Tết

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Tết is nostalgic and also somewhat hopeful. I was riding around the city today when I stumbled upon an old house (Figure 1).

Figure 1. An old house in Hanoi

Even though I have been through this street many times, it was the first time that I saw the house. Back when we worked on the cultural evolution of old houses in Hanoi ^[1], I used to pay more attention to the second floors, where the history remains. However, when we continue with various projects, the second floor is just a second floor.

Being busy is a benefit of being a researcher. Even during the *Tết* holiday, you can come up with surprising ideas. I think *Tết* is a perfect setting for ideas to thrive. Back in 2018, I had just worked for a few months. I thought I would have times to relax during *Tết*, but it turned out that collecting data was a better option ^[2,3]. It was a weird experience at first, but it has become normal now.

This *Tết*, after a strange year, I have had a momentous urge to continue working. However, I feel too tired. It was quite a guilty pleasure to sleep while there are works that need to be done. On the afternoon before *Giao thừa*, when I saw the house, I realized that I had succumbed to my momentum.

Recently, after Manchester City has been through an impressive run of 13 wins, Guardiola said:

"The only difference is that we run less – we were running too much. Without the ball you have to run. But with the football you have to walk, or run much less: stay more in position and let the ball run, not you. That's improved in these [unbeaten] games." ^[4]

The social science and humanities encompass studies of everything around you: your neighborhood, your culture, your friends, and even yourself. So, you can only find the calm inside a storm when you are calm. We can only overcome the financial crisis in 2008 with calmness ^[5].

The act of building momentum can be considered negative, but I believe it is necessary for the mindsponge process to work properly ^[6], no matter how accomplished I could be at a young age.

And yes, the meaning of *Tết* in our home country—Vietnam (i.e., Việt Nam)—is more than foods, parties, leisure time, and family visits. *Tết* represents the kind of soul that we usually feel lost during our daily economic and professional activities ^[7].

Fortunately, the soul appears to suddenly come back to us when the season changes for numerous reasons; most of them have been believed to be deeply cultural [8].

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