

Sharing by award-winning students

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I think the whole tradition itself is very insightful and intriguing. In England we don't have a traditional day to sweep tombs or go and clean the graves of your loved ones. It is more something that is up to the individual. I partially wish we had this tradition as I feel I would be more in touch with my family who have died, and it would be a nice way to reunite with my more distant relatives who I rarely see.

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What left a strong impression on me from the description of Tomb-Sweeping Day in Taiwan is the fusion of ancient customs with modern technology, particularly the use of apps for digital offerings to ancestors' online memorials. It's a nice illustration of how traditions evolve in the face of technological advancements, while still retaining their cultural significance and values, also it impressed me how Taiwanese people respect the old traditions and their familiars that moved on a long time ago, and try to remember them in their own way.

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The very particularly notable memory of mine and my family for this Tomb-Sweeping Day, as a Taiwanese born and raised in this island, is the fully blown argument where these family members are all screaming, cursing, and namecalling each other. Throughout my life, it is one of the worst days I could ever imagine. My mother is always told to go to do this tomb-sweeping "duty" with other aunts. However, she is in extremely bad relationships with all of them. Actually, from my point of view, they all hate each other. They used to hold grudges against each other while faking it to make their relationships look relatively okay. Now, they don't even try to fake it anymore. The only reason why these aunts and my mother are still told to and agreed on doing the tomp-sweeping is that an uncle is literally unhinged for everything related to ancestor worshipping. He will blow up these aunts and my mother's phones if they dare not to show up. He has done some very questionable things before. Every family member of this family doesn't want to trigger him in fear of his unpredicted behaviors. As for me, I grew up in this household. I needed to endure all the "negative feelings" from my mother when she was back home from the tomb-sweeping. I would be dumped very unbearable anger by her, followed by whatever punishments she came up with. Now, I have zero feelings for all sorts of traditional rituals or anything. They are all meaningless to me because of my upbringing and the fact that I just do not care about any single one of them. Others are free to feel whatever they like, and I am also free to regard all of these traditions as the most ridiculous things in Taiwan.