



Battle of the Oranges



the Northern is a festival in the Northern_ is a festival in the Northern Italian is a festival in the Northern Italian city of Ivrea is a festival in the Northern Italian city of Ivrea, which includes a tradition of throwing of oranges between

organized groups. It is the

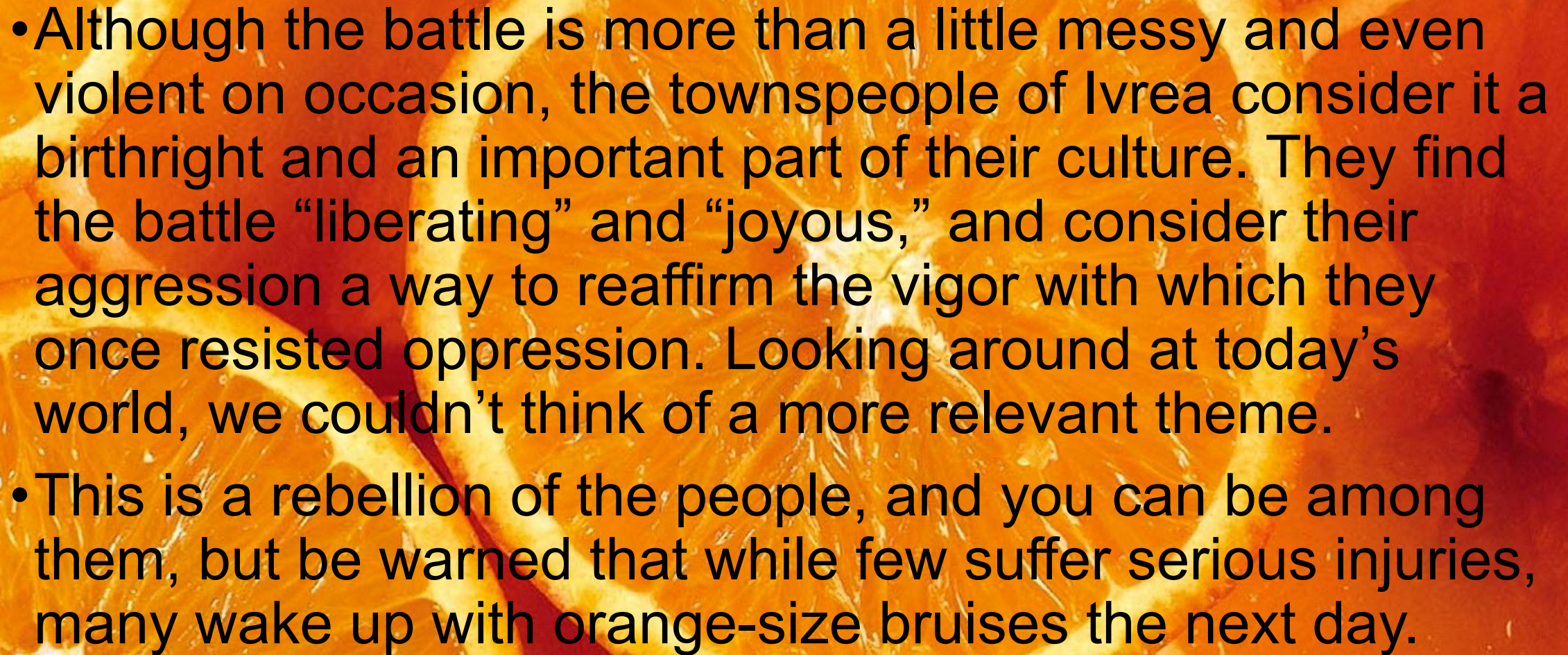
Celebration

The core celebration is based on a locally famous Battle of the Oranges that involves some thousands of townspeople, divided into nine combat teams, who throw oranges at each other – with considerable violence – during the traditional carnival days: Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The carnival takes place in February: it ends on the night of Shrove Tuesday with a solemn funeral. Traditionally, at the end of the silent march that closes the carnival the "General" says goodbye to everyone with the classical phrase in dialect "*arvedse a giobia a 'n bot*" translated as "we'll see each other on





• **Unlike Spain's La Tomatina, the Battle of the Oranges isn't a backpacker free-for-all. It's highly structured, steeped in history and contains some competitive elements. It's free and fun to watch for nearly 100,000 spectators, but for the nine competitive teams of almost 4,000, it's serious business and the highlight of**

- 
- Although the battle is more than a little messy and even violent on occasion, the townspeople of Ivrea consider it a birthright and an important part of their culture. They find the battle “liberating” and “joyous,” and consider their aggression a way to reaffirm the vigor with which they once resisted oppression. Looking around at today’s world, we couldn’t think of a more relevant theme.
 - This is a rebellion of the people, and you can be among them, but be warned that while few suffer serious injuries, many wake up with orange-size bruises the next day.

