



WKHT OF HAWAII

ESTABLISHED IN 1902

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2024

wkhtofhawaii.com



Reilly, Fiona. "How to Host a Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Feast." Serious Eats, Serious Eats, 10 Aug. 2018, www.seriouseats.com/mid-autumn-festival-feast.



Mid-Autumn Festival

By Yvonne Awai



I love all Chinese festivals and celebrations, but the Mid-Autumn, or Moon Festival, holds a special place in my heart. When I was a child, my mom would take the day off from work to shop and prepare the Moon Festival Feast with my Grandma. After school, my sister, brother, and I had to rush to Grandma 's house to help cut, chop, stuff, stir, and steam the dishes. The delicious scents filled the house and made my mouth water in anticipation.

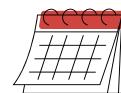
Popo Wong, the matriarch of our family, was my grandma's mother, and she supervised the culinary magic. Grandma and Mom did not look at recipes, they just knew what to add to each dish. As the sun started to set, we would start to set the table. Gorgeous yellow chrysanthemums in the center surrounded by symbolic dishes to celebrate family, reunion, and harvest. Around sixty relatives would start to arrive, which included thirty-one cousins, to celebrate the Moon Festival.

Our feast included homemade bird nest soup, fish cake patties, shrimp tempura, roast pork, char sui, steamed mullet covered with shoyu and hot oil, roast duck with hoi sin sauce, sliced taro with pork, pomelo (blook), and my favorite, river snails from Kauai. After the feast, a wide variety of moon cake would be set out. Cantonese-style mooncakes traditionally feature a tender pastry crust wrapped around delicious fillings like lotus seed paste, red beans (azuki), coconut paste, wintermelon, and nuts. Moon cakes are also made with or without salted duck egg yolks, which symbolize the moon. My siblings, cousins, and I would go outside and gaze at the beautiful moon and eat moon cake.

While some of my relatives gushed with delight in picking a moon cake that contained a double yolk, I wondered why they didn't make moon cakes without them. Recently I told my mom how I would poke the yolk out. Mom said that's the best part, but I disagree. Today, mom and I split the moon cake. I cut it and carefully poke out the yolks. I eat the moon cake without the yolk, and mom eats the moon cake with all the yolks!

Upcoming Events

Mark
YOUR
Calendar



Thursday, October 10th ~
Chinatown Community
Foundation 16th Annual Charity
Invitational Golf Tournament
Hoakalei Country Club
9:30 AM



November 9, 10, or 11 -
Tour of Chinatown
Meet at Hawai'i Heritage
Center
1040 Smith Street
9:15 AM



Saturday, November 16th ~
General Membership Meeting at
Ali'ioli Elementary
1240 7th Avenue
10 AM



Sunday, November 24th ~
Movie: Crazy Rich Asians
Capitol Place Theater
1200 Queen Emma Street
1:30-5 PM



Sunday, December 1st ~
Christmas Party at
Oahu Country Club
150 Country Club Road
10 AM to 2 PM



Mid-Autumn Festival Banquet

The Annual Mid-Autumn Festival Banquet took place at Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant on Saturday, September 7th. The festival honors harvest and family traditions in Chinese culture. Jade Dynasty served a delightful 7-course dinner and a mango pudding fish for dessert.

Three members purchased an entire table at the banquet. In appreciation, they were gifted with a box of assorted moon cakes from Elvin's Bakery. Instead of floral centerpieces, I ordered wooden trays and covered them with the mini moon cake favors. The centerpiece was a mango wood tray adorned with the Wong character and chrysanthemum, which is a popular autumn flower in China that symbolizes longevity, happiness, and vitality. We played a Left Right Story game to determine the winner of the centerpieces. It's the first time Jade Dynasty was so quiet as everyone listened attentively to the story. Kiara Sakamoto, the Fuzzologist from the Oo Syak Gee Lu Society, handcrafted the centerpieces. Congratulations to the lucky winners!

Doaj to Wayne Wong for blessing our dinner, and to Laurie and Mia Wong for welcoming members and their guests at the Reception Table.

A very special shout out to the Social Committee who helped make my first Mid-Autumn Banquet a success: Edna Wong for purchasing the Planter's nuts and organizing the seating charts and menus on each table, Kim Wong Balisacan for purchasing drinks for the refreshment station and making the delicious sherbert punch, and Mae Chun for the marvelous mini mooncake favors from Elvin's Bakery.

~ Yvonne Leong Awai



The Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the 15th day of China's 8th lunar month, traditionally China's harvest time. Every home prepares various foods to celebrate the festival. The most popular Mid-Autumn Festival foods have symbolic meaning.

The **mooncake** remains the most popular food eaten during the Mid-Autumn Festival. Its round shape, like the full moon, symbolizes family reunion. On the night of the festival, all families share mooncakes when they admire the moon.

Many places in China have the custom of eating **duck** during the Mid-Autumn Festival. It is not only because of the health benefits of duck but also an old folk tale. In the middle of the 14th century, the Han people decided to fight against the brutal Mongolians who were called Dazi (鞑子 Dázi), which sounds like 'duck' (鸭子 yāzi) in a local Northern dialect. So, 'eat ducks' was a code phrase used for a secret mission against the Mongolian Yuan Dynasty that occurred during the Mid-Autumn Festival in 1368, when the Yuan were overthrown.

Fall is also the best time to eat **hairy crabs**. So, it is a special seasonal delicacy for the Mid-Autumn Festival. It is the highlight of reunion dinners, especially around Shanghai.

'Taro' in a local southern dialect sounds like 'the coming of good fortune'. Eating taro during the Mid-Autumn Festival is believed to dispel bad luck and bring good luck and wealth. The tradition began during the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911).

Lotus root is an auspicious food due to its name and texture. Its Chinese name, 莲藕 (lián ǒu), means 'togetherness' (连 lián) and a 'pair' (偶 ǒu). Its delicate fibrous threads symbolize the strong bonds of families.



www.chinahighlights.com

The tradition of eating **pumpkins** is followed by people 'South of the Yangtze River'. Some believe that during ancient times poor families made pumpkin cake, as they couldn't afford mooncakes. Others believed eating pumpkin can restore health, which is related to a legend regarding an old couple who were sick from lack of food. Their daughter brought a pumpkin home and served it to her parents. Surprisingly, her sick parents recovered after eating it.

River snails are an indispensable food for a Mid-Autumn Festival dinner for people in Guangzhou and Hong Kong. Eating river snails is believed to assure a good harvest, drive away bad luck, and bring health benefits, such as brightening the eyes.

Drinking wine fermented with **osmanthus** flowers has a long history in China. Chinese people began to drink such wine over 2,000 years ago. Drinking the wine signifies family reunions and happy life.

In Chinese, '**pomelo**' (柚子 youzi) sounds like 游子, which means 'family members away from home'. Eating pomelo at Mid-Autumn Festival symbolizes the return of family members away from home and a family reunion.

Watermelons are essential for Mid-Autumn due to their seeds, which symbolize fertility, and their round shape, representing a family's reunion'.

Fall is the season for **pomegranates**. This beautiful red fruit with hundreds of seeds inside is a symbol of fertility and abundance in Chinese culture. Eating pomegranates at the Mid-Autumn Festival is believed to attract luck and fertility for the family.

Pear (梨 lí) is a homophone for 'separate' (离 lí) in Chinese. It is usually considered an unlucky food, and Chinese people avoid eating it during festivals, except the Mid-Autumn Festival. Eating pears at that festival means to 'eat off the separation', invoking a forever reunion.



June 23rd was a warm Sunday afternoon and the perfect day to relax and watch Kung Fu Panda 4 starring Jack Black, Awkwafina, and Viola Davis, in the air conditioned theater at Capitol Place. About 30 WKHT members enjoyed the adventures of the "Dragon Warrior" while munching on char siu and sweet potato baos, popcorn with arare and li hing powder, and assorted concession snacks. Maisie Wong and her family generously donated panda snacks.

A special thank you to Yvonne and Amanda Awai for use of the theater and popcorn. Gladys Liu, Edna Wong, and Krist Wong volunteered their afternoon to support Brad and I with this event.

As Po, the Kung Fu Panda says, "Be the pit" because the pit holds the strength and potential of a mighty tree.



WKHT Education Awards

By Yvonne Awai
WKHT proudly offers Education Awards to qualified active members who are working on their Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or Doctorate. These awards are given out biannually.

Education Awards Chair Jonathan Wong presented the Education Awards at the 3rd General Membership Meeting on August 17th. One student, Casey Choi, was present to receive his award. Family representatives accepted the awards for the students who could not attend the meeting. Congratulations to all the Fall 2024 Awardees.



United Chinese Society's Annual Family Day Picnic

Kapi'olani Park, August 11, 2024

By Yvonne Awai

It was a lovely day at Kapi'olani Park for the 20 WKHT members who attended the United Chinese Society's (UCS) Annual Family Day Picnic. UCS planned fun activities and games for all ages including kite decorating and flying, the water balloon toss, and my favorite, the Pick Up game. Everyone also enjoyed a lunch made by Eddie Flores of L&L and delicious Redondo hotdogs with chips. WKHT generously donated funds for some of the lucky number prizes and Harvey Wong graciously donated 24 succulent plants.

All the members left with full bellies and lots of prizes.

A special thank you to Edna Wong and Amanda Wong for arriving early to secure the perfect picnic spot and ensuring we all had a wonderful time!

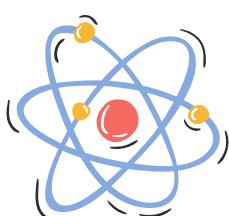


SUN&FUN

The Pick Up Game for the 81+ age group was very exciting to watch!

Wong Kong Har Tong: 50 Years Committed to the Education of Our Youth

By Jonathan Wong



It was nearly 50 years ago that Wong Kong Har Tong (WKHT) Society envisioned supporting our youth in pursuing higher education.

In the 1970s, many of our high school graduates attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa. During that time, tuition was less than \$500.00 per year. Likewise, buying a Loco Moco plate was a dollar!

Today, many of our students are attending and receiving degrees from universities and colleges throughout the continental U.S.A. as well as the University of Hawaii.

Unfortunately, tuition has significantly increased. At the University of Hawaii at Manoa tuition is over \$11,000.00 per year. At many universities and colleges on the continent tuition is more than double this.

Nevertheless, WKHT continues to prioritize their Education Program. Education Awards for a Bachelor's degree is currently \$1800 per year and a Graduate degree is \$2200 per year.

It's you and I as WKHT members, and the WKHT Executive Committee, who understand the value of higher education for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you all, and give yourself a pat on the back. You've not lost sight of helping future generations of Wongs pursue their goals and dreams.

Hopefully, in the future they will find ways to give back to the WKHT Society and the communities they live and work in as well.

MEET & GREET *welcome!*

By Derrick and Gladys Liu

We welcomed three new members who were ratified at our General Membership Meeting on Saturday, August 17, 2024 at Ali'iolani Elementary School.

Sau Fun Wong Lee, Reuben Jun Wing Lee, and Doreen Mew Lung Wong, were sponsored by Arthur KC Wong. Our three new members are the grandmother, uncle, and mother, of current member Landon Wong. Their lineage traces back to Wong Buck Hung, who was a former president of WKHT. We are hopeful that they will be active members who will participate in our future events to perpetuate the purposes and strengths of WKHT.



Sichuan Cultural Performance Troupe Makes Rare Appearance in Hawaii



By Alvin Wong



A trio of face-changing artists highlighted a special appearance of the Sichuan Cultural Performance Troupe on September 15th at the Hawaii Theatre. Enroute to Los Angeles for China's 75th Anniversary National Day celebration, the troupe made a brief 3-day stopover in Hawaii and delighted the Hawaii audience with a spectacular Hollywood worthy production.

Gorgeous costuming, orchestral music, and talented performers were artfully combined into a 90-minute non-stop production. In addition to the fan favorite face-changing trio, the producers also showcased some new numbers, such as a unique combination of acrobatics and ballet and spectacular 6-foot puppets with long silk sleeves dancing to the choreography of modern Chinese music. The finale wrapped up the performance with a revue of the entire cast dancing and singing to the theme of "The World is a Circle of Friends." In lieu of a final curtain call, the grateful performers threw small panda dolls to the audience as mementoes of this rare and wonderful event.

Eddie Flores and Vernon Ching were responsible for organizing the sold out spectacle. Co-sponsoring organizations were Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, US China People's Friendship Association-Honolulu Chapter, and A Better Chinatown Association. Event hosts included Sichuan Overseas Friendship Association and Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Los Angeles. The audience included WKHT members Harvey Wong, Dennis and Annette Wong, Arthur and Gwen Wong, and Alvin and Donna Wong



30th Annual Made in Hawai'i Festival Hawai'i Convention Center August 24, 2024



Gary Wong purchased meat rubs from Absolute Aloha!



Made in Hawai'i was attended by members from a wide range in age - from teens to kupuna. The day started with brunch of an array of delicious dim sum at Jade Dynasty. To make it extra fun, there were prizes to be awarded for shopping, stamina, and social connection.

The walk from Ala Moana to the Convention Center was easy and flat, but the line to enter snaked out the door, down the street and around the cul de sac! Luckily it was a shady wait. Once inside, we were greeted by row upon row of local vendors' booths - over 500! But we were not to be daunted, we had booths to browse, samples to be tested, and selfies to be taken.

The endeavor was not for the faint of heart. It was very crowded. It turns out that 70,000 people attended the festival over three days! For those needing a break, there were cooking demonstrations, comedy by Frank De Lima, and music by local groups. Some had superhuman willpower and spent nothing - preferring to browse and people watch. While others shopped til they dropped.

Krist Wong won for spending the most (greatest supporter of the local economy). Edna Wong won for spending the most at a single vendor (loyal shopper). Yim Foon Wong spread the wealth around to 5 vendors (equal opportunity shopper). Brad and I stayed almost 6 hours and saw every vendor (perseverant shoppers). Amanda Wong, Joe Wong, Yvonne Awai, and Sharleen Kwok took selfies (social butterflies).

It was a successful event that encouraged participation of all ages, making new friends and supporting the local economy.



Delicious dim sum from Jade Dynasty



Afternoon at the Movies: Crazy Rich Asians

This is a popular 2018 American romantic comedy-drama directed by Jon M. Chu, starring Constance Wu, Michelle Yeoh, and Henry Golding.

Date and Time: November 24 at 1:30 PM

Place: Capital Place -

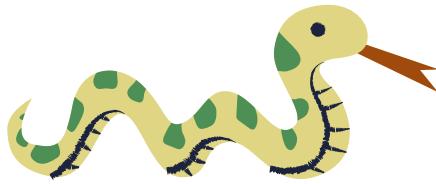
1200 Queen Emma Street (street parking is free on Sundays)

Cost: Free for Active 2024 WKHT members

Reservations: by November 20. Call or text Mae Chun (425)233-4322 with names of members. Limited to 30 seats.

Special Notes: Please arrive promptly to choose your seat and gather your snacks. Please bring your own water bottle.





2025 EVENTS

- **Lunar New Year Parade**
- **Installation Banquet**
- **Chinese New Year Open House**
- **Spring Banquet**
- **Qing Ming Baisan**
- **Visitor Industry Charity Walk**
- **Dragon Boat Festival**
- **Family Day Picnic**
- **Mid-Autumn Festival Banquet**
- **Christmas Party**

RECRUIT

Applying for membership

If you have qualifying family or friends who are interested in joining, the Membership application form is posted on our website <https://wkhtofhawaii.com>. Qualifications for membership are on the application form, and the completed form, including sponsor's signature, must be mailed to: WKHT, PO Box along with a check for \$15.00 per applicant..

The Membership Committee meets quarterly to review applications, and will refer approved applications over for vote by our Executive Board at their quarterly meeting. Applicants approved for membership are then notified of their acceptance for membership, and are ratified at an upcoming General Membership Meeting. Please plan to attend meeting with the applicant(s) you sponsor.



**SIGN UP
TODAY**

2025 ACTIVITY FEE

Renewal of Activity Fee for 2025



Members who wish to be active for 2025 must complete the WKHT 2025 Activity Fee Renewal form which is included in this newsletter and also posted on our website. The deadline is December 31, 2024, and a check payable to WKHT for \$5.00 per member must be included with the completed form. The mailing address is WKHT, PO Box 37249, Honolulu, HI 96837, and is on the bottom of the form. You may also drop off completed form at our upcoming General Membership Meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 16, 2024 at Ali'iolani Elementary School at 10 am.

We love to have many active participants of all ages, and encourage you to join our innumerable activities. Activities are posted on our website, and in our quarterly newsletters.

MID-AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL

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Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

CHANGE
DUCK
FAMILY
FESTIVAL
GOOD LUCK
HAIRY CRABS
HARVEST

LOTUS ROOT
MOON CAKES
MOON GAZING
OSMANTHUS
PEAR
POMEGRANATE
POMELO
PUMPKINS

REUNION
RIVER SNAILS
TARO
WATERMELON

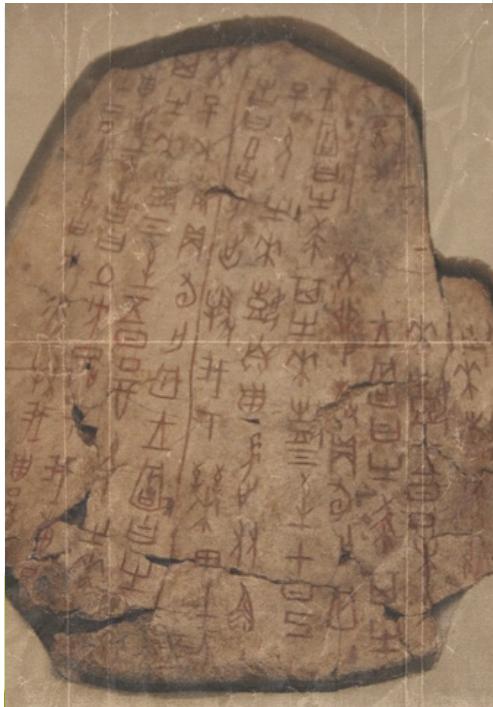




CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY CORNER



THE ART OF CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE THE SHANG DYNASTY IN ANCIENT CHINA. BEING AT LEAST 4000-5000 YEARS OLD, IT WAS FIRST EVIDENT AS INSCRIPTIONS ON ANIMAL ORACLES SUCH AS TORTOISE SHELLS AND ANIMAL BONES.



ORACLE BONE FROM THE BIN
賓 GROUP OF DIVINERS FROM
PERIOD I,
CORRESPONDING TO THE
REIGN OF KING WU DING
(LATE SHANG DYNASTY).

"Oracle Bone." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 Sept. 2024, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oracle_bone.

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田字格

Let's Tour Honolulu's Chinatown

WKHT invites all members to tour historic downtown Chinatown with the knowledgeable guides from the Hawai'i Heritage Center. We will learn about food, history, and culture. Honolulu's Chinatown became a historic district in 1975, and in the 1980's the City and County of Honolulu designated Chinatown as one of Oahu's four Historic, Scenic, and Cultural Districts.

The tour includes entrance to the Hawai'i Heritage Center's Multicultural Gallery, food tastings at local shops and visits to historic sites with an experienced guide. The walking portion is approximately 1.5 hours and can be shortened as necessary for an easy and leisurely tour.

The tour is stroller and walker friendly. There are 8 people per guide, and a limit of 24 people per date.

**Dates: November 9, 10, and 11
(Saturday, Sunday, and Monday
- Veterans Day)**

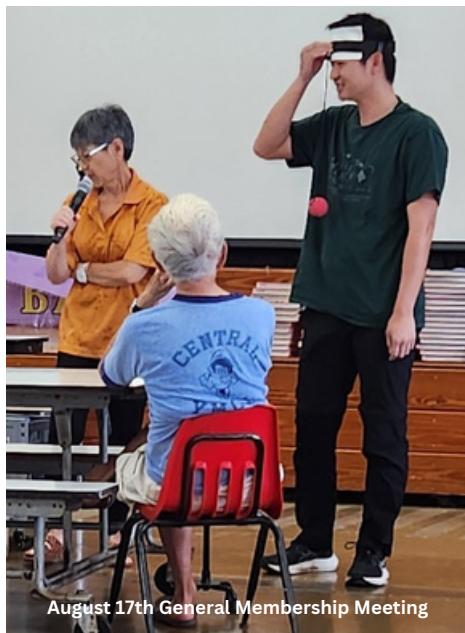
Time: 9:15 AM

**Place: Hawai'i Heritage Center,
1040 Smith Street**

**Cost: Free for Active members
(normally \$35)**

Deadline: November 2nd

**Please call or text Mae Chun at
(425)233-4322 with the preferred
date(s) and name(s) of members.**



August 17th General Membership Meeting

September 1, 2024

Aloha WKHT members,



This serves as notice for the fourth General Membership meeting on Saturday, November 16, 2024 at 10:00 AM, at Ali'iōlani Elementary School Cafetorium.

Please RSVP by November 8, 2024 by one of the following:

- email wkhtofhawaii@yahoo.com
- leave a message at 808-488-4597 - clearly state name(s) attending
- mail a note to 98-058 Lokowai Street, Aiea, HI, 96701 - clearly write name(s) attending

We are not collecting reservation checks for the general membership meetings; however, we do kindly ask that you inform us if you cannot attend once you've RSVP'd.

Friendly reminder: 2024 Activity fee must be paid in order to participate in 2024 events and banquets.



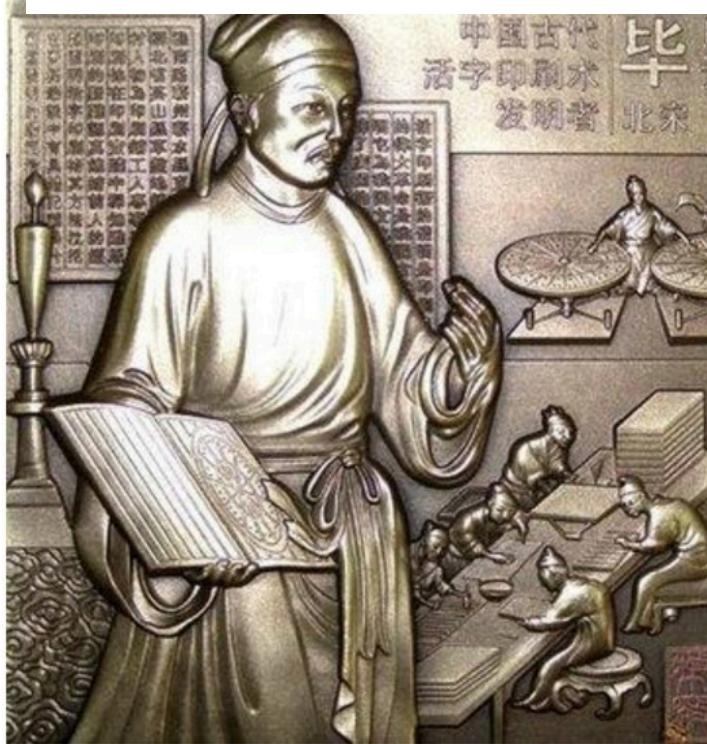
Members played a fun game!

Thank you! Edna Wong

WKHT OF HAWAII
PO BOX 37249
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MOVABLE TYPE PRINTING 969-1279 AD



WOODBLOCK PRINTING WAS ALREADY A WIDELY USED TECHNIQUE IN THE TANG DYNASTY. HOWEVER, THIS KIND OF PRINTING TECH WAS EXPENSIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING. UNTIL THE SONG DYNASTY (960-1279), A MAN NAMED BI SHENG (990-1051) INVENTED MOVABLE TYPE PRINTING, MAKING IT QUICKER AND EASIER. HE FIRST CARVED INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERS ON PIECES OF CLAY AND THEN HARDEN THEM WITH FIRE. THESE MOVABLE TYPE PIECES WERE LATER GLUED TO AN IRON PLATE TO PRINT A PAGE AND THEN BROKEN UP AND REDISTRIBUTED FOR ANOTHER PAGE. THIS KIND OF PRINTING TECH RAPIDLY SPREAD ACROSS EUROPE, LEADING UP TO THE RENAISSANCE, AND LATER ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

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