

# THE CARNIVAL IN HISTORY

Maybe you do not know that Carnival is not just a tradition of the present day, but that throughout history many peoples of the past had festivals that very closely resembled our Carnival. Which? Let's find out together!

**IN THE ANCIENT EGYPT:** The ancient Egyptians worshiped many gods, but the only goddess worshiped in the whole country was Isis. In his honor, once a year a procession was held in which the whole population participated. The goddess presented herself disguised as a bear, and behind her came the priests, all masked, who symbolized the seasons:

The SPARVIERO represented winter;

The LEONE depicted the summer;

The BULL symbolized spring;

the WOLF was autumn.

They followed the commoners and the commoners who, disguised as they liked, followed the procession singing and dancing.



**IN THE ANCIENT GREECE:** The carnival period of the Greeks was the one dedicated to the feasts of Bacchus (or Dionysus) called Dionysian or Bacchanal feasts. It was even a matter of four feasts, in which sacrifices were made to the god, there were processions, contests, performances and dramas. And since Bacchus was the god of wine, he drank a lot...

**IN THE ANCIENT ROME:** In Rome, the carnival period was dedicated to the festivals in honor of the god Saturn, which for this reason were called Saturnali. They took place from 17th to 23rd December.

During the Saturnalia it was forbidden to work and made banquets to which the slaves were admitted and to exchange gifts. Gambling games were also allowed, which usually were very forbidden at other times of the year. They were days of revelry, jokes and often, because there was never a lack of those who raised their elbows too far with fights and wounded.