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AMERICAN
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dictionary

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Im·bolc  (ĩm bōlg')

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n.

An ancient Celtic feast, usually held on February 1, marked by acts of divination and rites of purification.

[Old Irish : *imm*, *imb-*, about, mutually; see **ambhi** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + perhaps *bolg*, bag, sack (a bag symbolizing plenty perhaps having played a role in the festival); see **bhelgh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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