



What the Vietnamese are burning

Some Vietnamese people believe that life after death isn't that different from life before it. Like the rest of us, the dead need cash, shelter and creature comforts. Families have long burned paper replicas of money and other necessities, partly to wish their ancestors good fortune in the afterlife. But houses and bicycles are now passé: these days the dead want modern tech. A replica iPhone will set devout relatives back about 20,000 Vietnamese dong, or \$1. A paper-thin iPad is double that. Who would have guessed that pricey gadgets were so much more affordable on the other side?