

墨西哥和中國的鬼節：比較兩個不同文化紀念去世親人的傳統

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柴香寧(C)的介紹

儘管我現在住在美國，可是我有很多家人還在泰國，再加上我的爺爺外公和外婆都是中國人，所以我們有慶祝鬼節的傳統。每次我暑假回泰國的時候，會跟我的外婆和姨母慶祝這個節日。鬼節的這一天，我家去世親人的靈魂都會回來看我們，吃一頓飯再離開。所有的小孩子，包括我，都喜歡這個節日，覺得很多儀式傳統又好玩又有趣，也有很多好吃的東西。可是外婆得做很多飯特別忙，她覺得這個節日很重要不只是玩玩的。今天我要談一談關於中國的鬼節。我還要跟我的同學比較一下不同國家的鬼節。

賴媚蘭(P)的介紹

我是在墨西哥出生的，一歲的時候搬到美國，可是我也常常和家人回墨西哥老家，因為我有很多家人都還住在那兒。在墨西哥，有一個節日叫“El Dia de los Muertos”，就像中國的鬼節一樣。這一天，我家去世親人的靈魂都會回來看我們，吃一頓飯再離開。我們不但會紀念死去的家人，而且也給他們做特別的菜，也有酒（叫“tequila”和“mezcal”）給大人喝，糖果給小孩吃。我記得這個節日很大，所有的人都參加慶祝，我們跳舞，唱歌，還有一些人會化裝遊行！只要是鬼節的那天，全家人就都聚在一起慶祝，所以我愛這個節日。現在我學中文，所以我想知道更多中國的節日！我的同學要告訴我中國的一個鬼節。

C:我覺得中國和墨西哥的鬼節聽起來差不多，都很好玩。

P:對，墨西哥的這個節日很好玩！我們用特別的糖做骷髏頭裝飾，還把食物放在祭壇上。

C:對，在我們家，也做很多飯給去世的親人吃。

P:是嗎？在墨西哥大家還用彩色的花，很多的照片和玩具裝飾祭壇。

C:真的？中國人燒金紙錢，這樣，可以把錢送給親人用。

P:嗯，很有意思。這個節日一方面很特別很好玩，另一方面也紀念死去的家人。

C:我覺得鬼節對中國人很重要，是我家人的傳統。

P:我同意，對我家人也很重要。你們會穿特別的衣服嗎？

C:我們家平常不用穿什麼特別的衣服。

P:我家人常常穿得比較正式。

C:你家人做什麼飯？我們總是做幾種年糕，也做特別的麵條，肉和素菜。

P:我家人得準備水果，花生，巧克力雞腿飯和玉米餅，很多食物，還有特別的麵包，叫“Pan de Muertos”。

C: 中國人的鬼節是從佛教和道教來的。

P:我們是從基督教和墨西哥本地文化來的。

C:我聽說在台灣鬼節有很大的慶祝活動，可是我只知道泰國人怎麼慶祝。

P:儘管我們有不同的文化，可是有差不多一樣的節日！

C:對！真的很有意思！

P:這個暑假我們在台灣留學的時候，應該去參加鬼節的慶祝。

C:對對!!我想今年的鬼節是8月17號，我們會在台灣。

P:我很興奮！

C:我們可以看看台灣人怎麼慶祝鬼節。

P:對！我很期待！一定會很好玩！

How We Celebrate the Dead: Compare the Mexican and Chinese Traditions during the “Ghost Festival”

Chai Xiangning’s introductory presentation:

Although I live in the U.S. right now, but I have a lot of relatives still in Thailand, in addition to this, my maternal grandparents, and my paternal grandfather are all Chinese, so we have a tradition of celebrating the Ghost Festival. Every time I go to Thailand for the summer, I will celebrate this festival with my aunt and grandmother. Every Ghost Festival day, my dearly departed relatives will come see us, eat a meal, and then leave. All the children, including me, liked this festival; we thought the traditional ceremonies are fun and interesting, and there are lots of things to eat. But my grandmother would be busy making lots of food; she thinks the festival is important and not just fun.

Today I want to talk about the Chinese Ghost Festival. I want to compare with my friend about a different country’s Ghost Festival.

Lai Meilan’s introductory presentation:

I was born in Mexico, when I was one year old I moved to the United States, but I often go back home in Mexico, because I have a lot of family (that) still lives there. In Mexico, there is a festival called "El Dia de los Muertos", like the Chinese ghost festival (is) similar. On this day, my loved close relatives that have passed away come back to see us, eat a meal and then leave. We will not only commemorate the death of family members, but also give them a special dish, and liquor (called "tequila" and "mezcal") for the adults (to drink), candy for the children to eat. I remember this holiday (is) very big, everyone participates in the celebration, we dance, sing songs, and some people dress up (for the) parade! As long as the day is Halloween, the whole family gets together to celebrate, so I love this festival. Now I'm learning Chinese, so I would like to know more about Chinese festivals! My classmate will tell me about the Chinese ghost festival!

C: I think that the Chinese and Mexican Ghost Festivals sound similar, both very fun.

P: Yes, this Mexican holiday is fun! We do special sugar skull decorations, (we) also put food on the altar.

C: Yes, at home, we also make a lot of food to give to our departed relatives.

P: Is that so? In Mexico we have many colored flowers, lots of photos and toys decorate the altar.

C: Really? Chinese people burn joss paper money, such that, so we can give money to family members to use.

P: Ah, very interesting. One aspect of this holiday is very special and fun, on the other hand it is to commemorate our departed relatives.

C: I think that the Ghost Festival to Chinese people is very important. It is part of my family traditions.

P: I agree, my family is also very important. Do you (plural) wear special clothes?

C: My family usually does not wear any special sort of clothes.

P: My family frequently wears relatively formal (clothes).

C: What does your family usually make? We always make lots of kinds of rice cakes, as well as different kinds of noodles, meat, and vegetable dishes.

P: My family prepares fruit, nuts, mole chicken leg meal and tortillas, in addition a special kind of bread called “Pan de Muertos”

C: The Chinese Ghost Festival originates from Buddhism and Taoism.

P: Ours comes from Christianity and Mexican indigenous culture.

C: I’ve heard that in Taiwan there’s large celebrates, but I only know about how Thailand celebrates it.

P: Even though we have different cultures, but we have pretty similar holidays.

C: Yes! Really interesting!

P: This summer vacation we're studying abroad in Taiwan for a length of time, we should participate in the ghost festival (to) celebrate.

C: Yes, yes! I want to go to this year's Ghost Festival that is on August 17th, we will be in Taiwan.

P: I'm very excited!

C: We can see how Taiwanese people celebrate the Ghost Festival.

P: Yes! I look forward to (it)! Surely (it) will be very fun!

Vocabulary:

泰国 (tàiguó) Thailand

再加上 (zài jiā shàng) in addition to

外公 (wàigōng) maternal grandfather

外婆 (wàipó) maternal grandmother

姨母 (yímǔ) maternal aunt

我家去世親人的靈魂 (wǒjiā qùshì qīnrén de línghún) spirits of dearly departed family members

一頓飯 (yī dùn fàn) a meal

所有 (suǒyǒu) all

小孩子 (xiǎo háizi) child

包括 (bāokuò) including

儀式傳統 (yíshì chuántǒng) traditional ceremonies

關於 (guānyú) about

死去的家人 (sǐqù de jiārén) dead family

節日 (jiérì) holiday

儘管 (jǐnguǎn) in spite of/ although

爺爺 (yéyé) grandfather

鬼节 (guǐ jié) Ghost Festival/Halloween

全 (quán) all

聚 (jù) gather

慶祝 (qìngzhù) celebrate

僅 (jǐn) only

紀念 (jìniàn) commemorate

照片 (zhàopiàn) photo

傳統 (chuántǒng) tradition

食物 (shíwù) food

裝飾 (zhuāngshì) decoration

祭壇 (jìtán) altar

用 (yòng) with

糖 (táng) sugar

頭 (tóu) head

骨架 (gǔjià) skeleton

親人 (qīnrén) loved ones

穿 (chuān) wear

水果 (shuǐguǒ) fruit

花生 (huāshēng) nuts

火雞痣板 (huǒ jī zǐ bǎn) turkey Mole

玉米餅 (yùmǐ bǐng-tortillas
基督教 (jīdūjiào) Christianity
燒金紙錢 (Shāo jīn zhǐqián)
正式 (zhèngshì) formal
幾種 (jǐ zhǒng) different kinds
年糕 (niángāo) rice cake
佛教 (fójiào) Buddhism
道教 (dàojiào) Taoism
本地文化 (běndì wénhuà) indigenous culture
興奮 (xīngfèn) excited
期待 (qídài) to look forwards to