



Advanced Audio Blog S1 Spring Festival: The Penultimate Day

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Traditional Chinese

年廿八

從我開始記事，我就意識到，中國人最大的節日——春節，其實並不是從春節那天，也就是大年初一開始的，而是從大年廿八開始的。而且不是從歡樂開始，而是從辛苦勞碌開始。我甚至有點怨恨中國的這個“除舊迎新”的古老傳統。就因為“年廿八，洗邋邋”這樣一句完全沒有邏輯的順口溜，我們就要過年前兩日，把家裡所有的東西都洗一遍，擦一遍，就算我現在已經出來工作了，還是逃不過這個厄運，每年都要提前回家，幫手搞清潔。無論你屋企係未邋邋到需要搞。

而我媽，一個傳統中國婦女，就對於這種強迫性的勞動樂此不疲，奉如宗教。我曾經嘗試挑戰佢，“媽，我覺得呢種搞清潔好冇意義，點解每年都要搞？”她頭也不回的說，“你點解日日都要洗面啊？”我立刻反駁，“專家話，其實人唔使日日洗面咖，咁會破壞皮膚水油平衡”我還未講完，媽媽就鬧我“你就淨係識得駁嘴，快的過去抹乾淨張凳！”

Jyutping

nin4 jaa6 baat3

cung4 ngo5 hoi1 ci2 gei3 si6 , ngo5 zau6 ji3 sik1 dou3 , zung1 gwok3 jan4 zeoi3 daai6 dik1 zit3 jat6 -- ceon1 zit3 , kei4 sat6 bing3 bat1 si6 cung4 ceon1 zit3 naa5 tin1 , jaa5 zau6 si6 daai6 nin4 co1 jat1 hoi1 ci2 dik1 , ji4 si6 cung4 daai6 nin4 jaa6 baat3 hoi1 ci2 dik1 。 ji4 ce2 bat1 si6 cung4 fun1 lok6 hoi1 ci2 , ji4 si6 cung4 san1 fu2 lou4 luk1 hoi1 ci2 。 ngo5 sam6 zi3 jau5 dim2 jyun3 han6 zung1 gwok3 dik1 ze2 go3 “ceoi4 gau6 jing4 san1 ” di1 gu2 lou5 cyun4 tung2 。 zau6 jan1 wai4 “nin4 jaa6 baat3 , sai2 laat6 taat3 ” ze5 joeng6 jat1 geoi3 jyun4 cyun4 mut6 jau5 lo4 cap1 dik1 seon6 hau2 lau4 , ngo5 mun4 zau6 jiu3 gwo3 nin4 cin4 loeng5 jat6 , baa2 gaa1 leoi5 so2 jau5 dik1 dung1 sai1 dou1 sai2 jat1 pin3 , caat3 jat1 pin3 , zau6 syun3 ngo5 jin6 zoi6 ji5 ging1 ceot1 loi4 gung1 zok3 liu5 , wan6 si6 tou4 bat1 gwo3 ze2 go3 ak1 wan6 , mui5 nin4 dou1 jiu3 tai4 cin4 wui4 gaa1 , bong1 sau2 gaau2 cing1 git3 。 mou4 leon6 nei5 uk1 kei2 hai6 mei6 laat6 taat3 dou3 seoi1 jiu3 gaau2 。

ji4 ngo5 maa1 , jat1 go3 cyun4 tung2 zung1 gwok3 fu5 neoi5 , zau6 deoi3 jyu1 ze2 zung2 koeng6 bik1 sing3 dik1 lou4 dung6 lok6 ci2 bat1 pei4 , fung6 jyu4 zung1 gaau3 。 ngo5 cang4 ging1 soeng4 si3 tiu1 zin3 keoi5 , “maa1 , ngo5

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gok3 dak1 ni1 zung2 gaau2 cing1 git3 hou2 mou5 ji3 ji6 , dim2 gaai2 mui5 nin4 dou1 jiu3 gaau2 ? ” taa1 tau4 jaa5 bat1 wui4 dik1 syut3 , “ nei5 dim2 gaai2 jat6 jat6 dou1 jiu3 sai2 min6 aa6 ? ” ngo5 laap6 haak1 faan5 bok3 , “ zyun1 gaa1 waa6 , kei4 sat6 jan4 m4 sai2 jat6 jat6 sai2 min6 gaa6 , gam2 wui5 po3 wai6 pei4 fu1 seoi2 jau4 ping4 hang4 ” ngo5 wan6 mei3 gong2 jyun4 , maa1 maa1 zau6 naau6 ngo5 “ nei5 zau6 zing6 hai6 sik1 dak1 bok3 zeoi2 , faai3 di1 gwo3 heoi3 maat3 gon1 zeng6 zoeng1 dang3 ! ”

English

Spring Festival The Penultimate Day

For as long as I can remember, I've known that the biggest holiday for Chinese people -- Spring Festival -- doesn't actually start on Chinese New Years, but rather two days before Chinese New Years, on a day we call "Nian 28". And this isn't the beginning of a period of joy, but rather one of grueling hard work.

I even feel a bit resentful about the ancient Chinese tradition of "saying goodbye to the old and welcoming in the new". And this is all because of an illogical Chinese rhyme which insists on our having to wash and clean everything in the house two days before Chinese New Years. Even now that I've left home and am working full time, I still can't escape this fate. So I have to come back home ahead of time to help clean up the house. And it doesn't even matter if the house is dirty or not -- you still have to clean it up!

My mother is a traditional Chinese woman, so she doesn't get weary of this sort of forced labor and even sort of enjoys it. It is a bit like a religion for her. I've tried to challenge her on it. "Mother," I'll say, "I think it's a bit meaningless doing all this cleaning. Why do we have to do this every year?" And she'll answer, "why do you wash your face every day?" I counter this at once by saying, "experts claim humans don't need to wash their faces every day, and that it actually breaks the balance between the water and oil of the skin..." and I won't have even finished when my mother starts to blame me. "You only care about arguing with me. Go over there and wipe down that chair now!"

Vocabulary

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Traditional	Jyutping	English
節日	zit3 jat6	holiday
歡樂	fun1 lok6	happiness
怨恨	jyun3 han6	to hate
邋邋	laap6 taap3	dirty
厄運	ak1 wan6	bad luck
意義	ji3 ji6	meaningful
邏輯	lo4 cap1	logic
平衡	ping4 hang4	balance
宗教	zung1 gaau3	religion
專家	zyun1 gaa1	expert

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

聖誕節係我最鍾意嘅節日。	sing3 daan3 zit3 hai6 ngo5 zeoi3 zung1 ji3 ge3 zit3 jat6.	Christmas is my favorite holiday.
寶寶係一隻貴婦狗，帶俾我哋好多歡樂。	bou2 bou2 hai6 jat1 zek3 gwai3 fu5 gau2, daai3 bei2 ngo5 dei6 hou2 do1 fun1 lok6.	Bobo is a poodle and brings us a lot of happiness.
你做咩用啲咁怨恨嘅眼光望實我？	nei5 zou6 me1 jung6 di1 gam2 jyun3 han6 ge3 ngaan5 gwong1 mong6 sat6 ngo5 ?	Why are you looking at me with such hate?
你真係好邋邋，快啲去沖涼！	nei5 zan1 hai6 hou2 laat6 taat3, faai3 di1 heoi3 cung1 loeng4 !	You are really dirty, please go bathe quickly!
我嘅厄運連連，唔見完銀包之後又唔見咗電話。	ngo5 ge3 ak1 wan6 lin4 lin4 , m4 gin3 jyun4 ngan4 baau1 zi1 hau6 jau6 m4 gin3 zo2 din6 waa2.	I've got really bad luck, I lost my purse and then I lost my phone too.
今次嘅活動真係意義重大，希望大家多多支持。	gam1 ci3 ge3 wut6 dung6 zan1 hai6 ji3 ji6 zung6 daai6 , hei1 mong6 daai6 gaa1 do1 do1 zi1 ci4.	This activity is meaningful, I hope everyone will support it.
做警察需要冇好好嘅邏輯能力。	zou6 ging2 caat3 seoi1 jiu3 jau5 hou2 hou2 ge3 lo4 cap1 nang4 lik6.	To be a police officer you need to be good at logic.
當生態失去平衡，災難就會降臨。	dong1 sang1 taai3 sat1 heoi3 ping4 hang4 , zoi1 naan6 zau6	When nature loses balance, natural disasters follow close

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我信奉嘅宗教係基督教。	wui5 gong3 lam4。 ngo5 seon3 fung6 ge3 zung1 gaa3 hai6 gei1 duk1 gaa3。	on heel. My religion is Christianity.
我老豆係拆彈專家。	ngo5 lou5 dau6 hai6 caak3 daan6 zyun1 gaa1。	My dad is a bomb disposal expert.

Cultural Insight

新年是中國人最大的節日，當然也包括香港，在香港，新年的氣氛也是非常濃厚的，所有人都会按照传统打扫卫生，团聚，拜年，但是香港人特别喜欢去不同的地方旅行，就是去转转运的意思，希望在新的一年里有好运。

Chinese New Year is the most important festival of the year for Chinese speakers throughout the world, and this of course holds for Cantonese speakers from Hong Kong as well. If you visit Hong Kong during the New Year, you'll see and experience a strong holiday atmosphere. Everyone will follow the traditional Chinese New Years customs, including cleaning their houses, hosting family reunions, and of course visiting other families. In Hong Kong people also like to travel to celebrate the holiday. This is thought to be a way to change one's fortune and bring in luck with the New Year.