For ordinary occasions. Yeah, I see I threw in a little boom!

**Teresa:** You did. I tripped over myself walking after you.

**Travis:** Because yeah. Because I wanted to mix up the energy.

**Teresa:** You sure did.

**Travis:** I wanted a blossoming. A rebirth of energy, if you will.

**Teresa:** Oh. Mm.

**Travis:** Mmm.

**Teresa:** Nice save.

**Travis:** Mm. I did it on purpose. It wasn't an accident!

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** 'Cause I'm feeling pretty tired. I've done a lot of stuff today and it's humid.

**Teresa:** It is humid.

**Travis:** It's humid and I'm feeling it.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** All right, listen. I'm a fragile delicate flower.

**Teresa:** I can tell.

**Travis:** And if it's too... you were supposed to refute that.

**Teresa:** Oh! No, it's nice to be delicate.

**Travis:** I mean, that's true but I wanted you to be like, "No, you're a resilient, delicate flower."

**Teresa:** Oh!

**Travis:** You know?

**Teresa:** Okay. Let me try again.

**Travis:** Okay. I'm a delicate, crushable flower.

**Teresa:** Well, you are a very resilient, beautiful flower.

**Travis:** Okay, I'll take it.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** Okay, but I'm tired.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Um, I'd say I need to sleep through the winter like a big bear.

**Teresa:** [laughs] But, it is spring!

**Travis:** You know bears don't sleep all the way through the winter? It's not really the way. They just, kind of— that's not what hibernation is. They don't, like, sleep the whole time, which is what I thought.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** They're definitely, like, kind of awake a little bit.

**Teresa:** I mean, a little bit.

**Travis:** Yeah. They're just in and out. They just— when I was a kid and I learned about hibernation, I would have sworn— I would have told you up, down, left, right, and center, "Oh, they just— they go to sleep [holding back laugh] in, like, November and then they wake up in, like, April." But that's not what happens.

**Teresa:** Momma bears give birth during the hibernation period.

**Travis:** Yeah. They're not twilight sleep or whatever. Is that it?

**Teresa:** What?

**Travis:** They don't do that anymore, right?

**Teresa:** No, nobody does that anymore.

**Travis:** No, it's very bad. Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, it *is* spring. The bears are coming out somewhere. They don't come out here.

**Travis:** Somewhere. We haven't figured out yet where.

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** But once we find where the bears are coming from—

**Teresa:** But, also, Easter is this weekend.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** For those who observe.

**Teresa:** For those who observe.

**Travis:** Also, I think, uh, Passover?

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm. Yep, Friday.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** I believe is when Passof— Passover starts.

**Travis:** And also, there's Saturday. Opening day just happened too. I mean, it's not the same thing.

**Teresa:** A lot of spring things. But that's a spring thing.

**Travis:** Spring cleaning.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm. That factors into this too.

**Travis:** Spring flings.

**Teresa:** So, we're gonna talk about Ostara.

**Travis:** Okay. Which is, I'm going to say... not Easter exactly.

**Teresa:** No. Actually, not at all Easter.

**Travis:** Oh. Now I'm guessing, once again, we go into this.

**Teresa:** But Easter adjacent.

**Travis:** Is it part of, and I'm just going to guess here, the great Christian rebranding?

**Teresa:** Yes, it is.

**Travis:** Okay, great.

**Teresa:** It is.

**Travis:** Because I don't know if y'all know this but, uh, the Christians, when establishing their holidays, did a lot of, like, a friend or, like, an adjacent secondary friend whose, like, "Oh, your birthdays Thursday? My birthday's actually in three weeks, we could just make it a joint party." And you're like, "Eh..."

**Teresa:** Kind of. Well, so... the Christians, when recruiting pagans, decided that it would be easier if you let the pagans keep their parties. And just over time...

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Be— kind of like, nudge it into something else. Right?

**Travis:** Yeah. Where you say, like, "Oh, you do that, huh? You know that reminds me of how Jesus used to do this."

**Teresa:** That's exactly it. So—

**Travis:** Jesus used to lay eggs.

**Teresa:** [laughs] No, but the rabbit, right? The mammal. The rabbit mammal—

**Travis:** I've heard of it. Yeah.

**Teresa:** ... somehow hides eggs? Does that have anything to do with Jesus? No.

**Travis:** No.

**Teresa:** Not really.

**Travis:** Well... how Jesus hides our sins.

**Teresa:** [bursts out laughing]

**Travis:** And makes them into chocolates.

**Teresa:** Um, so... this is what we're going to talk about.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Okay. So, Easter is this, in our current cultural, like—

**Travis:** Here in the US.

**Teresa:** ... shared cultural phenomenon here in the US.

**Travis:** Well, probably in a lot of places. I don't know.

**Teresa:** Has, kind of, moved into a secular holiday.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Um, with community Easter egg hunts. Right? Um, and, you know, candy stores, uh, candy...

**Travis:** Now, I would— I would— I see what you're saying.

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** But, I think, there could be another side of the argument made, where it is more that America— the US, no matter how you look at it, is still predominately, fairly puritanical Christian.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** And, so, I think there— it can be *really* hard to tell the difference sometimes in culture between secular and non-secular. Where, like, Christmas and Easter, are they becoming a secular holiday? Or is it just that American has a hard time being non-secular?

**Teresa:** Perhaps.

**Travis:** I think there is a discussion to be had there. But guess what? This isn't it.

**Teresa:** Um, so Ostara goes back a lot further than Easter.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Like a lot of these things. Um, probably even, you know, further than anything we've talked about before, because it is so intrinsically related to the solstices and the equinoxes, right?

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And that's, kind of like, the earliest, you know? Other than the sun is going up, right?

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** And the sun is coming down.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** The way that people, like, thought about time... either escalates as the days get longer—

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** You know? And diminishes as the days get shorter.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Because it had to do with survival, right?

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** Um, so the spring equinox is a day where the amount of dark and the amount of daylight is exactly identical.

**Travis:** Also called the “Vernal” equinox.

**Teresa:** And you can tell that you’re emerging from winter because the daylight and the dark come back into balance, right?

**Travis:** Yes.

**Teresa:** And so, this pattern that occurs every year is something that people would celebrate, you know? We made it through another harsh winter. We did it.

**Travis:** We did it. We only lost two-thirds of the town during the winter. We did it.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Um, and you know, it was important because if you planted or if you bred animals out of season, like, you were done for.

**Travis:** Right. I’ve learned about that in *Stardew Valley*.

**Teresa:** So— Oh, you have?

**Travis:** Yeah. Don’t...whew. Don’t plant fall crops right at the end of fall!



**Teresa:** Oh, no.

**Travis:** Oh, you going to get heartbroken. Oh.

**Teresa:** Yeah. So, Ostara is still actually widely— wildly, excuse me, celebrated in pagan communities as a festival to celebrate the return of spring.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** But it's actually older than, I mean, we said Christianity and it's older than Wicca as well.

**Travis:** Oh, wow.

**Teresa:** It's thought to be Roman in origin.

**Travis:** I've heard of them, yeah.

**Teresa:** And, um, although a lot of the ideas that, kind of, float around, around Easter and spring in general, Ostara is not the same as Easter.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** As we've said. Easter is always held on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, and this is on purpose, right? So, it's like that joint party idea.

**Travis:** Okay. Great, got it.

**Teresa:** So, Ostara and the spring equinox is several days before Easter. That's why the date of Easter moves every year, and it can either fall in March or April. And Ostara is the celebration of the *actual* equinox, so the date moves but only by a couple days.

**Travis:** Okay. [pause]

[loud beeping noise]

**Travis:** Oh, hey folks. Now, listen, we could have done this seamlessly, but I don't like artifice. This is the second day of recording. You're going to say. "Travis? There seems to be a lot more pep in your step."

**Teresa:** [giggles]

**Travis:** A little more bounce.

**Teresa:** You were all recorded out. You had—

**Travis:** I was.

**Teresa:** You had let go of everything you had, so—

**Travis:** I had. I left it all on the court. You know what I mean?

**Teresa:** Left it all on the court.

**Travis:** On the podcast court. And so here we are, day two. [laughs softly] *Shmanners* part two.

**Teresa and Travis:** [simultaneously] Okay.

**Teresa:** So, we were talking about Ostara, right?

**Travis:** Uh-huh. Correct.

**Teresa:** And, about how it is the equinox, right?

**Travis:** Right.

**Teresa:** And about how it's usually listed within a three-day period because different places in the world celebrate it on different days depending upon their time zone.

**Travis:** Sure. Okay, great.

**Teresa:** Okay. Here in the northern hemisphere, it usually falls sometime in the three-day period between March 20th and March 22nd.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** And we were also talking about how the early Christians were very specific about making sure that Easter was held *after* the equinox.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Because, you know, celebrating the equinox was pagan and they didn't want to do that. But... let's talk about how— and they do that for Christmas, by the way. Because Christmas is on the 25th and not the winter solstice which is on the 21st.

**Travis:** I have noticed that. Yes.

**Teresa:** Right. So, they're different on purpose, even though a lot of the stuff that is associated with the spring festival and equinox has been co-opted into the great Christian rebrand.

**Travis:** Well, it makes it easier. You don't have to buy new decorations. You can put the decorations up for the solstice and then just leave them up—

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** ... for Christmas and Easter, right? Saves you a ton! You don't have to have two different Tupperwares labeled like, "solstice decorations" and "Christmas decorations."

**Teresa:** Right.

**Travis:** It's just easier. You can eat your leftovers at Christmas.

**Teresa:** So, cultures all over the world celebrate their own version of the spring equinox rebirth, kind of, festival, right?

**Travis:** And I cannot wait to hear about them but first we're going to say a thank you note to our sponsors.

[theme plays]

**Travis:** We want to say thank you to Bombas. Thank you for sponsoring *Shmanners* of course. But also, thank you for everything you do! Your socks are great. Your shirts are great. Even your underpants are great. Everything Bombas does is great including their kind hearts.

Because you see, Teresa, Bombas's mission is simple. Make the most comfortable clothes ever and match every item sold with an equal item donated. So, when you buy Bombas you are also giving to someone in need. Now, yes, I read that off my phone.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** But also, it's true and I know it in my heart.

**Teresa:** It is true.

**Travis:** That is true. Everything they make is soft, seamless, tagless, and has a luxuriously cozy feel. Bombas t-shirts are made with thoughtful design features like invisible seams, invisible clothing... no, wait! Sorry.

**Teresa:** Not that one. No.

**Travis:** No. No. Just invisible seams, soft fabrics, and the perfect weight so they hang just right. Bombas underwear has a barely-there feel with second skin support that might even make you forget they're there in a good way.

**Teresa:** Ah! How did you know?

**Travis:** I love that they include "in a good way" there, because, like—

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** Now don't get it twisted. You'll be glad you forgot they're there, not like, "Did I put on underpants this morning? Oh, no!" And did you know that socks, underwear, and t-shirts are the three most requested clothing items at homeless shelters? That's why Bombas donates one for every item you buy. So, go to [Bombas.com/shmanners](https://Bombas.com/shmanners) and get 20% off your first purchase. That's B-O-M-B-A-S.com/shmanners for 20% off. [Bombas.com/shmanners](https://Bombas.com/shmanners).

[music plays]

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**Speaker Two:** [disembodied voice] 2022.

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**Speaker One:** So, make sure to tune in starting Monday, April 25th to get all the juicy details on what each show has in store.

**Speaker Two:** Actually, wait, what are the details anyway? And why are they juicy? That's kind of a strange adjective to [voice fading away] describe details.

[music and ad ends]

[new music plays]

**John:** Look, it's a rough world out there, especially lately. I get it. So, let's take care of our minds as best we can. I'm John Moe host of *Depresh Mode with John Moe*. Every week I talk with comedians, actors, writers, musicians,

doctors, therapists, and everyday folks about the obstacles that our world and our brains throw in front of us. Depression, anxiety, traumatic stress, all those mental health challenges that are way more common and more treatable than you might think.

**Speaker:** The first time I went to therapy, I was so ashamed, and I was like, "I can't believe I got to go in there. Like, I thought I could be a *man*. Humphrey Bogart was never in therapy." And my dad said, "Yeah, but he smoked a carton of cigarettes a day!"

**John:** Give your mind a break. Give yourself a break and join *Depresh Mode with John Moe*.

[music and ad ends]

**Travis:** Okay. We were about to learn something.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** About how other people celebrate the solstice? Or Easter? Or what have you?

**Teresa:** Well, so there are several gods that are associated with this idea of the equinox festival.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Okay. Pan, the horned god of nature and the wild.

**Travis:** Uh-huh. Sure, yeah.

**Teresa:** Persephone, or Kore, and her mother, Demeter.

**Travis:** Now, Persephone I know from the Hades myth of, like, ate the pomegranate.

**Teresa:** Exactly.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Because— so, spring is when Demeter brings back the fruits of the season out of excitement that her daughter has returned from the underworld.

**Travis:** Got it. Got it, of course. Of course.

**Teresa:** But—

**Travis:** And I know about it from *The Adventure Zone*.

**Teresa:** Yeah... of course.

**Travis:** Because dad's character Merle was a follower of Pan.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm. And the one that we are going— that we have been focusing on, um, is Anglo-Saxon actually.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** So, Ostara or she may be known as Ceostara or Eostre.

**Travis:** And, I mean, listen, can we all just put the tiger on the table and yell at it? Clearly, the name Easter comes from Ostara, right? Like it's—

**Teresa:** Or Eostre.

**Travis:** Or Eostre, right? Because okay Christmas, Christ mass. Got it. Okay? Easter, there's nothing in that name that has anything to do with the Christian church.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** [through laugh] It's clearly from this. [normally] It is a one for— it's like if you threw a birthday party for Travis and called it Justin's party. It's that— It's just like, "Okay."

**Teresa:** [giggles] So, Eostre—

**Travis:** My brother and I have the same birthday. It's important that you know that for that to make sense. Okay, go on.

**Teresa:** ... is the Maiden Goddess of Spring in Anglo-Saxon lore. Um, so it is believed in many ancient faiths that the changing of the seasons mirrors Eostre's growth cycle.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** So, the days become longer, and the seasons become warmer. And Eostre is growing alongside us learning the strength of her gifts and giving us more and more—

**Travis:** Love that.

**Teresa:** ... spectacles of nature to behold! Isn't that beautiful?

**Travis:** Unt— until she gets you hot in the summer?

**Teresa:** Well, um, wh— that's not what we're talking about here.

**Travis:** Oh.

**Teresa:** But one of the things that I did want to mention is, we have to talk about the Easter bunny.

**Travis:** Sure. I mean, it would be weird to not. I guess?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Though to be fair, it's also weird to talk about.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** So, it's one of those things. Um, it's weird if you do; weird if you don't.



**Teresa:** Well, let's— let's take it because of this Eostre, like, Maiden Goddess of spring, right?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Okay. In the spring is when things become more fertile, right?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** The— the, uh, the bunnies. They're doing their thing.

**Travis:** They are multiplying. They are fruitful.

**Teresa:** And they do multiply.

**Travis:** Yes, they do. Indeed.

**Teresa:** Same thing with the birds, right? These are very spring-like associations with the eggs. That they lay their eggs in the spring.

**Travis:** Sure. Okay. No, I get that, right? But the way you say I— it's weird because everyone actually says the birds and the bees. Those are not two things I think of as heavily procreating creatures. Like, say the bunny or even, like, the mayfly.

**Teresa:** Well, yeah.

**Travis:** But it would be weird to be like, "Have you had the talk with your kids about bunnies and mayflies?"

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** The bunnies and the bugs?

**Teresa:** Um, so, here's the thing, uh, Eostre was this beautiful spring goddess also representing fertility, right?

**Travis:** Of course. Yeah.

**Teresa:** Because of all the new babies.

**Travis:** Growth. It's new. Rebirth. It's the fertile— growth, yes.

**Teresa:** So, when you have fertility, you also have sexuality.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** This is where the Easter Bunny comes from, okay?

**Travis:** From procreation?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** In the way of the celebration of her, like, sexuality, right?

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** Was represented in the rabbits getting busy, and the birds getting busy.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** And everybody with the little babies.

**Travis:** Were bees getting busy?

**Teresa:** Maybe.

**Travis:** Or were they getting buzzy?

**Teresa:** Ahh. Everybody making the babies, right?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** And Christians were like, "Mmm—

**Travis:** Mm.

**Teresa:** "We need to sanitize this."

**Travis:** Chocolate.

**Teresa:** [through laugh] Not exactly.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** "We need to sanitize this. Instead of— instead of getting busy, let's make it that the bunny brings the eggs. So, you can have your bunny. You can have your eggs, your spring fun. But without the real fun that happens to make bunnies and eggs."

**Travis:** So, not only did they sanitize it, they also made it *very* confusing.

**Teresa:** Very confusing.

**Travis:** Right. Okay.

**Teresa:** Did you ever get—

**Travis:** Not that far off, by the way, from, like, storks bring babies.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** [laughs] By the way, it's not that far off from finding baby in a cabbage patch. Whoa! It would have been better just to say, "We don't know."

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** Next time just say, "Where do babies come from?"  
"Nobody knows"

**Teresa:** [through laugh] Nobody knows.

**Travis:** That's better than, "We found them in a cabbage patch."

**Teresa:** Did you guys have any Easter lore ever given to you? Like the bunny business?

**Travis:** I mean, sure. I mean, we were told the Easter Bunny brought the baskets occasionally.

**Teresa:** But where did the Easter Bunny *come* from?

**Travis:** Oh, no. That— who cares?

**Teresa:** No, I mean, I didn't either, but Alex has a very interesting story I would love to share with our readers.

**Travis:** This is something— by the way, I said, "Who cares?" And I stand by it. I never once remember in my 22 years of childhood— ever once— I wasn't an adult 'til I was 25, let's be honest. I don't ever remember once thinking, like, "But where's he from?" I remember— I remember— hey, if there are kids in the room, earmuffs. I remember coming of age and hitting an age where I was like, "There's no Santa." I remember from the beginning being, like, "A bunny didn't bring this." [laughs]

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** [through laughter] I don't ever remember that being a thought in my head.

**Teresa:** Can't fool Travis. So—

**Travis:** You can! [laughs] Just not about this one specific thing.

**Teresa:** You can take your earmuffs back off now. Um, so, when Alex was eleven, she says that she and her whole family were going to become Catholic and so she went to catechism classes. She loved her teacher but

when asked exactly what all that business had to do with it, her teacher answered thusly, "Well, when Jesus returned the first living creature that he saw was a little brown bunny."

**Travis:** Mm-hmm. Sure.

**Teresa:** "And this bunny was so scared by the miracle that he witnessed that he turned bright white."

**Travis:** Huh.

**Teresa:** "While this little rabbit was cowering—

**Travis:** A lot of problematic stuff just right there, by the way.

**Teresa:** Uh-huh.

**Travis:** Go on.

**Teresa:** "... Jesus said, 'Worry not my child. You out of all the animal kingdom have been blessed. You, my fine friend, have the blessed job of foretelling my return. I want you to take these eggs and hide them.'

**Travis:** Uh-huh. Sure.

**Teresa:** "... 'And when the little children find them, they'll know that I have returned.'"

**Travis:** And that was when Alex checked out of catechism and said, "You know what? [groan] Oh."

**Teresa:** [laughs softly] I have— I al— I was raised Catholic. I went to Sunday School. I was confirmed in the Catholic Church. I have *never* heard this.

**Travis:** No, that sounds like one single person made that up. Because first of all, just right from the beginning—not to give story notes here. But, right

from the beginning, you're telling me a bunny saw Jesus and was like, "I have fully clocked this entire scenario."

**Teresa:** [laughing]

**Travis:** "I understand that this dude died. I understand that he's back and I am a rabbit freaking out. I understand everything that's happened here and it's just boiling my noodle." And not in fact what would happen, which is a rabbit just going like, "Doo-doo-do." And just not caring at all.

**Teresa:** My question is, I mean other than that, "Where did Jesus get eggs?"

**Travis:** Why did Jesus think about eggs instead of just, like, "Here's a banner. Hold it up. Carry it around. Because you're a rabbit. You don't talk, so you're going to hide these eggs and people are going to find eggs and they're supposed to, one for one, be like, "Oh, an egg. [gasp] Jesus is back!" No... Jesus was not associated with eggs beforehand. It's not a Bat-signal for Jesus. I'm sorry person, I have a lot of holes in your story.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** [deep sigh] Okay.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** So... when the great Christian rebrand took Eostre and distilled it and changed it and moved it.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** They said, "This is no longer Eostre. This is now Easter, but we know the kind of stuff y'all like to do when you party, so you want to celebrate rebirth? Of course. Jesus was reborn shortly after your spring festival."

**Travis:** Yeah. Done.

**Teresa:** “Let’s celebrate *that* instead. Bunnies and chickens? Yeah, we also love bunnies and chickens.”

**Travis:** “Y’all like ham? We like ham.”

**Teresa:** “How about— how about bunnies *delivering* those eggs, that way you can keep the imagery without all that pesky baby-making, right?”

**Travis:** Sure. “You guys like plastic grass that gets everywhere, and if your dog eats it, it makes for weird poops later? So do we!”

**Teresa:** So, this is not the only example of this that we’ve talked about before.

**Travis:** Noo!

**Teresa:** Um, you know? Easter isn’t actually *in* the Bible. Neither is Christmas, right? Neither is New Year’s Day.

**Travis:** Most stuff, yeah.

**Teresa:** None— none of that stuff is.

**Travis:** Neither are cell phones or, like, sneakers.

**Teresa:** You know?

**Travis:** Yeah, I do. But baby I don’t have a lot to contribute to this one so I just got to make jokes where I can. Can I say this though? One thing— uh, we had a little bit of this in the Southern Baptist Church, but one of the things I was always, kind of, jealous of with Catholics and Easter is, Catholics start the run-up to Easter, like, *months* in advance.

**Teresa:** Yeah. So, the same— you know how you have an advent calendar for Christmas?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** There's actually a Lenten calendar for Easter.

**Travis:** [sighs then speaks softly] This is...

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I wasn't getting all the stuff I could have, is what I mean. I could have had more candy is what you're saying?

**Teresa:** But did you get your new Easter outfit for church?

**Travis:** Oh my God! We have so many videos of that and pictures of that.

**Teresa:** Also a pagan tradition, by the way.

**Travis:** What? New outfits?

**Teresa:** Yeah. A new outfit, because—

**Travis:** There's a lot of suspenders in my youth, is what I'm saying.

**Teresa:** ... there was a rebirth of the world alongside the rebirth of your wardrobe.

**Travis:** All right!

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I get it. It's time for new clothes. It's spring. It's time for new clothes, the kids have probably grown up. They need some new clothes. Makes sense. Sure.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Travis:** Sure.



**Teresa:** My mom always made us matching dresses. I mean, until my older sister and I were, like, “We’re too old for that!”

**Travis:** There’s just a lot of us in little kid suits which is always good, by the way.

**Teresa:** So cute!

**Travis:** Always fun. But I remember a couple of mullets, a couple of bowl haircuts in there, a rat-tail or two. I’m not gonna lie. It was the 80s folks.

**Teresa:** Mm, yeah.

**Travis:** Oh, boy. Oh, boy. And then here comes little cherub, sailor boy Griffin, like, for way too long. Griffin rode that “I’m super cute” train to— I mean it was probably mom doing it. I don’t think Griffin was like, “Bring me a sailor-boy outfit!”

**Teresa:** [chuckles] Um, I do want to say for our Christian listeners, you should not feel bad about the way—

**Travis:** You didn’t do it. [laughs]

**Teresa:** About the way that Eostre is connected to Easter, okay? You are allowed to have your celebrations as well, okay? Um, and, you know, Easter— you didn’t take Easter from anybody. And Easter is fun and awesome and painting eggs is great. Chocolate, good. All this fun stuff. You know?

But it’s very interesting to learn about where these things came from and originated, right? And if you would like to know some *other* Eostre... uh— what is... celebrations?

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Uh, you can celebrate it next year on March 20, 2023.

**Travis:** Can I say, real quick? Um, I think the one thing that you should not do, if you are a Christian listener here, is don't feel bad celebrating your thing but also don't make other people feel bad about celebrating their thing. If both can comfortably exist, that's great. It's when it's, "Mine is okay, and yours isn't." That is when I think it is an issue.

**Teresa:** Okay. Uh, spring cleaning is actually part of the Eostre celebration.

**Travis:** Get those bad vibes out!

**Teresa:** Yeah. So, it's, you know, being on the cusp of a new season.

**Travis:** Uh-huh.

**Teresa:** And it's a great time to not only clean your physical spaces but your mental spaces. It's great to throw open the windows and let the old air out and the new air in. All that kind of stuff.

**Travis:** I also think, "Hey listen, I'm going to start this movement. It's probably going to move very slow, but the idea of, like, when winter ends *should* be the end of the calendar year." Right? We shouldn't start a new year in the middle of winter. At least that's how it is here in the northern hemisphere in the US of A.

We shouldn't start the new year in the middle, it should be, like, "Oh, okay, everything's melting, let's start now." 'Cause now, what I've noticed is an adult, we get the new year and it's like, "Yeah, it's still cold. [chuckles] I don't know. What do you want me to do now?"

**Teresa:** Well, I'll be expecting a fully researched and, um, and fleshed out proposal on my desk about moving the New Year.

**Travis:** No. Oh, I don't care that much. Uh.

**Teresa:** Well then.

**Travis:** You figured out my one weakness.

**Teresa:** [holding back a laugh] You don't get to do it.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Another thing you can do is recommit to your goals and your dreams. Again, this is a new season of life. Take advantage of that.

**Travis:** This sounds like New Year's.

**Teresa:** A little bit—

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** Because it kind of is.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** So, your plantings, when you can start your seedlings inside, and then when the spring weather evens out, you can plant.

**Travis:** I need to start our seedlings.

**Teresa:** And decorate your home with things that remind you of springtime. The colors associated with the festival of Eostre are pale pink, yellow, and green. Um, and—

**Travis:** Pastels.

**Teresa:** Yeah. Crocuses, daffodils, and violets are all great early spring flowers that you can use.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Again, the dyeing of eggs. The decorating of eggs is another Eostre tradition. Um, and you can learn much more about it if you wanted to check out *The Year of the Witch* by Temperance Alden. They are an Irish folk witch and the founder of Wild Woman Witchcraft. So, that's where a lot of this came from.

**Travis:** You know what? Can I recommend— and I forgot to get them this year, but it's great. Uh, wooden eggs for your kids to paint.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Just keep— you have them over and over again.

**Teresa:** I think we still have a few.

**Travis:** Okay. [pause] All right, well that's over. Okay.

**Teresa:** Well, let's get on then. [laughs]

**Travis:** Well, that's going to do it for us. Thank you so much for joining us, everyone. Thank you so much to Maximumfun.org, our podcast home. Thank you for listening. Thank you to Rachel, our editor, without whom we would not be able to do this show. Thank you to Alex, our researcher without whom and her horrible catechism experience— it wasn't that horrible I guess—

**Teresa:** [chuckles] It wasn't that horrible, just strange.

**Travis:** ... we wouldn't be able to do this show. Thank you, Alex. Thank you for listening. I said that but I still mean it. We got MaxFunDrive coming up, so you'll hear more about that, but we got some *really* fun bonus content for you. Oh! Also, we are going to— *Shmanners* is going to be opening the show in Kansas City coming up on Thursday, April 21st. I think, uh, a little number called *My Brother, My Brother and Me* is going to be there too, but that's not as important.

**Teresa:** [giggles]

**Travis:** So, if you want to check that out you can go to [Bit.ly/mcelroytours](https://bit.ly/mcelroytours). Oh, and check out all the other stuff there too. It's going to be super fun and if you're listening to this, we're also doing shows in St. Louis and Minneapolis and an *Adventure Zone Balance*.

**Teresa:** Not, not we.

**Travis:** Not we. *My Brother, My Brother, and Me*.

**Teresa:** [laughing] You.

**Travis:** The other Travis. Brother, Travis. Not husband, Travis. So, get all those at [bit.ly/mcelroytours](http://bit.ly/mcelroytours). Um, if you haven't gone over to [Mcelroymerch.com](http://Mcelroymerch.com) and checked out the *Shmanners* poster, you should do that. It's super cute. We were going to have it for when we, like, went to conventions and stuff, and for obvious reasons it hasn't gotten used yet.

So, go check that out and buy it now at [mcelroymerch.com](http://mcelroymerch.com). Plus 10% of all merch proceeds this month are going to the Transgender Law Center so that's pretty cool. Um, let's see, what else Teresa?

**Teresa:** We always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music which is available as a ringtone where those are found. We like to thank Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art. And we will be asking for questions about, uh, our topic for Kansas City.

**Travis:** Indeed, we will. Let's just say it's—

**Teresa:** Barbeque.

**Travis:** It's barbeque. So, if you have barbeque-related questions. Etiquette?

**Teresa:** Etiquette of barbeque.

**Travis:** Etiquette questions, then you can email us [shmannerscast](mailto:shmannerscast)—

**Teresa:** No!

**Travis:** No?

**Teresa:** You can *tweet* at us.

**Travis:** You can tweet at us. [through gritted teeth] Don't email us.

**Teresa:** [through laugh] @shmannerstweet at us. [normally] But, I guess, if you email us, we'll find those too—

**Travis:** it's just not the preference.

**Teresa:** ... because our email is [shmannerstweet@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerstweet@gmail.com). Alex who, thank you very much, reads all of those emails will make sure they get to us. Also, thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group *Shmanners* Fanners. If you to love to give and get excellent advice from other fans go ahead and join that group today.

**Travis:** And that's going to do it for us, so join us again next week.

**Teresa:** No RSVP required!

**Travis:** You've been listening to *Shmanners*.

**Teresa:** Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it.

[theme music plays]

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