



Diwali- The Indian Festival of Lights

屠妖節——印度燈節

“Hi, Grandpa Mike. Did you see the new neighbor putting up his Christmas lights?”

“I did see the lights. But, they are not Christmas lights, Granny Beck. The lights are for Diwali, the Indian and Hindu Festival of Lights. Look at their house. They have electric lights outside and clay lamps and candles in the windows. The neighbor said his wife was putting special oil in the lamps to light them after dark.”

「麥克爺爺啊，你有看到新鄰居掛上的耶誕燈飾嗎？」

「我看到燈飾了。但是，貝克奶奶，那些不是耶誕燈飾。那些是屠妖節用的燈飾，也就是印度教的燈節。看看他們的房子。他們在屋外掛電燈，窗戶裡面則擺了油燈及蠟燭。鄰居說，他的妻子在油燈裡加了特殊的油，天黑後才點。」



“But they are not Hindus,” said Granny. “The family goes to the church down the street.”

“His wife’s parents live with them, and they are Hindu. Besides, you do not have to be Hindu to celebrate a holiday from India. Many people around the world celebrate the holiday. Last year even President Obama invited people to come to the White House to celebrate the holiday.”

“Okay, Grandpa Mike. How did you know that?” asked Granny Beck.

“After the neighbor and I talked, I looked the holiday up on my computer,” admitted Grandpa.

「但他們不是印度教徒啊，」奶奶說。「那家人都到街尾的教堂聚會。」

「他妻子的父母跟他們住在一起，長輩是印度教徒。而且，你不是印度教徒也可以慶祝印度的節日。世界上很多人都會慶祝這個節日。去年，就連歐巴馬總統都邀請大家到白宮慶祝印度燈節。」

「是喔，麥克爺爺。你又怎麼會知道這些？」貝克奶奶問。

「我跟鄰居聊過天後，用電腦查了這個節日，」爺爺承認。





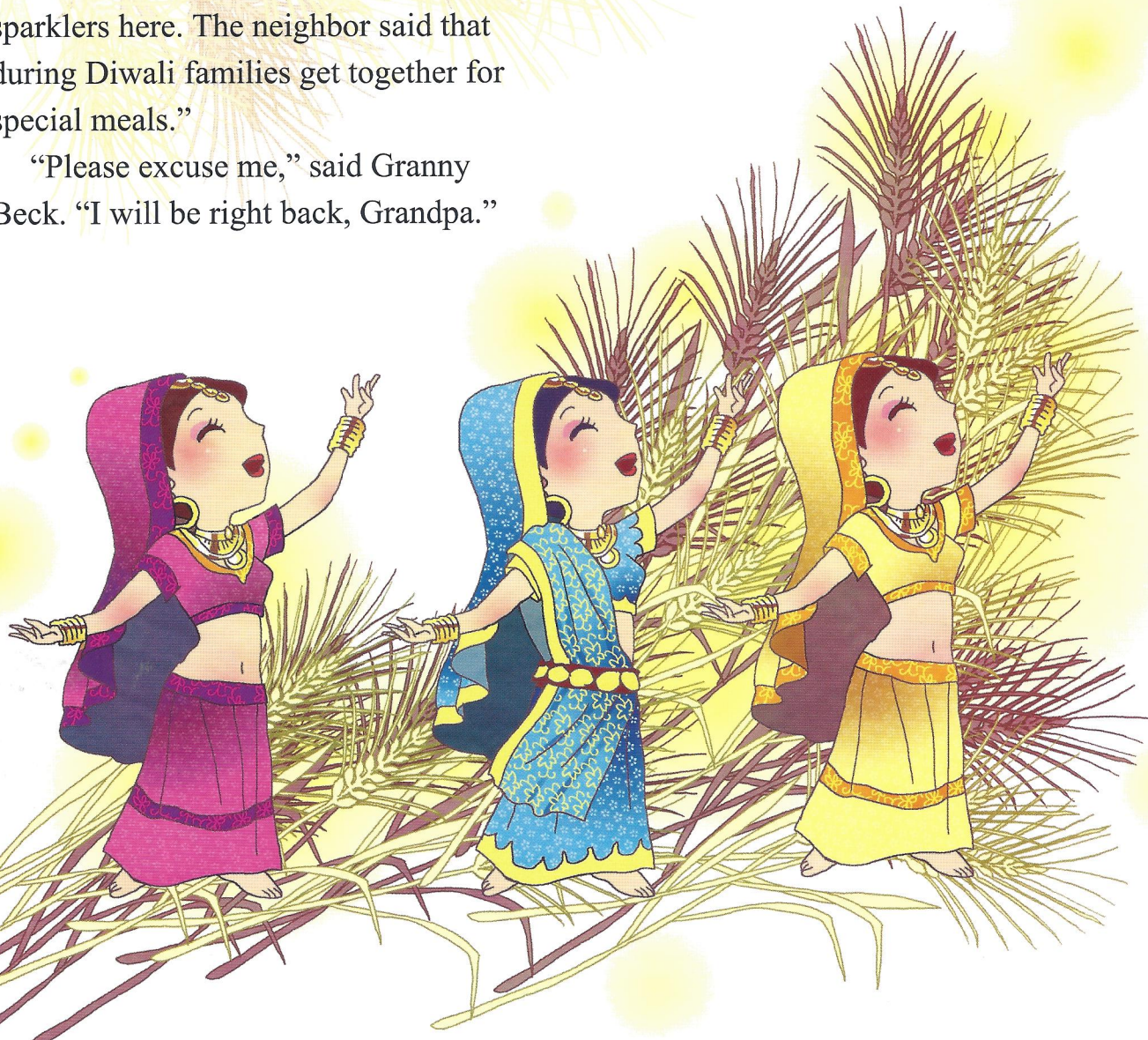
“Hindus and Buddhists celebrate the triumph of good over evil at Diwali. Other Indians celebrate the holiday like we hold Thanksgiving. It is like a harvest festival. People say prayers of thanks for the bounty they have and for the good harvest. In India, Diwali is held at the time of the rice harvest. The festival lasts for five days. The first day of the festival, they clean the house and decorate. During the holiday, they play music and dance. In India they even shoot off fireworks. But, they can only light sparklers here. The neighbor said that during Diwali families get together for special meals.”

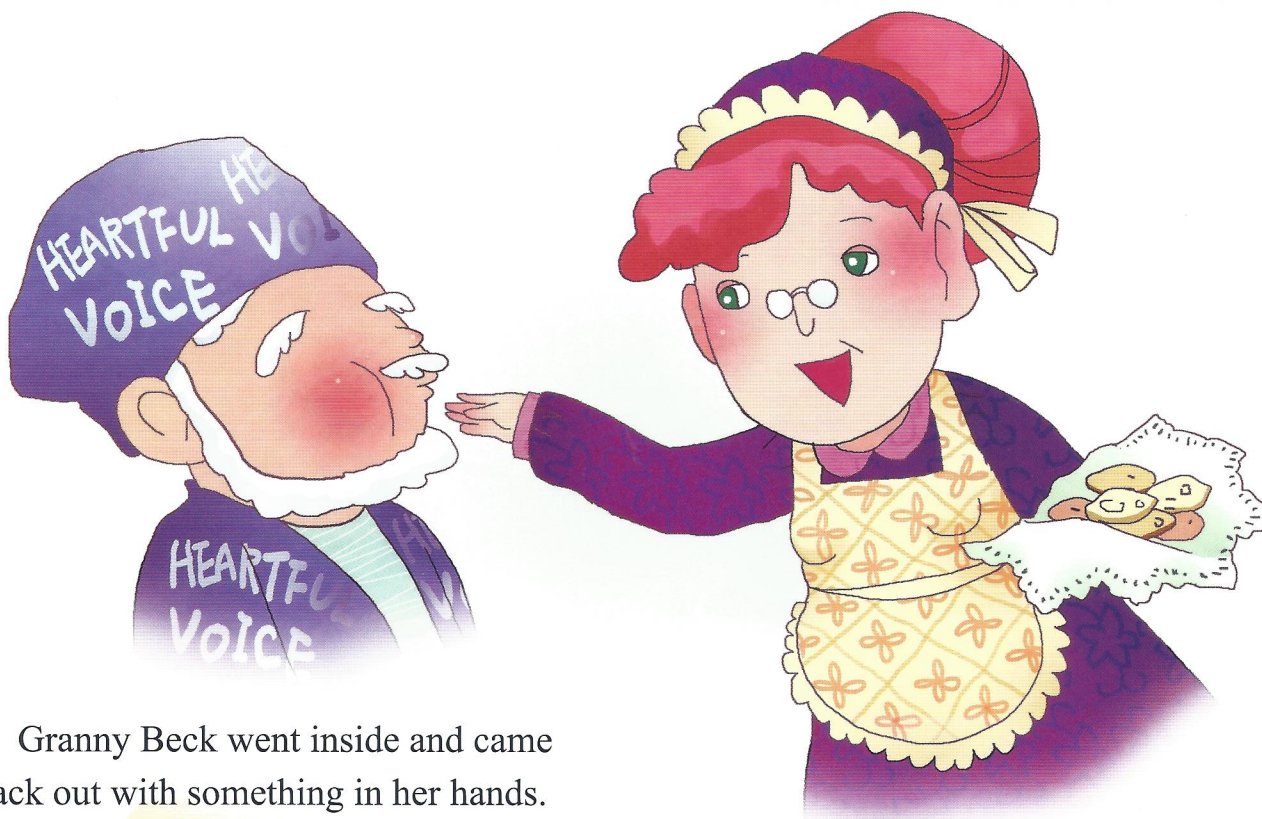
“Please excuse me,” said Granny Beck. “I will be right back, Grandpa.”

「印度教徒與佛教徒會在燈節時慶祝良善戰勝邪惡。其他印度人慶祝這個節日的意義就像我們在慶祝感恩節。可說是豐收的節日。人們禱告感謝獲得的收成，感謝豐收。在印度，燈節與稻米收成的時間相同。節日一連5天。第1天，他們會打掃及裝飾房子。那5天裡面，他們會放音樂以及跳舞。在印度他們甚至會放煙火。但是在這裡他們只能點仙女棒。鄰居說，燈節的時候，全家人會圍爐吃大餐。」

「不好意思，我離開一下，」貝克奶奶說。「爺爺，我馬上回來。」

貝克奶奶進屋去，出來時手裡拿了某





Granny Beck went inside and came back out with something in her hands. She walked to the neighbor's house and knocked on the door. A little while later, she was back with a smile on her face.

"Why did you go to the neighbor's house?" quizzed Grandpa.

"You said their holiday was a little like our Thanksgiving and that they were having a special meal. I took them a jar of our jelly that we make each year. Our neighbor's wife was very happy. She said that eating sweets is a special part of their holiday. Her mother was fixing special flat bread with lentils stuffed inside. It smelled wonderful. Then when I gave them the jelly, they gave me this..."

Granny Beck put a bite of delicious almond fudge candy into Grandpa Mike's mouth.

"Oh, Granny," he said. "I do like learning about new holidays."

樣東西。她走向鄰居家，敲敲門。過了一會兒，她臉上帶著微笑回來。

「妳為什麼去鄰居家？」爺爺好奇的問道。

「你說他們這個節日有點像是我們的感恩節，而且他們會圍爐吃大餐。我拿了一罐我們每年都要做的果醬送他們。鄰居的妻子非常開心。她說吃甜食是他們節日很特殊的一環。她母親正在做夾了扁豆的特殊烤餅。味道好香。結果我給她們果醬的時候，她們給我這個……」

貝克奶奶把一口好好吃的杏仁軟糖塞進麥克爺爺的嘴裡。

「噢，奶奶，」他說，「我真喜歡學習了解新的節日。」

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