

Buddhist Prayer Sticks

Ruby (Shi Jian) Su

In China, most people are Buddhists and believe in the god Buddha. I remember there was a time when my brother went out to play and didn't come back. My mom was so worried about him. What did she do?

She took some prayer sticks and lit them and placed them in a can. The sticks burned until they were burned out. These sticks are usually lit for a special day, such as a full moon, when we also eat meat. But this was a special day to my mom.

Half an hour later, my brother came back.

I didn't know then if the ritual that my mom performed worked and God really helped us. Years have passed since then and I still don't know. God is a spirit who people know but who they never see.

* * *