

# Origin, customs and meaning of the Mid-Autumn Festival

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On this Tet holiday, children will pick up his lamp, watch lion dance, sing. Many houses often organize displays, looking for moon. As a custom, children enjoying fruit candies during this Mid-Autumn Festival are called " *breaking the deck* ." In this New Year, an indispensable dish in the tray is moon cake.

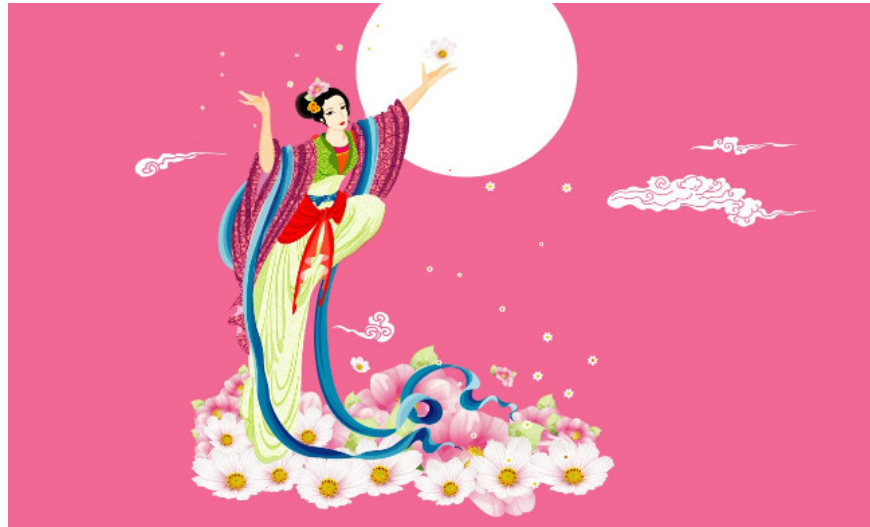


## Origin of Mid-Autumn Festival

According to China, Mid-Autumn Festival comes from the road. The old story tells that King **Duong Minh Hoang** (713-741 Tay Lich) roamed Ngu Uyen Garden on the full moon of the eight lunar month. In the Mid-Autumn Festival, the moon was very round and clear, the king enjoyed the beautiful scene and met the doctor Diep Phap Thien. Taoists have the right to send the king to the moon. There, the scene is extremely beautiful. The king was treated to a banquet, enjoying dancing and singing. Hundreds of beautiful fairies dressed in colorful silk dresses, holding a white silk sheet danced on the field, dancing and singing, called Nghe-Thuong dance song.

The King of the Road liked so much, so when he returned to the royal palace, he showed it to the women who performed. And every night on the eve of the eighth month, he ordered the people to organize the procession of lights and celebrate the party while the king and Duong Quy Phi drank alcohol under the moon watching the palace of female dancers singing and singing to commemorate the miraculous period of electricity mine. Since then, the organization of the procession of lanterns and banqueting on the full moon day of August has become the custom of folk.

Tets There are also people who claim that hanging lights on the altar of the lunar calendar in the eighth day of the lunar month is due to the birthdays of King Tang Minh Hoang. Because the full moon day of August was the birthday of King Minh Hoang, the Tang court ordered people everywhere in the country to hang lights and celebrate a party. Since then, hanging lights on the deck in the full moon day of August has become a custom.



In Vietnam, the legend of Mid-Autumn Festival is associated with **Ms Hang and uncle Cui** . The story is that, in the past, there was a female fairy, Hang Nga, beautiful and very much in love with children. She wished to go down to the earth to play with children but the fairies did not allow it.

When Ngoc Hoang organized the contest "*Making full moon cake* ", Hang Nga went down to earth to learn how to make delicious cakes. Here, Hang Nga met Cui - the expert guy said. To show it to Hang Nga, just put all the ingredients together and bake it.

But suddenly, when the cake came out fragrant, the children ate very well. Hang Nga returned to the moon and brought the cakes to the exam.

But because Cui was reluctant to leave Hang Nga, she took her hand and the strange power dragged him and the tree of the village to the moon. Sitting on the banyan tree, Cui could see the children playing, should miss home and just sit crying and sad.

Hang Nga's cakes won the first prize and named it "**moon cake** ". She asked Ngoc Hoang to allow her and Cui to go to the earth to play with the younger children on the full moon in August every year. Since then, Ngoc Hoang named the full moon in August as "*Mid-Autumn Festival*" - the occasion of the children 's Tet holiday.



The cakes that Hang Nga made won the first prize and were named "moon cake".(Source photo: Internet)

Every year, on the full moon in August, people organize the procession of lights, dragon dance, lion dance in the white light to commemorate Cu Cu, Mrs. Hang, and the rabbit flock to the ground to celebrate.

## **Meaning of Mid-Autumn Festival**

According to Vietnamese custom, parents show their children to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival, buy and make all kinds of candles and lanterns to hang in the house and let the children process their lamps.

The Mid-Autumn Festival includes moon cakes, candy, sugarcane, grapefruit, and other fruits. This is an opportunity for children to understand the loving care of their parents in a specific way. Therefore, the love for family is even more tight.

Also on this occasion, people bought moon cakes, tea, wine to worship their ancestors, to grandparents, parents, teachers, friends, relatives, and other benefactors. This is a good opportunity for children and grandchildren to express their gratitude to parents and grandparents to show their care for each other.

In this day, all places organize Lion dance or Dance Dance. The Unicorn symbolizes auspiciousness.



In ancient times, Vietnamese people also organized **singing drum** in **Quan** during the Mid-Autumn **Festival** . The melody is singing in the rhythm of the three beat "thump, barrel, thud." In the past, girls used drumming to sing in full moon nights, especially in the full moon in August. Boys and girls sing and talk to each other just to have fun and to choose you for hundreds of years. People use poems that follow the verse of hexadecimal or hexagonal variations to sing.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a very meaningful custom. That is the meaning of care, of filial piety, of gratitude, of friendship, of reunion, and of love. Try to maintain and develop this beautiful meaning.

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