Tết

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For as long as I can remember, every February or so, my family and I have celebrated the joyous Tết with festivities, wishes, and delicious food. Tết is extremely important in my country, my culture, and my life.

There are countless aspects that differ Tết from other holidays.

Every year, my siblings and I rush down the stairs to the kitchen table, where several delicious Vietnamese dishes await us on plates and pots. Our eyes gleam upon traveling over the steaming pot of pork stew, large platters of spring rolls, bowls of rice, along with various side dishes and desserts.

Every year, all the children line up in front of our couch, where either my parents, grandparents, or uncle are waiting for us. They hold bright red envelopes laced with intricate gold designs or shiny cartoons. How much money is inside? we wonder, eyeing the lì xì with anticipation. To receive the envelopes, however, me and my siblings first have to take turns sharing our New Years Wishes, or Chúc. We wish for the adults to live healthy, live happily, and encounter successes while working. The adults then wish us to do well in school, great health, and good luck.

There are many other things about Tết that make it so unique, but these are the occurrences I remember most. Tết holds a very special place in my heart, and it’s something my family and I will always treasure. ◼