Changes in the Tradition

As the most important festival in Chinese culture, the Spring Festival comes with a series of celebration. But as I grow older, I feel that the atmosphere is slowly changing.

In the past, people would set off tons of fireworks, lighting up the entire sky until midnight. Ancient people thought that fireworks can evict monsters invading the town, while modern people do it mostly for fun. To me it’s an irreplaceable part of the Spring Festival celebration, maybe because I loved setting off fireworks when I was a kid. But today, due to government regulations, fireworks are banned in the city. This leads to the damage to celebration atmosphere. I agree that fireworks should be restricted to avoid heavy pollution and possible accidents, but now the city is truly cooler than before during the Spring Festival.

Another important activity during the Spring Festival is family reunion. Members in a family may live thousands of kilometers away from each other. But during the Spring Festival, they will go back to their hometown and visit their relatives. This usually takes a week. Nowadays this kind of activities are less than before. There are two reasons. One is that modern people are busier than before. Some people may need to work during the festival, thus have no time to go back to their hometown. Personally, I think the government should take measures to guarantee full-length vacations of employees. Another reason is that family size is smaller. Nowadays a couple may only have one child, while half a century ago it was not strange that a family has five children. The shrink in the size of families makes celebration much simpler. The scenario is more likely to be a couple taking their parents and child out for entertainment.

The traditional way of celebrating Spring Festival is slowly fading away, but that reveals the change, or evolution, of the society. Things like environmental protection and family size are changing the tradition. But it makes no sense that tradition must stay unchanged. It’s true that I’m accustomed to the old ways of celebrating Spring Festival, but it’s equally true that I’m willing to embrace changes. Spend time shopping and playing in the city with your closest family members or interact with the full spectrum of your relatives and set off fireworks in your hometown? It’s up to you.