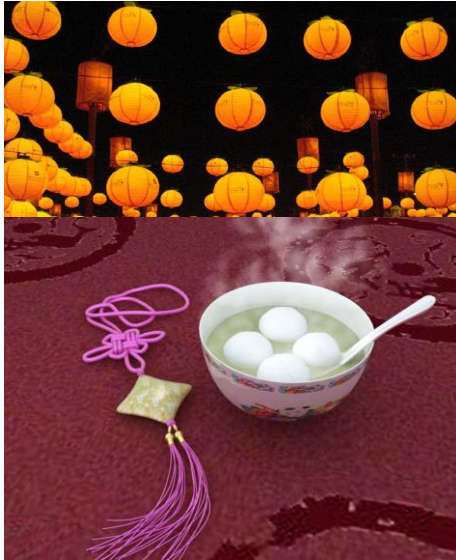


## Lantern Festival

yuánxiāojié

元 宵 节



**Lantern Festival** in China is a festival celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month in the Chinese calendar; it officially ends the Chinese New Year celebrations. During the Lantern Festival, children go out at night to temples carrying paper lanterns and solve riddles written on the lanterns.

The first month of the Chinese calendar is called Yuan month, and in ancient times people called night Xiao; therefore, the day is called Yuan Xiao Festival in China. The fifteenth day is the first night to see a full moon in that lunar year. According to Chinese tradition, at the very beginning of a new year, when there is a bright full moon hanging in the sky, there should be thousands of colourful lanterns hung out for people to appreciate. At this time, people will try to solve puzzles on lanterns,

eat yuanxiao (元宵) and enjoy a family reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

元 宵

(明) 唐寅

有灯无月不娱人，有月无灯不算春。

春到人间人似玉，灯烧月下月如银。

满街珠翠游村女，沸地笙歌赛社神。

不展芳尊开口笑，如何消得此良辰。

\*\*\*\*\*



**Tang Yin** better known by his courtesy name **Tang Bohu** (though it is usually not the custom to address an individual by both surname and courtesy name), was a Chinese scholar, painter, calligrapher, and poet of the Ming Dynasty period whose life story has become a part of popular lore. Even though he was born during Ming Dynasty, Many of his paintings (especially paintings of people) were illustrated with elements from Pre-Tang to Song Dynasty (12th centuries)

# Yuán xiāo

## 元 宵

Táng yín  
唐 寅

yǒu	dēng	wú	yuè	bù	yú	rén
有	灯	无	月	不	娱	人
have	Lantern	Have not	moon	no	entertain	people
Lanterns without moon are not entertainment						
yǒu	yuè	wú	dēng	bù	suàn	chūn
有	月	无	灯	不	算	春
have	moon	Have not	lantern	no	suppose	spring
Moon without lanterns cannot suppose to be spring						
chūn	dào	rénjiān	rén	sì	yù	
春	到	人间	人	似	玉	
spring	arrive	world	people	Be like	jade	
When spring arrives the world, it makes people as beautiful as jade						
dēng	shāo	yuè	xià	yuè	rú	yín
灯	烧	月	下	月	如	银
lantern	light	moon	under	moon	Be like	silver
Moon under shining lanterns is like silver						
mǎn	jiē	zhū	cùi	yóu	cūn	nǚ
满	街	珠	翠	游	村	女
full	street	pearl	emerald	tour	village	woman
The street is full of tourist women from villages, wearing pearls and emeralds						
fèi	dì	shēng	gē	sài	shè shén	
沸	地	笙	歌	赛	社神	
noisy	place	Chinese pipe	song	compete	God of Music	
The noisy sound of voices and instruments everywhere can compete with the God of Music						
bù	zhǎn	fāng zūn	kāi	kǒu	xiào	
不	展	芳尊	开	口	笑	
no	show	Fine wineglass	open	mouth	smile	
If one doesn't drink fine wine and smile						
rú hé	Xiāo dé	cǐ	liáng	chén		
如何	消得	此	良	辰		
How to	pass	this	fantastic	time		
How to pass over this fantastic time						