мошнее приснилось, и никогда его не было? Слышал я у монголов такую басню. Один монах, звали его Гунжуур, видел себя во сне ласточкой, беспечно скользящей над весенней степью. Проснулся, и не может понять, кто же он такой – лежащий на кошме монах Гунжуур, которому снилась ласточка, или ласточка, которой видится во сне какой-то монах Гунжуур. Вот так и со мной…

Теперь отца нет. Нет и всех тех, о ком написал он в зеленой тетради, давно никого нет. Но что значит «нет»? Где их нет? Как может не быть того, кто был?

Буддисты учат: никто никогда не жил в прошлом, как никто никогда не будет жить в будущем. Форма любой жизни – только настоящее.

О том же в «Исповеди» Блаженный Августин: «Если и будущее, и прошлое существуют, я хочу знать, где они. Если мне еще не по силам это знание, то все же я знаю, что где бы они ни были, они там не прошлое и будущее, а настоящее. Если и там будущее есть будущее, то его там еще нет; если прошлое и там прошлое, его там уже нет. Где бы, следовательно, они ни были, каковы бы они ни были, но они существуют только как настоящее.

Для истинной жизни эта жизнь слишком коротка. Слишком быстро тело становится изношенным платьем.

Но одна заря сменяет другую, жизнь вечерняя переходит в жизнь утреннюю. Так и остались все они там, в степи, частью природы, живут дальше в ином каком-то обличье. Кто прочтет – и людей тех помнит.
The above has said that there are many traditions for such a significant festival. Yes, it is. From the 23rd December to the end of this month, we get different tasks for each day to prepare for Spring Festival, and I will introduce them in detail.

On the 23rd December, we eat sesame candies. This is a kind of belief in old days, but the tradition has been preserved. It is said that on that day, the fairy couple, who are responsible for protecting our kitchen, will go to heaven to pay a formal visit to the Jade Emperor. We hope they could say something sweet to the Jade Emperor, so that he will bless us. We believe that candies can make their mouths sweet, so we usually consecrate sesame candies to the couple. Only after the consecration can we eat the candies. However, not all families now consecrate the fairy couple, but the tradition of eating sesame candies on the 23rd December is observed.

On the 24th December, we clean our house. For welcoming the New Year, everything should be clean and clear. Almost all family members on that day will participate in the cleaning. It may dirty, but we all enjoy the work, because it’s worth happy to work with dear family members and finally, everything is clean.

On the 25th December, we prepare meat. Meat is a must in Spring Festival no matter in old days or nowadays. Generally, we buy pork, beef, mutton, chicken, duck, fish, etc. However, some families choose to butcher them by themselves, and the festival atmosphere will be stronger. These meat are boiled or fried and are waiting to be cooked during the holiday. In addition to meat, there are also fried meatballs, vegetableballs, as well as sweet potato balls. I love this day very much, for I love eating these fried balls.

On the 26th December, we prepare steamed buns. They are not just for one day of a family, but for the whole holiday and including other relatives who will come to visit us during the holiday. Thus, it’s a large quantity. Except for steamed bun with vegetable stuffing, meat stuffing and sweet red bean stuffing, we make a kind of buns with jujubes, which looks like sunflowers and are used for consecration.

On the 27th December, we go to shopping mall to purchase new clothes and other stuff. Nowadays, Spring Festival is increasingly becoming a spending holiday. Shopping malls and markets are more crowded than usual. Even so, we still happy, because it is Spring Festival. In old days, we were too poor to buy new clothes in ordinary life. Nevertheless, since Spring Festival is the first day of a year, and everything new means a good start of one year, we got new clothes only in Spring Festival. Although now we can wear new clothes casually, the tradition and the belief have been reserved.

On the 28th December, we paste Spring Festival couplets and pictures. Some families also hang red lanterns and Chinese knots. Since red in China stands for auspiciousness and propitiousness, Spring Festival is also a festival that is surrounded by red color. The couplets contain the nice wishes for the coming New Year, and the pictures are usually ancient celebrated heroes, whom we believe can protect our families and bring us blessing.

On the 29th December, we prepare alcohol, which is as well a must in Spring Festival. We always believe that alcohol can help us deepen our relationships. During Spring Festival, there must be many gatherings, and alcohol is indispensable. Consequently, the probability of traffic accident is getting higher. Spring Festival is auspicious, while accidents are ominous. Thus, remember, no driving after drinking!
Here comes the last day of the year – the 30th December, which we call New Year’s Eve. The most important two things on this day are reunion dinner and the annual Spring Festival Gala. For reunion dinner, jiaozi is indispensable, which is also the symbol of auspiciousness and propitiousness. The Spring Festival Gala is the largest-scale gala organized by CCTV. It has accompanied us for 32 nights. Wherever we are, we will watch it. It is just like a link, linking us with our dear families, making us feel warm and happy.

Yet, in lunar calendar, December has only 29 days in some years, and then the 29th December is the New Year’s Eve.

Well, the above are the traditions of our Spring Festival, but the order is not observed strictly, except the 23rd December. The most interesting and exciting times in my opinion is the preparation time for New Year. And now you have known this, are you willing to experience it yourselves?