



Advanced Audio Blog S1

Family Time at the Mid-Autumn Festival in Hong Kong

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Traditional Chinese

中秋

如果說過年是中國人最重要的節日，中秋應該算是中國人第二重要的節日。因為在中秋節，人月兩團圓，是大家按照習俗要聚在一起的日子。想想中國人的家庭觀念真是好重，所有重要的節日都是為了家庭團聚。傳統中秋的習俗當然就是食月餅，賞月，拜神，放煙花。但是我去年在香港過的中秋就更加特別。

因為是中秋節，我放工後特登去天后食晚飯，到天后廟時聽到入邊傳來敲鑼打鼓的聲音，非常熱鬧。再想看個究竟，沒想到平時人少少的街道今天居然人山人海。看了路邊的標識才知道，原來這是一年一度的中秋火龍盛會。一堆人舞龍，更大一堆人拿住香想要湧入廟裡裝，因為傳說一炷香可以令你好運成年。可惜好少人能夠擠入。但是到處都是出來過節的人和火龍，熱鬧非凡，紅紅燈籠，和各色煙花，非常有中國傳統韻味。

我後來專門搜查了舞火龍由來——傳說在1880年的中秋節前一個晚上，大坑村被颱風吹襲之際，有一條大蟒蛇進村吞食家畜，村民合力把牠打死於一間破屋內。翌日颱風過後，發現大蟒蛇已無影無踪，然後村民就發生瘟疫，多人死亡。那時有道士乘機危言聳聽，說大蟒蛇本是龍王之子，因而降疫症以示懲罰該村，而村中有一個老翁又稱說神仙打救報夢，因為海龍王最怕是火龍，水火不合。在中秋節連續三晚舞火龍，就可以解脫這場災難，然後，村民照辦，果然，村民的疫症從此慢慢消失了！自此大坑每年中秋節舞火龍就成為了該區的習俗。

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Jyutping

zung1 cau1

jyu4 gwo2 syut3 gwo3 nin4 si6 zung1 gwok3 jan4 zeoi3 zung6 jiu3 dik zit3 jat6 , zung1 cau1 jing1 goi1 syun3 si6 zung1 gwok3 jan4 dai6 ji6 zung6 jiu3 dik zit3 jat6 。 jan1 wai6 zoi6 zung1 cau1 zit3 , jan4 jyut6 loeng5 tyun4 jyun4 , si6 daai6 gaa1 on3 ziu3 zaap6 zuk6 jiu3 zeoi6 zoi6 jat1 hei2 dik1 jat6 zi2 。 soeng2 soeng2 zung1 gwok3 jan4 dik1 gaa1 ting4 gun1 nim6 zan1 si6 hou2 cung5 , so2 jau5 zung6 jiu3 dik1 zit3 jat6 dou1 si6 wai6 liu5 gaa1 ting4 tyun4 zeoi6 。 cyun4 tung2 zung1 cau1 dik1 zaap6 zuk6 dong1 jin4 zau6 si6 sik6 jyut6 beng2 , soeng2 jyut2 , baai3 san4 , fong3 jin1 faa1 。 daan6 si6 ngo5 heoi3 nin4 zoi6 hoeng1 gong2 gwo3 dik1 zung1 cau1 zau6 gang3 gaa1 dak6 bit6 。

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jan1 wai6 si6 zung1 cau1 zit3 , ngo5 fong3 gung1 hau6 dak6 dang1 heoi3 tin1 hau6 sik6 maan5 faan6 , dou3 tin1 hau6 miu2 si4 teng1 dou3 jap6 bin1 cyun4 loi4 haau1 lo4 daa1 gu2 dik1 sing1 jam1 , fei1 soeng4 jit6 naau6 。 zoi3 soeng2 hon3 go3 gau3 ging2 , mut6 soeng2 dou3 ping4 si4 jan4 siu2 siu2 dik1 gaai1 dou3 gam1 tin1 geoi1 jin4 jan4 saan1 jan4 hoi2 。 hon3 liu5 lou6 bin1 dik1 biu1 sik1 coi4 zi1 dou3 jyun4 loi4 ze2 si6 jat1 nin4 jat1 dou6 dik1 zung1 cau1 fo2 lung4 sing4 wui6 。 jat1 deoi1 jan4 mou5 lung4 , gang3 daai6 jat1 deoi1 jan4 naa4 zyu6 hoeng1 soeng2 jiu3 jung2 jap6 miu2 lei5 zong1 , jan1 wai6 cyun4 syut3 jat1 zyu3 hoeng1 ho2 ji5 ling6 nei5 hou2 wan6 seng4 nin4 。 ho2 sik1 hou2 siu2 jan4 nang4 gau3 zai1 jap6 。 daan6 si6 dou3 cyu2 dou1 si6 ceot1 loi4 gwo3 zit3 dik1 jan4 wo4 fo2 lung4 , jit6 naau6 fei1 faan4 , hung4 hung4 dang1 lung4 , wo4 gok3 sik1 jin1 faa1 , fei1 soeng4 jau5 zung1 gwok3 cyun4 tung2 wan5 mei6 。

ngo5 hau6 loi4 zyun1 mun4 sau1 caa4 liu5 mou5 fo2 lung4 jau4 loi4 -- cyun4 syut3 zoi6 jat1 baat3 baat3 ning4 nin4 dik1 zung1 cau1 zit3 cin4 jat1 go3 maan5 soeng6 , daai6 haang1 cyun1 bei6 toi4 fung1 ceoi1 zaap6 zi1 zai3 , jau5 jat1 tiu4 daai6 mong5 se4 zeon3 cyun1 tan1 sik6 gaa1 cuk1 , cyun1 man4 hap6 lik6 baa2 taa1 daa2 sei2 jyu1 jat1 gaan1 po3 uk1 noi6 。 jik6 jat6 toi4 fung1 gwo3 hau6 , faat3 jin6 daai6 mong5 se4 ji5 mou4 jing2 mou4 zung1 , jin4 hau6 cyun1 man4 zau6 faat3 sang1 wan1 jik6 , do1 jan4 sei2 mong4 。 naa5 si4 jau5 dou3 si2 sing4 gei1 ngai4 jin4 sung2 ting3 , syut3 daai6 mong5 se4 bun2 si6 lung4 wong4 zi1 zi2 , jan1 ji4 gong3 jik6 zing1 ji5 si6 cing4 fat6 goi1 cyun1 , ji4 cyun1 zung1 jau5 jat1 go3 lou5 jung1 jau6 cing1 syut3 san4 sin1 daa2 gau3 bou3 mung6 , jan1 wai6 hoi2 lung4 wong4 zeoi3 paa3 si6 fo2 lung4 , sei2 fo2 bat1 hap6 。 zoi6 zung1 cau1 zit3 lin4 zuk6 saam1 maan5 mou5 fo2 lung4 , zau6 ho2 ji5 gaai2 tyut3 ze2 coeng4 zoi1 naan4 , jin4 hau6 , cyun1 man4 ziu3 baan6 , gwo2 jin4 , cyun1 man4 dik1 jik6 zing3 cung4 ci2 maan6 maan6 siu1 sat1 liu5 ! zi6 ci2 daai6 haang1 mui5 nin4 zung1 cau1 zit3 mou5 fo2 lung4 zau6 sing4 wai4 liu5 goi1 keoi1 dik1 zaap6 zuk6 。

English

The Mid-Autumn Festival

If the Chinese New Year is the most important holiday for Chinese people, the Mid-Autumn Festival is the second most important. This is because the Mid-Autumn Festival takes place when the moon is roundest in the sky and that represents the unity of families according to tradition. The concept of the family is very important to Chinese people and that is reflected in an emphasis on holidays with family

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gatherings. Traditions during this time include eating moon cakes, watching the moon, praying, and watching fireworks. But I had an extra special Mid-Autumn Festival in Hong Kong last year.

Because it was the holiday, after I finished work I went for dinner at Tin Hau. Right from the time I entered the area, I started hearing the sound of pounding on drums and the area was packed. This made me curious to find out what was happening and why a street that would normally be empty at this time was awash in a sea of people. Then I saw a sign saying that it was the day of the annual Fire Dragon event for the Mid-Autumn Festival. There were a group of people doing dragon dances and another group holding joss sticks and heading into the local temple to worship (it's said that burning a single joss stick on this day can give you luck for the whole year). Unfortunately, only a few people could squeeze into the temple at a time. But everywhere you looked there were people celebrating the festival and the Fire Dragon. Everything was extraordinarily busy and there were red lanterns and colorful fireworks everywhere. The place had an intensely traditional Chinese flavor.

Later on, I looked up the origin of the Fire Dragon Dance. Legend has it that one night before the Mid-Autumn Festival in 1880, a big snake came to Tai Hang village and ate the animals during the course of a typhoon. The villagers killed it in a broken down house. The day after the storm though, the snake had disappeared and a plague took hold of the village causing many deaths. A taoist priest then took the opportunity to scare the locals. He said that large pythons are the princes of the Sea Dragon King and the plague was a punishment for the village. An old man living in the village then said that God had told him how to save people's lives. He said that the Sea Dragon King is afraid of fire. Fire, dragons, and water can't co-exist. So the villagers played the Fire Dragon Dance for three consecutive nights during the festival and the plague disappeared like the old man had said. That is why the Fire Dragon Dance has become a traditional holiday event every year in Tai Hang village.

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
團圓	tyun4 jyun4	to reunite
特登	dak6 dang1	specially
熱鬧	jit6 naau6	bustling
人山人海	jan4 saan1 jan4 hoi2	a sea of people
搜查	sau1 caa4	to search
颱風	toi4 fung1	typhoon
蟒蛇	mong5 se4	python
疫症	jik6 zing3	plague
連續	lin4 zuk6	continuously

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

好唔容易我哋終於團圓喇。	hou2 m4 jung4 ji6 ngo5 dei6 zung1 jyu1 tyun4 jyun4 laa6.	It's really hard for us to reunite as a family.
我特登去買蛋糕送俾我女朋友。	ngo5 dak6 dang1 heoi3 maai5 daan6 gou1 sung3 bei2 ngo5 neoi5 pang4 jau5.	I went specially to buy the birthday cake for my girlfriend.
香港嘅茶樓每朝都好熱鬧。	hoeng1 gong2 ge3 caa4 lau4 mui5 ziu1 dou1 hou2 jit6 naau6.	Hong Kong's tea houses are always bustling every morning.
一到週末，銅鑼灣都會人山人海。	jat1 dou3 zau1 mut6 , tung4 lo4 waan1 dou1 wui5 jan4 saan1 jan4 hoi2.	Causeway Bay is filled with a sea of people every weekend.
警察經常喺高速公路搜查可疑車輛。	ging2 caat3 ging1 soeng4 hai2 gou1 cuk1 gung1 lou6 sau1 caa4 ho2 ji4 ce1 loeng2.	Police always search questionable cars on the highway.
香港經常畀颱風入侵。	hoeng1 gong2 ging1 soeng4 bei2 toi4 fung1 jap6 cam1 .	Hong Kong always has typhoons.
我妹妹最鍾意就係去動物園睇大蟒蛇。	ngo5 mui4 mui2 zeoi3 zung1 ji3 zau6 hai6 heoi3 dung6 mat6 jyun4 tai2 daai6 mong5 se4. .	My sister really likes watching pythons at the zoo.
如果地震之後無處理好衛生情況，好容易爆發疫症。	jyu4 gwo2 dei6 zan3 zi1 hau6 mou4 cyu5 lei5 hou2 wai6 sang1 cing4 fong3, hou2 jung4 ji6 baau3 faat3 jik6 zing3.	If hygienic conditions aren't implemented after an earthquake, it's easy for there to be a plague.
佢連續飲咗六晚酒。	keoi5 lin4 zuk6 jam2 zo2 luk6 maan5 zau2.	He has been drunk six nights continuously.

Cultural Insight

中秋是香港人很重視的一個節日，晚上肯定會一家人聚一起吃飯，吃飯後大家都會去散散步，賞月，玩燈籠，吃月餅。很多小孩子都喜歡玩燈籠，因為可以點蠟燭，其實就是玩火了，最後蠟燭不玩了就直接拿月餅的盒子來煲蠟，這都是很危險的行為，很多小孩都因為這樣而燒傷了，但是到現在還是每年都這樣。

[Playing with Fire](#)

The Mid-Autumn Festival is very important to Hong Kong people. Families will gather and have dinner together. After dinner, they will go for a walk, watch the moon, play with lanterns, and also eat moon cakes. Many children like to play with lanterns because they can light up the candles. In fact, they are playing with fire, and they don't just play with candles but they also use the box of moon cakes to boil the candle wax. It is very dangerous behavior. Many children are burned because of this. However, it hasn't changed from year to year.