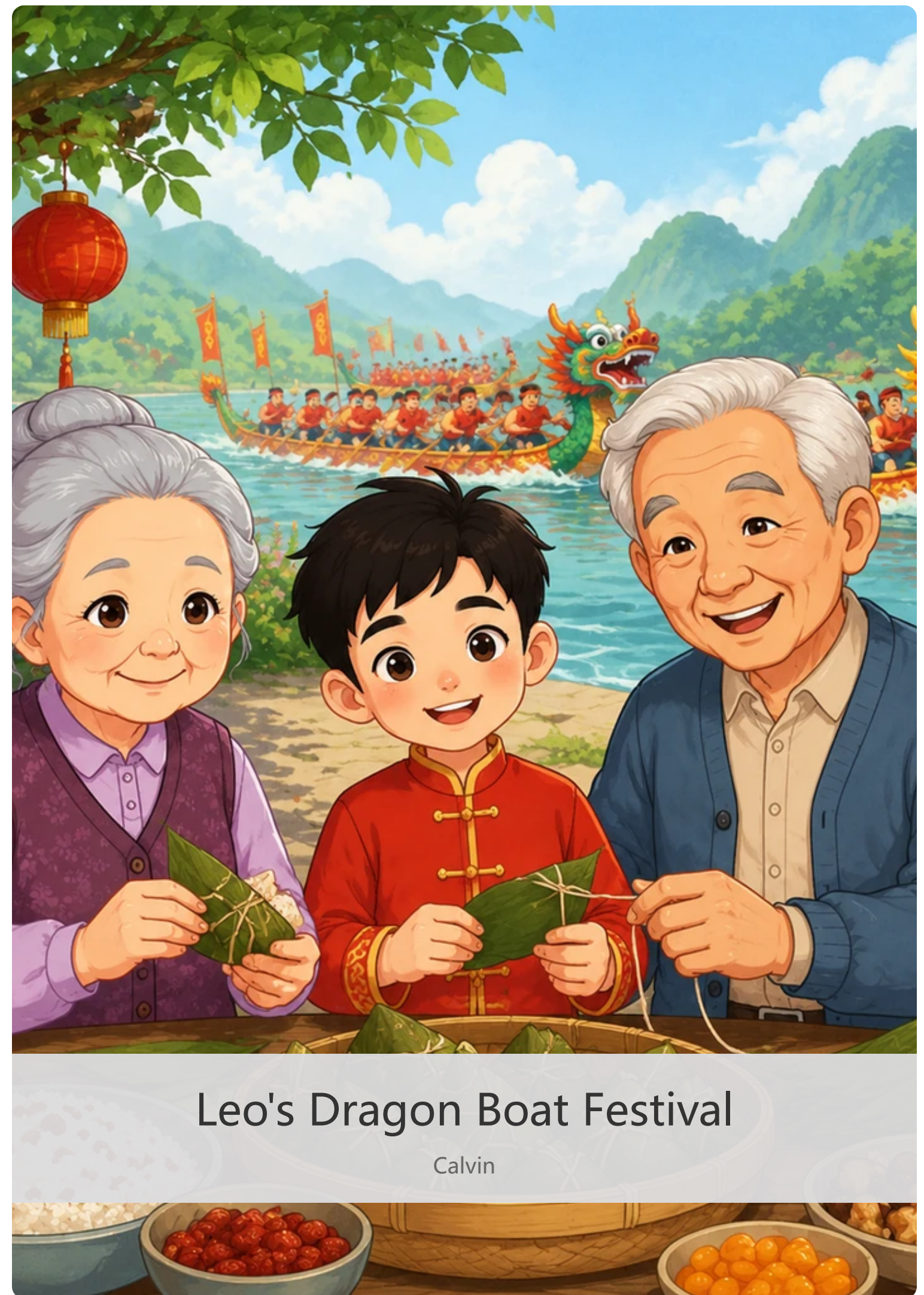




Leo's Dragon Boat Festival

Calvin



The morning sun shines bright as young Leo wakes up with excitement in his heart. Today is a very special day because it is a traditional Chinese festival celebrated by families all around the world.



Leo looks closely at the colorful lunar calendar hanging on the kitchen wall. His mother explains that the Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month.



In the warm kitchen, Grandma lays out shiny green bamboo leaves, sticky rice, and sweet fillings on the wooden table. Leo learns how to fold the leaves neatly to prepare delicious homemade treats with his family.



Steam rises from the pot as the savory aroma of bamboo fills the entire home. We eat zongzi on this day, unwrapping the leafy parcels to enjoy the sweet sticky rice together.



Later in the afternoon, Leo and his family walk down to the crowded riverbank. Colorful banners wave in the breeze as thousands of people gather along the water in cheerful excitement.



Drums beat with a thunderous rhythm as long wooden boats painted like dragons line up at the river. We have a dragon boat race, where fast paddlers row in powerful unison across the shimmering water.



As the golden sun begins to set, the family walks back home together feeling happy and content. We have a reunion dinner with our family, sharing stories, laughter, and delicious food around a grand dining table.



Under the warm glow of the dining room lamp, Grandpa tells Leo the ancient legend behind this meaningful holiday. We celebrate this day to remember Qu Yuan, a historic poet and statesman who loved his country dearly.



Leo listens intently as Grandpa explains how people long ago wrapped rice dumplings to honor Qu Yuan's memory. Learning about the deep history behind the food and races fills Leo with pride and wonder.



As the moon rises into the starry evening sky, Leo hugs his family tightly. It is a wonderful traditional Chinese festival that brings warmth, remembrance, and joyful unity to every heart.