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My Culture

I take a step. I smell yummy food and smoke. Fireworks boom in my ears. Red lanterns light up the area making a warm welcoming glow. What is your heritage? Is it like mine? Food, fireworks, and red stuff? Or do you have your own special heritage?

We have a belief that when a child is born, they grab an item. It determines what career the infant will have. The choices usually are money, pouches, and toys. The baby sits on red tarp to pick the item. When I was an infant, I picked a spoon. Now whenever I can, I pop up when my family is cooking. Mom and dad wanted me to get a book, so they were a little disappointed. Mom grabbed a pen, and she got awesome grades. She skipped 2 grades too! Dad didn't do it for reasons we still don't understand, and my brother grabbed a flute, but right now he doesn't show any interest in music. In fact, I play the piano!

As you can see, having this heritage is exciting! Lunar new year is also a holiday we celebrate. Dessert dumplings I can taste them already! Lunar new year is calculated by the shape of the moon. Each time we have a big feast. Also, there are red lanterns we hang firecrackers we light. Why? There's a story about a beast named "Nian". The "Nian" would eat people from a village each year. If the village doesn't give an offering to "Nian" it would destroy the village. One fateful year, the people found out that "Nian" was afraid of red and loud sounds. When the "Nian" went to the village, they hung red things and lit firecrackers. The "Nian" never came back. The villagers lived happily ever after. The feast was to celebrate the defeat of "Nian". I don't believe the story, but I do like celebrating!

Autumn spring festival, we eat moon cakes. The rich creamy soft cake has varieties of fillings. Sometimes it's sesame sometimes it's red bean, and much more. Either one is delicious!

There is another belief about the Zodiac sign. Unlike cancer Aries Virgo etc…, the Zodiac signs are animals. I am a monkey, my brother is a mouse, my mom is a dragon, (well not all are animals) and dad is a bull. There is another story, and it is about animals racing, including dragon, related to the zodiac signs. There was also a specific part about a mouse and a cat. That time the mouse and cat were friends The mouse promised to wake the cat up to race but didn't. That why the cat isn't a Zodiac. Also the cat and mouse are enemies.

Now, it is 21st century and AI is about to take over our lives. Spiritual beliefs and old cultures are fading. Do you think they should stay or go?