

Malay Transcript:

Keluarga saya merupakan sebuah keluarga Cina tetapi kami mempunyai penganut daripada beberapa agama seperti agama Buddha, agama Katolik, agama Kristian Protestan, agama Islam dan ada juga agama Taoisme. Sebagai contoh, datuk nenek saya merupakan penganut agama Buddha tetapi kebanyakan mak cik saya telah memeluk agama Kristian, dan juga ada mak cik yang telah memeluk agama Islam melalui perkahwinan mereka kepada orang Muslim. Oleh itu, semasa pengumpulan besar keluarga di rumah datuk nenek untuk makan malam bersama-sama, kelihatannya sedikit pelik kerana terdapat mak cik yang memakai tudung iaitu kain yang menyelubungi rambut orang perempuan Muslim. Terdapat juga mak cik dan pak cik yang memakai rantai atau anting-anting yang mempunyai simbol Yesus, dan terdapat mak cik pak cik Buddhist atau Taoist yang memberi penghormatan kepada nenek moyang atau *pai pai*¹ dalam bahasa Hokkien.

Sebahagian besar daripada kawan saya di sekolah menengah juga merupakan orang Cina dan orang Melayu. Saya ingat bahawa semasa hari perayaan agama masing-masing kami akan selalu cuba meraikannya bersama-sama. Contohnya semasa Hari Raya Puasa², iaitu sebuah perayaan penting untuk orang Muslim, rakan Mela.. Melayu kita akan menjemput kami sekelas datang ke rumahnya untuk makan kenduri³. Biasanya kami akan cuba memakai pakaian tradisional Melayu seperti baju kurung atau baju kebaya, dan orang lelaki akan memakai songkok atau baju Melayu. Saya rasa semua ini um menam.. bertambah kepada suasana meriah hari perayaan. Semasa hari Krismas pula, rakan-rakan saya akan saling memberi hadiah walaupun terdapat penganut Buddha atau Islam yang meraikan ini bersama-sama orang Kristian. Praktis ini.. saya rasa praktis ini tidak bermakna mereka tiba-tiba percaya kepada ideologi agama Kristian tetapi lebih pentingnya menunjukkan penerimaan dan sifat keterbukaan masyarakat Malaysia kepada agama yang berlainan dalam negara kita.

English Translation:

My family is a Chinese family but we have followers of many religions like Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam and even Taoism. For example, my grandparents are

¹ “*Pai pai*” merupakan peringkasan frasa Hokkien “*pai san*” yang bermaksud untuk memberi penghormatan. Ini biasanya dilaksanakan dengan bertelut di hadapan meja upacara, persembahan makanan, dan membakar kemenyan.

² Hari Raya Puasa merupakan sebuah perayaan agama orang Muslim yang meraikan keakhiran bulan Ramadan. Ia merupakan sebuah cuti umum di Malaysia.

³ Rumah terbuka atau kenduri merupakan aktiviti komuniti yang diadakan oleh keluarga-keluarga yang meraikan sesebuah perayaan. Keluarga-keluarga ini akan menyediakan makanan kenduri, dan menjemput jiran-jiran, rakan-rakan dan keluarga kepada rumah mereka untuk makan percuma. Keluarga-keluarga ini membukakan rumah mereka kepada ahli-ahli komuniti. Rumah terbuka diadakan semasa ramai perayaan agama di Malaysia seperti Tahun Baru Cina dan Deepavali.

Buddhists but most of my aunts are Christians, and I even have aunts who have converted to Islam through their marriage to Muslim men. During family gatherings at my grandparents' house, there will be aunts wearing headscarves that is the cloth used to cover the hair of Muslim women. There will also be aunts and uncles wearing necklaces or earrings with the cross on them, as well as Buddhist or Taoist aunts and uncles who will be paying respects to their ancestors or *pai pai*⁴ in Hokkien.

Many of my high school friends are ethnic Chinese and Malays. I remember that during our respective religious festivals, we would always try to celebrate together. For example, during *Eid ul-Fitr*⁵, an important celebration for Muslims, our Malay friends would invite the whole class to visit their homes for open-houses⁶. Usually we would try to wear traditional Malay clothing like the *baju kurung* or the *kebaya*, and the boys would wear the *songkok* or the *baju Melayu*. I feel that all this effort adds to the atmosphere of the festivities. During Christmas, my friends and I would exchange gifts even though there were those among them who were Buddhists and Muslims. This practice... I feel that this practice does not mean that they suddenly embraced the religious ideology of Christianity but more importantly, it shows the tolerance and open-mindedness of Malaysian society towards the different religions in the country.

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⁴ “*Pai pai*” is a shortened version of the Hokkien phrase “*pai san*” which means to pay one’s respects. This is usually performed by kneeling in front of an ancestral altar, offering food to the dead, and burning incense.

⁵ *Eid ul-Fitr* is a Muslim religious celebration which marks the end of the fasting month of *Ramadan*. It is a public holiday in Malaysia.

⁶ Open-houses are community events held by families celebrating a particular celebration. The families prepare large buffet-style feasts, and invite neighbors, friends and extended family to their homes for a free meal. The families literally open their houses to the members of the community. Open-houses are held during many religious celebrations in Malaysia such as the Chinese New Year and Deepavali.