**How the Moon Festival was started.**

**Chinese Folk Tale.**

Once upon a time, ten suns rose in the sky, scorching many crops and people to death. A brave man called Hou Yi came to rescue them.

He excelled at archery and shot down nine of the suns. Only one sun was left in the sky to give people light and warmth.

On hearing of this amazing feat, people came from far and wide to admire Yi. Among his admirers was Pang Meng, whom Yi accepted as his apprentice.

Even the immortals noticed Hou Yi. One day, the Queen of Heaven came down to earth. She told Yi that as a reward for his bravery, the gods would give him an elixir of immortality, so that he could drink it and join them in Heaven.

But Yi was married to a beautiful and kind woman, Chang E, who he dearly loved. He wanted to become immortal, but he wanted to spend his life with her more. So he gave the elixir to his wife and asked her to hide it away.

But Pang Meng broke into Yi’s house while he was away, and demanded the elixir. Chang E couldn’t fight him, but she wouldn’t allow such a man to have the elixir. She drank it herself and immediately ascended into the skies.

When Hou Yi didn’t find his wife at home, he went looking for her. The night was bright with the full moon rising high above him.

Yi looked up and was amazed to see a figure which looked just like his wife appear on the moon! Chang E’s love for Hou Yi drew her towards the Moon, which was the nearest place to the earth in the heavens.

Upon realizing what had happened, Hou Yi brought his wife’s favorite foods, cakes and fruit, out in the moonlight to share with her.

On hearing the story, many people started participated in bringing their offerings to the moon