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Traditions

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family cheated the system. My four siblings and I formed the line and denied being related when we were asked. That was the only way to get access to the supplies, even though we were paying for it. Dave also brought many jugs of water and again, I was reminded of the time when my family and I had to collect water in containers, pots, and anything we could because during daylight we didn't have any; water to cook, to wash, to clean ourselves, or to flush the toilet. Sometimes we had to ration it because water could be unavailable for days. Dave also brought batteries and charcoal, and one more time I was reminded of the candles and oil for the lamps that was a must for us in order to illuminate our house. As well as water, we didn't have electricity for days. Not only that, on Christmas Eve, for many years, Shining Path "celebrated" with the population by blowing up strategic power pylons leaving the whole city in darkness.

During that evening, I called my family in Peru and told my mother what was happening here. She told me that they knew because they were watching it on TV. Her voice was tense and I knew she was worried about me. She told me that they were



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