

## Mid-Autumn festival

zhōngqiūjié

中 秋 节



on the 15th day of the eighth Chinese calendar, which is in early October in the Gregorian date that parallels the autumnal solar calendar, when the moon is roundest. The traditional food of mooncake, of which there are varieties.



The Mid-Autumn Festival is held month in the September or calendar. It is a equinox of the at its fullest and this festival is the many different

The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the few most important holidays in the Chinese calendar, the others being Chinese New Year and Winter Solstice, and is a legal holiday in several countries. Farmers celebrate the end of the fall harvesting season on this date. Traditionally on this day, Chinese family members and friends will gather to admire the bright mid-autumn harvest moon, and eat moon cakes and pomelos under the moon together. Accompanying the celebration, there are additional cultural or regional customs, such as:

- Carrying brightly lit lanterns, lighting lanterns on towers, floating sky lanterns
- Burning incense in reverence to deities including Chang'e (嫦娥)
- Erect the Mid-Autumn Festival.(树中秋, 竖中秋) It is not about planting trees but hanging lanterns on the bamboo pole and putting them on a high point, such as roofs, trees, terraces, etc. It is a custom in Guangzhou, Hong Kong, etc.
- Collecting dandelion leaves and distributing them evenly among family members
- Fire Dragon Dances

jìngyè sī  
静夜思

## Tranquil Night Thoughts

\*\*\*\*\*

静夜思

李白

床前明月光，  
疑是地上霜。  
举头望明月，  
低头思故乡。

\*\*\*\*\*

Li, Bai was a Chinese poet. He is regarded one of the greatest poets in China's Tang period, which is often considered China's golden age of poetry. He was part of the group of Chinese scholars called the "Eight Immortals of the Wine Cup" in a poem by fellow poet Du Fu. Approximately 1,100 poems attributed to Li Bai remain today.



as



Li, Bai travelled extensively "looking for patrons", during which became well known for his consumption of wine, served for brief periods under the emperor, and made his living through his poetry.

In China, his poem "Tranquil Night Thoughts" reflects nostalgia experienced by travelers far away from home, and has been widely "memorized by school children and quoted by adults".

jìngyèsī

静夜思

Tranquil Night Thoughts

lǐ bái

李白

Li Bai

chuáng 床	qián 前	míng 明	yuè 月	guāng 光
bed	in front of	bright	moon	light
The moonlight in front of my bed today is so bright				
yí 疑	shì 是	dì 地	shàng 上	shuāng 霜
wonder	be	ground	on	frost
I wonder if it is frost on the ground				
jǔ 举	tóu 头	wàng 望	míng 明	yuè 月
rise	head	watch	bright	moon
While watching the bright moon				
dī 低	tóu 头	sī 思	gùxiāng 故乡	
lower	head	miss	homeland	
I cannot help missing my homeland				

A Tranquil Night

A bed, I see a silver light,

I wonder if it's frost aground.

Looking up, I find the moon bright;

Bowing, in homesickness I'm drowned.

(a translation by a Chinese poet)

Confucius Institute for Business London (CIBL)

Address: Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE

Website: [www.lse.ac.uk/confucius](http://www.lse.ac.uk/confucius)

Tel: +44 (0)20 7955 6126

Fax: +44 (0)20 7955 6154

E-mail: [h.lu1@lse.ac.uk](mailto:h.lu1@lse.ac.uk)

## shuǐdiào gē tóu

水调歌头

Water accent song first

The first part of the water-accent song



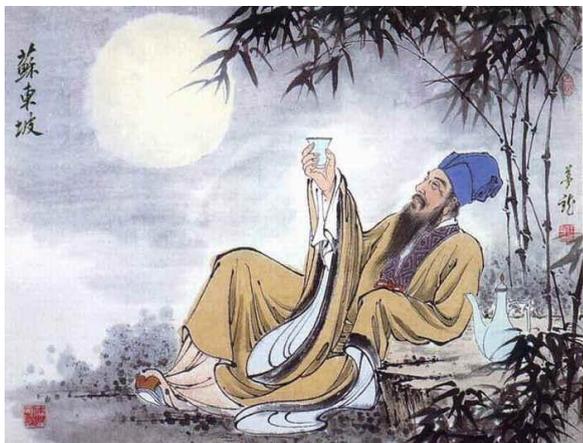
\*\*\*\*\*

水调歌头  
苏轼

明月几时有？把酒问青天。  
不知天上宫阙，今夕是何年。  
我欲乘风归去，  
又恐琼楼玉宇，高处不胜寒。  
起舞弄清影，何似在人间！

转朱阁，低绮户，照无眠。  
不应有恨，何事长向别时圆？  
人有悲欢离合，  
月有阴晴圆缺，此事古难全。  
但愿人长久，千里共婵娟。

\*\*\*\*\*



**Su Shi** (January 8, 1037 – August 24, 1101) was a writer, poet, artist, calligrapher, pharmacologist and statesman of the Song Dynasty, and one of the major poets of the Song era. His courtesy name was Zizhan and his pseudonym was Dongpo Jushi, and he is often referred to as Su Dongpo. Besides his renowned poetry, his other existent writings are of great value in the understanding of 11th century Chinese travel literature as well as details of the 11th century Chinese iron industry.

shuǐdiào gē tóu

水调歌头

Water accent song first  
The first part of the water-accent song

sūshì

苏轼

míng	yuè	jǐ shí	yǒu		
明	月	几时	有		
bright	moon	when	have		
When will the moon be clear and bright?					
bǎ	jiǔ	wèn	qīngtiān		
把	酒	问	青天		
hold	wine	ask	heaven		
With a cup of wine in my hand, I ask the blue sky.					
bù	zhī	tiānshàng	gōngquè		
不	知	天上	宫阙		
no	know	in the heaven	palace		
I don't know in the heavens					
jīn xī	shì	hé	nián		
今夕	是	何	年		
tonight	be	which	year		
What season it would be on this night.					
wǒ	yù	chéng	fēng	guī	qù
我	欲	乘	风	归	去
I	want	ride	wind	return	back
I'd like to ride the wind to fly home.					
yòu	kǒng	qióng	lóu	yù	yǔ
又	恐	琼	楼	玉	宇
but	afraid	jasper	palace	jade	pavilion
Yet I fear the crystal and jade mansions					
gāo	chù	bù	shèng	hán	
高	处	不	胜	寒	
high	place	no	bear	cold	
are much too high and cold for me.					
qǐ	wǔ	nòng	qīng	yǐng	
起	舞	弄	清	影	
start	dance	with	clear	shadow	

Dancing with my moon-lit shadow			
hé	sì	zài	rénjiān
何	似	在	人 间
no	like	in	world
It does not seem like the human world			

zhuǎn	zhū	gé				
转	朱	阁				
turn	red	pavilion				
The moon rounds the red mansion						
dī	qǐ	hù				
低	绮	户				
linger	Silk-pad	window				
Stoops to silk-pad doors						
zhào	wú	mián				
照	无	眠				
shine	not	sleep				
The moon is as sleepless as me						
bù	yìng	yǒu	hèn			
不	应	有	恨			
no	should	have	grudge			
There should not be grudge						
hé	shì	cháng	xiàng	bié	shí	yuán
何	事	长	向	别	时	圆
which	matter	always	near	farewell	time	round
Why does the moon tend to be full when people are apart?						
rén	yǒu	bēi	huān	lí	hé	
人	有	悲	欢	离	合	
people	have	sorrow	happy	farewell	reunite	
People may have sorrow or joy, be near or far apart						
yuè	yǒu	yīn	qíng	yuán	quē	
月	有	阴	晴	圆	缺	
moon	have	cloudy	sunny	wax	wane	
The moon may be dim or bright, wax or wane						
cǐ	shì	gǔ	nán	quán		
此	事	古	难	全		
this	matter	ancient	difficult	perfect		
This has been going on since the beginning of time						
dànyuàn	rén	chángjiǔ				
但 愿	人	长 久				

wish	people	long live	
May we all be blessed with longevity Though far apart,			
qiān 千	lǐ 里	gòng 共	chánjuān 婵娟
thousand	li	togethe r	moon
share the beauty of the moon together.			



nipic.com/wlala