The festival is celebrated from midnight Oct. 31 to Nov 2. in central and southern Mexico.

People come together in their cities dressed up with Calavera painted faces (skeletons) and have parades in the streets. Cemetery visits are also common on the last day as families will go to decorate the grave sites with marigold flowers, gifts and sugar skulls with their departed loved ones’ names on them. It’s customary to clean the gravestone and restore the color.

In Mexican culture, they did not think death is a sadness. They believed the death would be insulted by mourning or sadness. To them, death is a natural part of human’s life. This is a way of celebrating the lives by partying and activities.

Tamale [dough made from masa, wrapped in aromatic leaves (usually corn husks or banana leaves) and steamed cooked] is one of the most common foods during the festival.

It is believed that the passageway between the living and dead is open during these two days so the two are able to communicate with each other.