

Thailand's Songkran Festival!

Scene: In Thailand, two students talk. The man doesn't know much about Thai culture.

W: Are you excited about tomorrow? I guess it'll be your first time experiencing the Songkran Festival, right?

M: Yes, exactly! **Correct me if I'm wrong**: it's a water festival, right?

W: Simply speaking, yes! But actually, it's not only a water festival, but also a traditional Thai New Year based on **the lunar calendar**. So, **in a sense**, there's something more than people **splashing water** on others, something more than how it is **portrayed** to foreigners, I think.

M: Uhm, I see. What else do people do during the festival, then?

W: Well, the festival indeed takes place for around three days, typically from the 13th to the 15th of April. Traditionally on the first day, it's also an official **National Elderly Day**, so young people pour **fragrant** water into the senior citizens' **palms** as a gesture of **humility**, and ask for their **blessings**. This is called **the Rod Nam Dum Hua ritual**. People also go to temples and give **alms** to the monks, as well as 'bathing the Buddha image'.

M: Bathing the Buddha image?!?! That sounds interesting!

W: Well, it might not be as interesting as it sounds, but basically people pour fragrant water over Buddha statues.

M: I see! Why does it have to be water, by the way?

W: Water is **symbolically** a tool to wash off all the **misfortunes** from the past year. So, you can welcome the new year with a fresh beginning! But you know, things have changed over time, so the present practice of this festival is quite different from the traditional ones.

M: What do you mean? Hahaha

W: Well, just one warning, if you walk out on the street, you will get wet, 100%!

M: Ohhhhhh, I'd better be prepared!!!

(Written by Pornphan WAJJWALKU (Pin))

*** It's a Good Expression ***

(今回の重要表現)

Correct me if I'm wrong

間違っていたらごめんなさい

the lunar calendar

太陰暦

in a sense

ある意味では

splashing water

水しぶきを上げる

portray

描く、説明する

National Elderly Day

敬老の日

※National Senior Citizens Day とも言う。

fragrant

芳しい、香りのする

palms

手のひら

humility

謙遜、謙虚

blessings

祝福

the Rod Nam Dum Hua ritual

ロッド・ナム・ダム・ファの儀式

※ソンクラーン（タイの旧正月）の初日に、年長者の手に水をかけてお清めをする風習。

alms

施し物

symbolically

象徴的に

misfortune

不幸