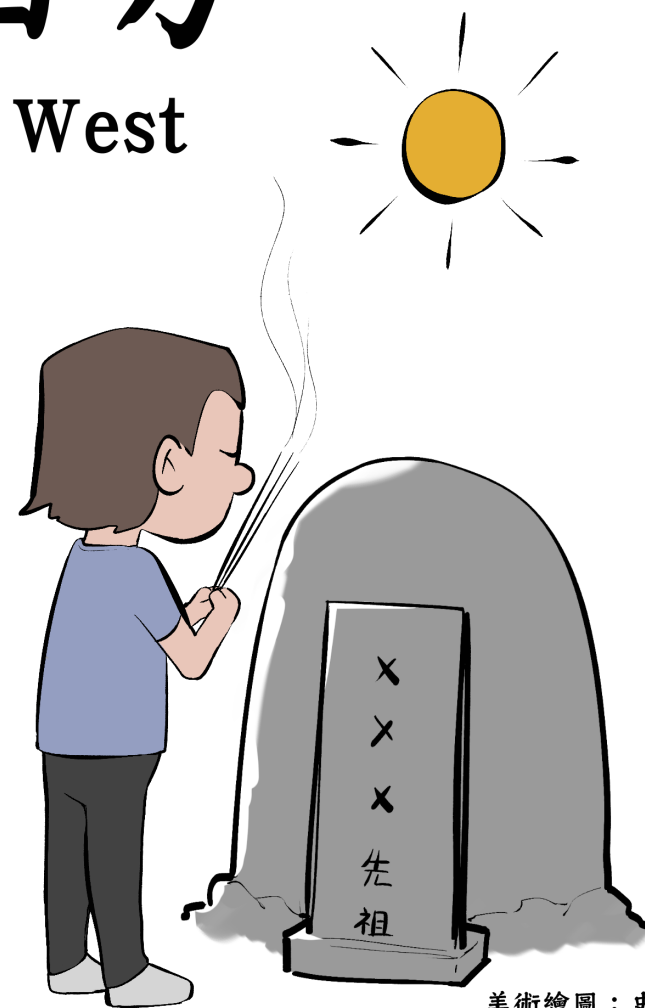


當東方遇上西方

When the East Meets the West



清明節是華人的主要節日。

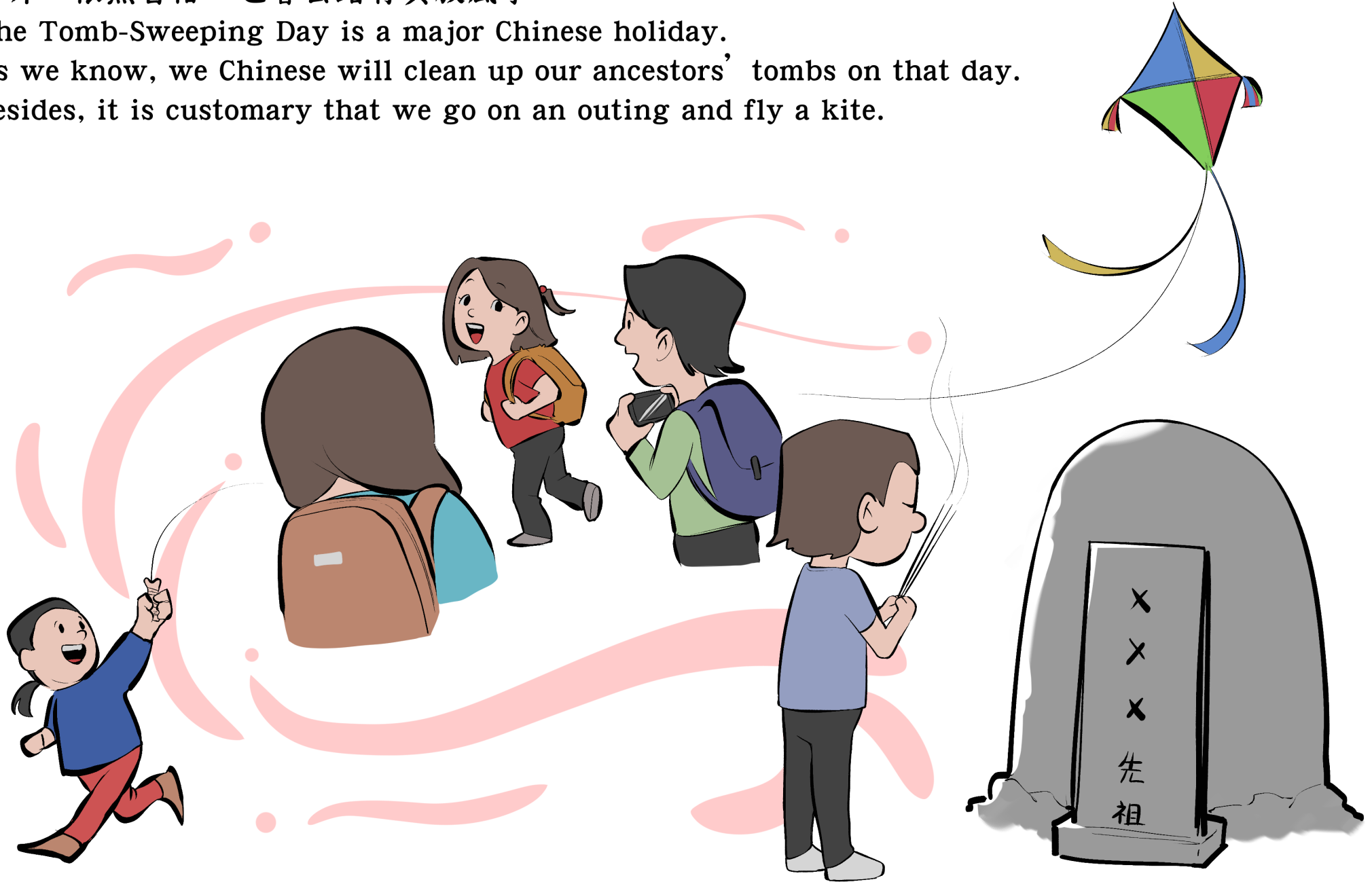
眾所週知，當天華人都會去掃墓。

另外，依照習俗，也會去踏青與放風箏。

The Tomb-Sweeping Day is a major Chinese holiday.

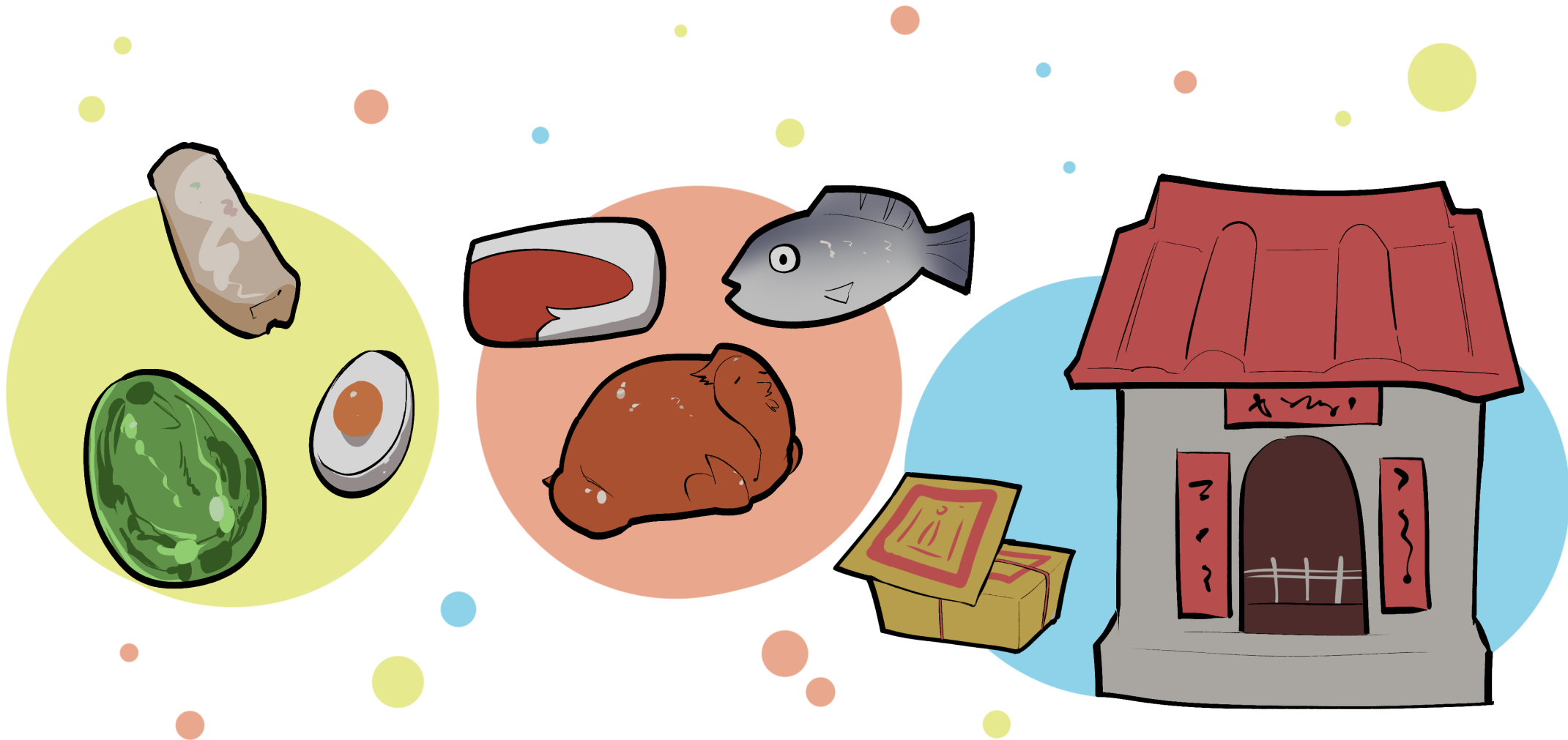
As we know, we Chinese will clean up our ancestors' tombs on that day.

Besides, it is customary that we go on an outing and fly a kite.



以中國南方來說(包括臺灣)，掃墓時須先拜土地公，並且焚燒紙錢。
祭祀時需要三牲，草仔粿，與鴨蛋。另外，也會吃潤餅。

In the South of China(including Taiwan), the Land Deity needs to be worshipped before the cleanup of the ancestors' tombs. In the course of worshipping rituals, paper money is burned, fish, pork, chicken, grass jelly cakes, and duck eggs are used. And the stuffed spring roll is also a common snack.



當然，各地慶祝清明節的方式不同。例如，許多地方會在門上掛柳枝。
在山西有在清明節修繕房屋的習俗。

廣東人祭祖時會用乳豬，香港早期甚至有放火燒祖墳附近雜草的習俗。

Of course, the ways to celebrate the Tomb-Sweeping Day vary from place to place.
For instance, willow branches are hung on the doors in many places. In Shanxi,
people traditionally fix up their houses on that day.

The Cantonese use roast pigs to worship their ancestors.

In Hong Kong, there used to be a custom of burning up the weeds around their ancestors' tombs.



在華人圈中，「祭祖」大致上有兩層意義：

以華人而言，祖先在某個意義上來說已被神格化，因此祭祀祖先的意義在於祈求祖先的庇蔭。
再者，祭祀祖先也是希望祖先能收到自己的祝福(與燒給他們的祭品)。

In the Chinese community, ancestral worshipping roughly has two meanings:
for the Chinese, ancestors have been divinized in a way.

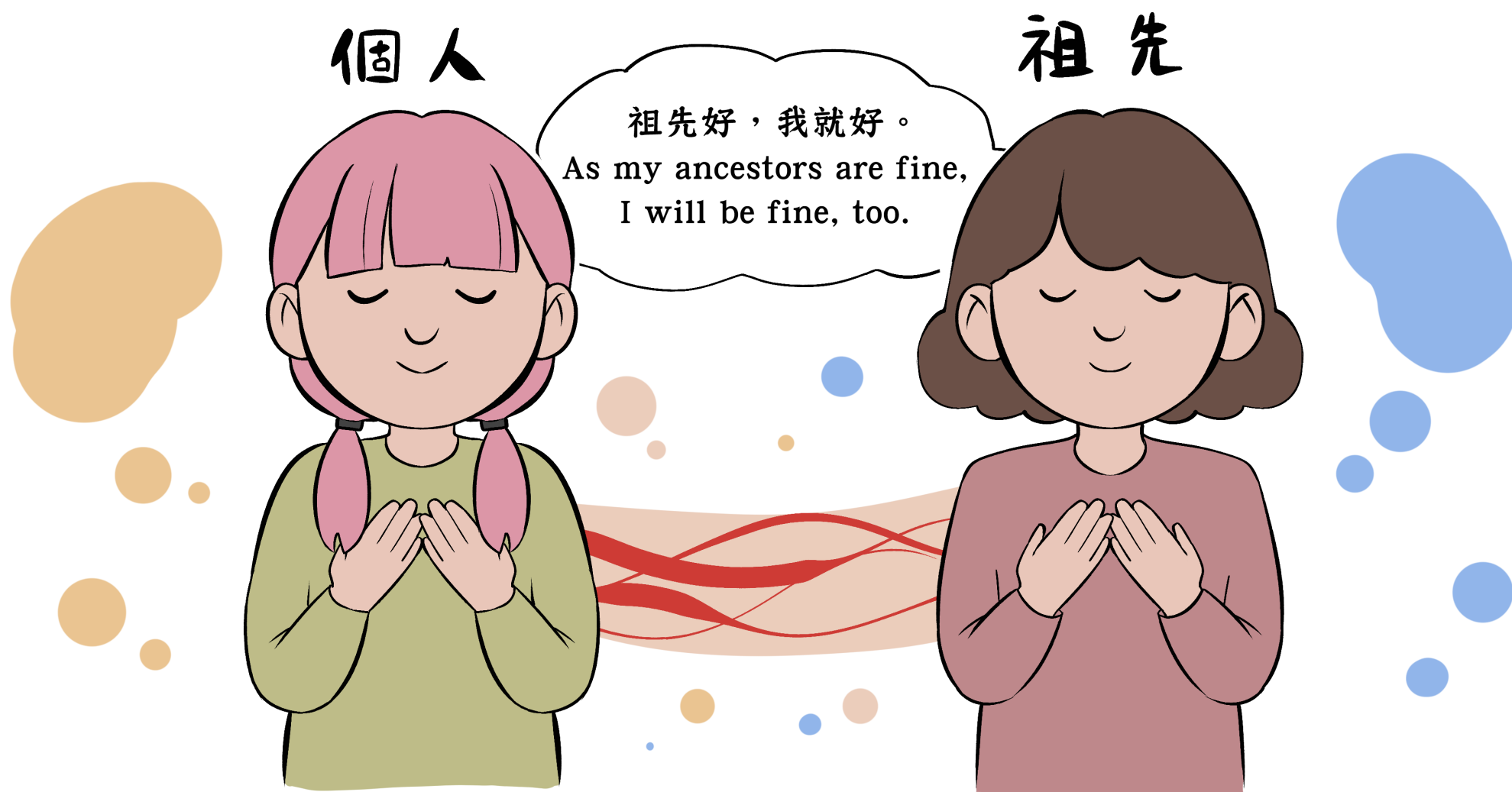
So the meaning of ancestral worshipping lies in pleading for ancestors' protection.

Moreover, it is carried out in the hope of enabling the ancestors to receive our blessings
(and the offerings burned to them).



以生命觀點，華人相信祖先雖已逝，但生命卻仍延續，並與個人以血脈緊密相連。所以個人照顧好祖先(的生命)，也就是尊重且珍惜自己生命。

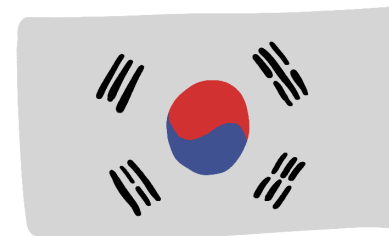
From the perspective of life, Chinese people believe that although their ancestors have passed away, their lives still go on, and that the bondage of bloodline between individuals and them has remained solid. So by taking good care of their ancestors (and their lives), individuals can respect and treasure their lives.



在亞洲其他地區，包括越南，印尼，泰國，與韓國，大致上祭祖習俗或是對先祖的觀念，都和華人大同小異，顯然是受華人文化的影響。越南是農曆10月15日(中元節)祭祖，韓國則是在中秋節。In the other parts of Asia, including Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, and South Korea, the customs of ancestral worshipping as well as their concepts of their ancestors are approximately the same as Chinese people. Obviously, they are under the influence of the Chinese culture in this respect. In Vietnam, their ancestral worshipping takes place on October 15 by the lunar calendar (the Ghost Festival). In South Korea, it takes place on Mid-Autumn Festival.



越南是農曆10月15日(中元節)祭祖
In Vietnam, their ancestral worshipping takes place on October 15 by the lunar calendar(the Ghost Festival).

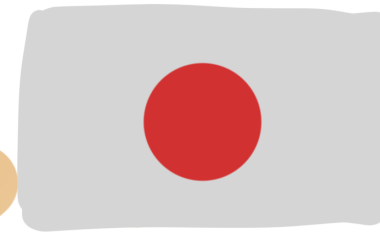
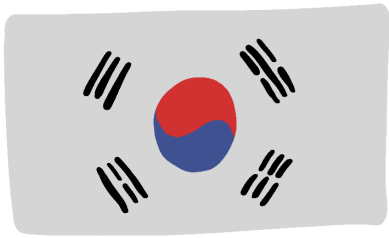


韓國在中秋節
In South Korea, it takes place on Mid-Autumn Festival.

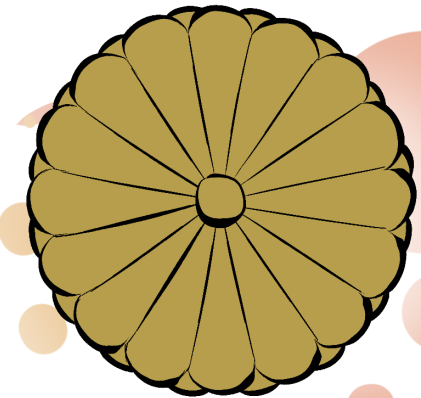


日本人的「清明節」則是「盂蘭盆節」，為每年的七月十五日。另外想當然耳，這些國家在祭祀先祖的儀式上，都會有各地文化的印記。例如，日本人會用菊花(在日本文化中象徵「高貴」)並且在自家門口點火(火在日本文化中有「指引」之意)，韓國人則會跳他們文化中最重要「假面舞」。

The Tomb-Sweeping Day of the Japanese is their Bon Festival, which falls on July 15. And of course, the ancestral worshipping rituals in these countries bear the signatures of the local cultures. For instance, the Japanese use chrysanthemums (, which are symbolic of “nobility” in their culture), and light a fire on the doorstep (In their culture, fire connotes “guidance”). And the Koreans dance their culturally significant “mask dance.”



菊花 = 高貴
chrysanthemum = nobility



Fire = guidance
火 = 指引

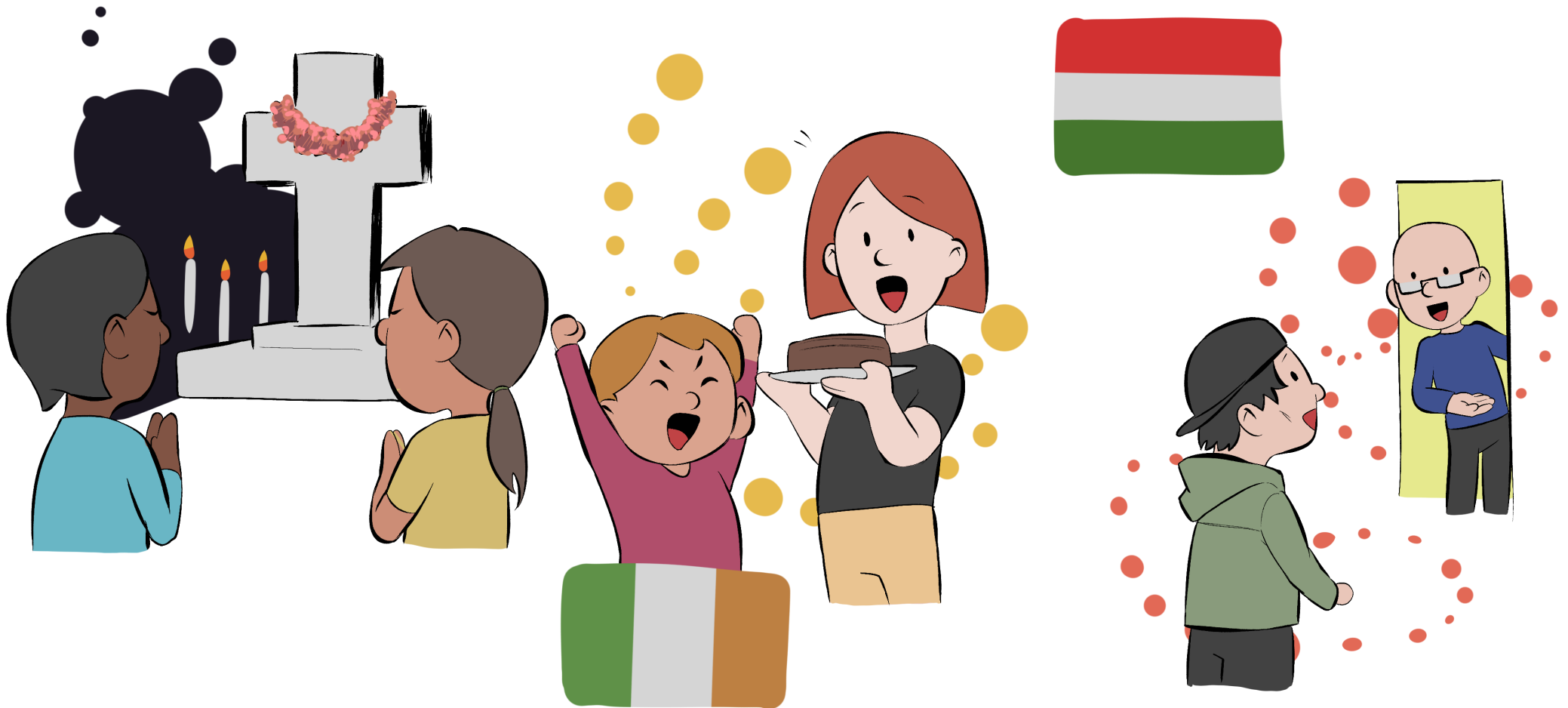
另一方面，在西方的天主教國家，有一個「萬靈節」。這個節日在11月2日，主要根源於天主教徒一般相信，人死後的靈魂在上天堂前會留在「煉獄」中受煎熬。而在世親友的祝福，會讓他們早日脫離「煉獄」，前往天堂。

On the other hand, All Souls Day is celebrated in the Western Catholic countries. Falling on November 2, it is based on the common Catholic belief that after people have passed away, their souls will be suffering in the “purgatory.” And it is their living relatives’ blessings that will enable to leave the purgatory for the heaven.



在「萬靈節」當天，天主教徒會去打掃先祖墳墓，把鮮花，聖水，以及食物放在先祖墳前，然後替先祖祈禱。在愛爾蘭，小孩會去拜訪鄰居，乞求蛋糕。在匈牙利，則會邀請窮人或乞丐進屋大吃一頓。

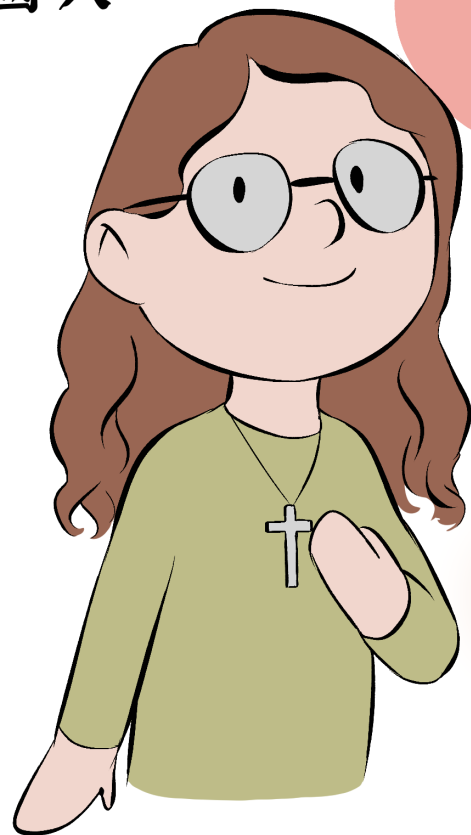
On All Souls Day, Catholics will clean up their ancestors' tombs, place flowers, holy water, and food in front of them, and pray for their ancestors. In Ireland, children will visit their neighbors, begging for cakes. In Hungary, poor people or beggars will be invited in for a feast.



值得注意的是，西方的天主教徒不會把先祖看成是「神」，也不認為先祖的靈魂與自己的生命血脈相連。基本上，他們把先祖看成「接受自己祝福的對象。」

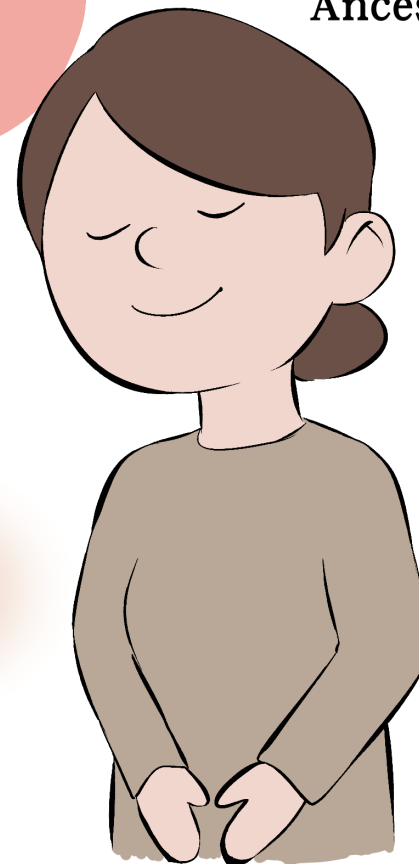
It should be noted that Western Catholics don't think of their ancestors as "gods," nor do they believe that their ancestors' souls are connected with their lives by the bloodline. Basically, they regard their ancestors as "the recipients of their blessings."

外國人



祝福
Blessings

先祖 ≠ 神
Ancestors ≠ gods



沒有血脈

當東方遇上西方，關鍵在於「相互尊重。」最重要的是，必須用跨文化的視角，去相互進行交流。再者，東方人有沒有可能把先祖看成「類似於天主教的『聖人』」，而西方人把東方人的祭祖看成是一種「崇敬」？這或許是一種創新的思維…??

When the East meets the West, the key lies in “mutual respect.” It is most essential to interact with each other from a transcultural perspective. Moreover, is it possible that Easterners deem their ancestors as those like the “Catholic Saints,” while Westerners regard the Eastern ancestral worshipping as a way of “honoring”? Could it be some kind of innovative thinking…??

東方人

西方人

