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**NAME OF THE DAY CELEBRATIONS AND NORDIC ANSWERS TO HALLOWEEN
| NORDIC ODDITIES AND OTHER TRADITIONS**

Satu: [00:00:01] This podcast episode is part of Nordic Oddities theme, where I introduce you to some of the interesting and maybe a bit odd traditions and things that we have in the Nordic cultures.

Satu: [00:00:14] A few days ago, I received several messages via social media from my friends and family as they congratulated me on My Name's Day. 18th October was the official name date of Satu. So what's this all about? A little history lesson here, along with Sweden, Finland is one of those few European countries that has a strong named tradition. This tradition is based on the calendar of saints in medieval Catholic culture in Europe, which over the centuries turned into the National Name Day calendar celebrating name dates became standard in Sweden in the 17th and 18th centuries, and the Finnish name day tradition arrived from Sweden in the 18th century. It used to be an upper class celebration and gradually expanded to elsewhere in the country. Finns created a name for their calendar and the tradition in Finland was at its strongest in the early 20th century. Early on, there were many named traditions that later on went out of practice. Today, Finns celebrate name dates with small gifts and coffee gatherings.

[00:01:28] You can regularly find out who's name day it is in the calendars, on the radio, in the newspapers or on the Internet. Name day is celebrated at day care schools and the workplace. I do remember I used to send out and receive name day greeting cards and some people still do so today. People most often wish others a happy name day with a phone call, text, email or on social media. 18 October is Satu's name day in the Finnish calendar. It is also named for Lucas in Swedish named Day Calendar and Luukas in Orthodox to name day calendar. In indigenous Sami name day calendar It's Sonjur's name day. It is also interesting to think where do names originate. Lucas originates from Luke the evangelist. My Finnish name Satu in English means fairytale and comes from Swedish Saga name. Saga was the Norse goddess of poetry, storytelling and history. And talking about the names. Originally my Finnish family name was Swedish family name Rask had been in my family since sixteenth century.

However, my grandfather, originally AAlbanus Rask, changed that in nineteen twenties from to Raunola. But that's another story.

[00:03:03] Celebrating named days is one of those traditions that I still think is very sweet. It's nice to get the message that someone is thinking of you. And in the current world, it is nice to find those little things that you can celebrate with coffee and cake or whatever and forget the chaotic world for a while.

[00:03:27] It's Halloween weekend this year, of course, it will be very low key due to covid, Halloween is relatively new addition to yearly celebrations in the Nordic countries. Most Nordics have also adopted the American style pumpkin decorations and trick or treat customs. Icelands'answer to Halloween is Öskudagur. Ash Wednesday in February, kids are giving a day off from school and dress up in fancy dress, not just spooky costumes and singing exchange for sweets . in Finland during Easter Saturday. Children just as little witches. They were colorful clothes over head scarves and paint freckles on the cheek. The little witches go from door to door with the willow twigs saying a spell: "Virvon, varvon, tuoreeks terveeks, tulevaks vuodeks; vitsa sulle, palkka mulle." The little Easter witches are wishing you a healthy year as an exchange for the decorative twigs. They are expecting a little treat from you like Easter egg, chocolate or a coin. This tradition derived from the ancient times when evil spirits and witches were thought to wander around doing mischief before Easter. Happy Halloween to everyone and stay safe.