

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a rustic interior. In the center, there is a brick stove with a wooden oven built into it. The walls are made of rough-hewn stone or brick, and various wooden tools and objects are hanging on the wall to the right. The lighting is warm and somewhat dim, creating a cozy atmosphere.

STOVES

IN

SLAVIC FOLKLORE

As we have evolved around fire, so it has evolved around us. We developed the technology to house fire safely in our homes, and in a way, we gave a comfortable dwelling to the spirit of that sacred fire as well.

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The give and take in our relationship with that fire must be equitable for us both to survive. Around the stove, we have built a framework of stories, rituals, and spirits, so that we may comprehend what is in essence, a life-giving deity.

“The connection between the stove and temporary death underlines the notion that the stove functioned as a threshold to the other world.”

—Tempest

“As the legends go, each house has a personal domovoi, which usually resides somewhere beneath the threshold, under the stove, or in the oven.” —Grundhauser

The stove represents something deep within us; the need for warmth, food, and a stalwart guardian of the home.

“To purge an illness, they would place a sick infant or even a premature baby on the bread board and then hold it three times in the hot stove.”

—Tempest