



Hunan Foster Care Program

Families Thru International Adoption

Summer 2010

Chinese Moon Festival



The Chinese Moon Festival, also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival, is perhaps the second biggest holiday celebrated in China, next to the New Year holiday. This year's festival falls on September 22, 2010.

As with many Chinese holidays, the Moon Festival is associated with many legends and stories. One legend tells the story of Chang Er, a beautiful woman who drank the Elixir of Life in order to prevent her husband's tyranny over the people. After drinking it, she floated away to the moon, and is up there still. It is said that you can see her dancing on the moon when it is full.

Another legend tells of the Jade Rabbit, who sacrificed himself to provide food to three fairies disguised as old men. The fairies were so touched by his sacrifice that they sent him to live forever in the moon, where he resides to this day.

Today, many families celebrate the Moon Festival by going outside during the full moon. They gaze up at the moon while eating moon cakes, and use the time to remember their ancestors.



Information for this article courtesy of wikipedia.com, chineseculture.com, and chinesefortunecalendar.com.



From Hunan

Wei

Wei is a pretty little girl who likes dolls very much. Recently she got a beautiful doll as a gift. She loves it so much. She takes her dolls with her no matter where she goes. When she is asked for a picture, she would like to have her doll in the picture, too. When she is eating her meal, her doll will sit just by her. She calls the doll “my little princess”. However, one day she suddenly realized that the doll was a boy instead of a “princess.” She was kind of frustrated in the beginning. But after a while, she doesn’t care about it anymore. She said to her doll seriously “I will love you forever no matter what.”





From Hunan Continued

Sheng Quan

Sheng Quan is a very sweet little boy. His neighbor has a little baby boy. He loves the boy very much. Every time he sees the baby boy, he comes to hug and kiss him. But his way of hugging and kissing is kind of wild. He hugs the boy so hard that the boy can not even breathe. He kisses him no matter the boy likes it or not. So every time he shows his love to him, the baby boy will cry, as if saying “don’t love me any more. I don’t like it”.





Moon Cakes

Moon Cakes are traditionally eaten during the Moon Festival. Typical Moon Cakes are round or rectangular, with a thin crust and a thick filling made from lotus seed paste. Some versions contain the yolk from a salted duck egg.

One legend says that Moon Cakes were used to pass secret messages by the Ming revolutionaries to incite the people to overthrow their Mongolian rulers. The pastries held a secret message coordinating the uprising. Once the message was received, the cakes were eaten to prevent the plans from falling into the wrong hands.

Another story claims that the secret message is printed in the design on top of the cakes. Each cake in a box of four is cut into four pieces; the pieces must then be rearranged so the message can be read and then destroyed - by eating the cakes.





Moon Cakes (continued)

Because Moon Cakes are considered to be a delicacy, and because making them is somewhat difficult, very few are made in the home. Many varieties are available, including traditional versions; modern versions made with chocolate, nuts, and fruit; and even some made from yogurt or ice cream.

Whichever version you prefer, enjoy them during the Moon Festival!



*Information for this article courtesy of
wikipedia.com.*

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