

Chong Yang Festival

chóngyángjié

重 阳 节

The "Chong Yang Festival" is celebrated on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month, and it is as such known as the Double Ninth Festival. It began as early as the Warring States Period (475 - 221 BC). According to the yin/yang dichotomy that forms a basis to the Chinese world view, yin represents the elements of darkness and yang represents life and brightness. The number nine is regarded as yang. The ninth day of the ninth month is a double yang day, hence the name "Chong Yang Festival", (Chong means "repeat" in Chinese.) The ninth month also heralds the approach of winter. It is a time when the living need warm clothing, and filial Chinese sons and daughters extended this to make the festival a time for providing winter clothes for their ancestors. The Double Ninth Festival, therefore, also became an occasion to visit the graves of dead family members. Clothes made of paper would then be burnt as offerings.



On the Double Ninth Festival, people customarily climb mountains, appreciate chrysanthemum flowers, drink chrysanthemum wine, and eat double-ninth cakes. The Double Ninth Festival is also the "Old Men Festival". Old people are especially meant to improve their health by taking part in activities on the day of the festival. It is also a time for family get-togethers. It is an occasion to remember one's ancestors, the sacrifices they made and the hardships they underwent. Often, family outings are organised during which people search to renew their appreciation of nature and to reaffirm their love and concern for family members and close friends.

九月九日忆山东兄弟

王维

独在异乡为异客，

每逢佳节倍思亲。

遥知兄弟登高处，

遍插茱萸少一人。



Wang, Wei (699–759) was a Chinese poet, musician, painter, and statesman from the Tang Dynasty. He was one of the most famous men of arts and letters of his time. His paintings survived only in later copies by other artists, but numerous poems were preserved and some were included in the highly influential 18th century anthology, 'Three Hundred Tang Poems'.

jiǔ yuè jiǔ rì yì shāndōng xiōngdì

九月九日 忆 山东 兄弟

Ninth month ninth day miss mountain north elder-brother little-brother
Miss Brothers in Shandong Province in the Double Ninth Festival

wángwéi

王 维

Wang Wei

dú	zài	yì	xiāng	wéi	yì	kè
独	在	异	乡	为	异	客
lonely	in	strange	country	be	strange	guest
A lonely stranger in a strange country						
měi	féng	jiā	jié	bèi	sī	qīn
每	逢	佳	节	倍	思	亲
often	occasion	joyful	festival	double	miss	family
Often feels especially homesick on festivals.						
yáo	zhī	xiōng	dì	dēng	gāo	chù
遥	知	兄	弟	登	高	处
distance	know	elder-brother	Little-brother	climb	high	place
I know from a distance that my brothers will climb high						
biàn	chā	zhūyú		shǎo	yī	rén
遍	插	茱萸		少	一	人
all	wear	evodia		absent	one	person
While all of them wear evodia, I am the only one absent						

