

## Blog 33 --- Moon Festival

September 19<sup>th</sup> this year (Lunar calendar August 15<sup>th</sup>) was the day of a very traditional Chinese holiday: Moon Festival (Mid-Autumn). In China, Moon Festival is a day of family reunion and, as always, filled with lots and lots of food, including one special little cake: Moon cake. The moon cake is normally split into little pieces for each family member, representing that the family would share all the sweet and bitter times in life. This year, the Moon festival was on Thursday, so our school gave us a short holiday break! But for me, the break was a jam-packed weekend full of reunions, lunches, chats, laughs and definitely stuffed stomachs!

The Moon Festival history dates back to a very long time ago. There are many different stories about the beginning of this holiday, but the most well-known version is about HouYi and Chang E... Once upon a time, there was a beautiful maiden called Chang E and her husband HouYi who was wonderful at shooting. At that time, there were 10 suns in the sky. They caused a lot of trouble to the people by creating many natural disasters. One day, the people could take no more, so HouYi stood up and shot down 9 of the suns and left only one as a light source for the people. One of the gods heard of HouYi's heroic actions and decided to reward him a bottle of medicine that could turn people immortal. But HouYi didn't want to leave his beautiful wife to become an immortal, so he left the medicine to Chang E for her to keep. Little did he know that all this commotion was seen by an evil spirit PengMeng. One day, when HouYi was out hunting, PengMeng trespassed into Chang E's room with a sharp dagger in his hand as he exclaimed: "Pass me that bottle of immortal medicine or else you shall die!" Chang E knew that she would not be able to defeat PengMeng, so she made a quick decision and gulped down the immortal medicine. Her body slowly drifted up, up and up into the sky, finally landing on the shining moon. This day just happened to be August 15<sup>th</sup> on the lunar calendar. From then on, that day was designated as China's Moon festival. People now believe that the reason why the moon is always full on this particular night, is because Chang E is greeting HouYi (and also all of us), telling him she is fine! :)



This is my second time celebrating this festival in China. On the first day, we visited some family members and had a lavish lunch with the group of twenty. We sat around the biggest dining table I had ever seen, with a humongous lazy Susan in the middle! The table is so big, that the lazy Susan was turned to "automatic spinning mode" in order for everyone to get a bit of everything. After a couple of spins, I thought I felt dizzy! For such a big table, I noticed that my dad sat at the worst spot. The waitresses would serve the dishes right at his left, but once

the delicious foods land onto the lazy Susan; it automatically spins clockwise, going farther and farther away from my dad's reach! Once it gets back to him, most of the dishes are empty. 😊

The next day was another food filled, stomach aching, taste bud bursting day! Yep, another big lunch! But this time, it's at a well known BUFFET restaurant! Definitely, it's even more torturing than the day before. The restaurant was colossal! It was so big that you had to use a map to find your way around!



I gradually stuffed myself up like a balloon with all of the delicious food: noodles, sushi, popcorn chicken, pineapple smoothies, chocolate covered marsh-mellows, cotton candy, ice cream and cake. But some food, I didn't really want to touch... Such as the snail shell soup, barbecued bird head, stir fried octopus tentacles and the slimy sea cucumber. To me, those foods aren't exactly what I call delicacy, but those are the foods that are actually expensive.



After a torturing but mouthwatering big feast, my stomach could no longer fit *anything*. I don't think I stood for very long until I fell onto the taxi seat and into a deep sleep. What a Moon Festival!

No matter what holiday it is in China, the most part of my impression on them is always FOOD! And this Moon Festival was no exception! 😊