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Joss
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Within traditional Chinese practices surrounding death rituals, there is no coherent theology on burning Joss paper. I only know what is true for what my family practices. Passed down to me from my parents, we burn Joss paper on the anniversaries of deaths of immediate family.

Joss paper are sheets of paper and paper objects that are burned to commemorate a family member that has passed away. They are offerings or gifts. What you burn is what the ancestor receives in the afterlife: paper money, a paper house, a paper air conditioner... etc.

In addition to burning Joss paper, we light three sticks of incense per person at funerals and on the following anniversaries of death. Burning incense opens a communication "portal" where, for the duration of the incense's burn, whatever you say can be addressed directly to the deceased. You put out their favorite foods, sometimes a drink next to the incense.

After the incense has burned through, the communication portal closes. Until next year...