



Advanced Audio Blog S1

Cantonese Choice: Valentine's Day or Lantern Festival?

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Traditional Chinese

七夕

都話我們中華民族不是一個浪漫的民族，但是我們卻是一個想得出“梁山伯與祝英台”的民族，我們卻是一個有情人節的民族。

七夕節，源自於一個美麗的愛情傳說，這是中國傳統節日中最具浪漫色彩的一個節日。面對夜空，古往今來有多少人帶著對美好愛情的渴望，憧憬著自己的未來。又有多少文人墨客藉著傳說抒發人間的真情。

現如今自從西方的情人節傳入中國後，又有多少人還記得自己這個傳統的浪漫節日呢？其實，七夕本身就是中國人的情人節。

我記得細個的時候還不是好興2月14的情人節，爸爸媽媽會在農曆七月七日的時候跟我們講牛郎織女的故事，還會擺個神臺，上香拜神。而對於我的意義其實更加深刻，因為在我十二歲那年七夕，就是我初戀情人同我表白的日子。當時大家都細個，不明白什麼叫愛，也不想去明白，所以只要我喜歡你，你喜歡我，就夠了。現在想來，這樣何嘗不是真愛呢？

Jyutping

cat1 zik6

dou1 waa6 ngo5 mun4 zung1 waa4 man4 zuk6 bat1 si6 jat1 go3 long4 maan6 dik1 man4 zuk6 , daan6 si6 ngo5 mun4 koek3 si6 jat1 go3 soeng2 dak1 ceot1 “ loeng4 saan1 baak3 jyu4 zuk1 jing1 toi4 ” dik1 man4 zuk6 , ngo5 mun4 koek3 si6 jat1 go3 jau5 cing4 jan4 zit3 dik1 man4 zuk6 。

cat1 zik6 zit3 , jyun4 zi6 jyu1 jat1 go3 mei5 lai6 dik1 oi3 cing4 cyun4 syut3 , ze2 si6 zung1 gwok3 cyun4 tung2 zit3 jat6 zung1 zeoi3 geoi6 long4 maan6 sik1 coi2 dik1 jat1 go3 zit3 jat6 。 min6 deoi3 je6 hung1 , gu2 wong5 gam1 loi4 jau5 do1 siu2 jan4 daai3 zoek3 deoi3 mei5 hou2 oi3 cing4 dik1 hot3 mong6 , cung1 ging2 zoek3 zi6 gei2 dik1 mei6 loi4 。 jau6 jau5 do1 siu2 man4 jan4 mak6 haak3 zik3 zoek3 cyun4 syut3 syu1 faat3 jan4 gaan1 dik1 zan1 cing4 。

jin6 jyu4 gam1 zi6 cung4 sai1 fong1 dik1 cing4 jan4 zit3 cyun4 jap6 zung1 gwok3 hau6 , jau6 jau5 do1 siu2 jan4 wan6 gei3 dak1 zi6 gei2 ze2 go3 cyun4 tung2 dik1

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long4 maan6 zit3 jat6 ne1 ? kei4 sat6 , cat1 zik6 jyun4 bun2 zau6 si6 zung1 gwok3 jan4 dik1 cing4 jan4 zit3 。

ngo5 gei3 dak1 sai3 go3 dik1 si4 hau6 wan6 bat1 si6 hou2 hing1 ji6 jyut6 sap4 sei3 dik1 cing4 jan4 zit3 , baa4 baa1 maa4 maa1 wui5 zoi6 nung4 lik6 cat1 jyut6 cat1 jat6 dik1 si4 hau6 gan1 ngo5 mun4 gong2 ngau4 long4 zik1 nei5 dik1 gu3 si6 , wan6 wui5 baai2 go3 san4 toi2 , soeng5 hoeng1 baai3 san4 。 ji4 deoi3 jyu1 ngo5 di1 ji3 ji6 kei4 sat6 gang3 gaa1 sam1 haak1 , jan1 wai6 zoi6 ngo5 sap6 ji6 sei3 naa5 nin4 cat1 zik6 , zau6 si6 ngo5 co1 lyun2 cing4 jan4 tung4 ngo5 biu2 baak6 dik1 jat6 zi2 。 dong1 si4 daai6 gaa1 dou1 sai3 go3 , bat1 ming4 baak6 sam6 mo1 giu3 oi3 , jaa5 bat1 soeng2 heoi3 ming4 baak6 , so2 ji5 zi2 jiu3 ngo5 hei2 fun1 nei5 , nei5 hei2 fun1 ngo5 , zau6 gau3 liu5 。 jin6 zoi6 soeng2 loi4 , ze2 joeng6 ho4 soeng4 bat1 si6 zan1 oi3 ne1 ?

English

Chinese Valentine's Day

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People say that Chinese people aren't romantic by nature but we have created romantic stories like "The Butterfly Lovers" and have a Valentine's Day of our own. Chinese Valentine's Day, which originated from a beautiful love story, is one of the most romantic holidays in China. How many people through the ages have looked towards the sky at night, hungering for love, and imagining their own future? And how many writers through the ages have wanted to express the genuine feelings of being human?

But how many people still remember this traditional holiday now that Western Valentine's Day has come to China? The truth is that this Chinese holiday used to be our Valentine's Day.

I remember when I was a child, February fourteenth was not popular at all. Instead, my parents would tell us the story of the Cowherd and the Weaver Girl on July seventh and set up an altar with incense for praying. And there is a deeper meaning to the holiday for me. When I was twelve my first boyfriend confessed his love to me on that year's Chinese Valentine's Day. We were too young to know what love is and didn't even want to understand it. As long as I liked you and you liked me then that was enough. But thinking of it now, I wonder if maybe that is what we call true love?

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
浪漫	long6 maan6	romantic
情人節	cing4 jan4 zit3	Valentine's Day
民族	man4 zuk6	nation
抒發	syu1 faat3	to express
神臺	san4 toi4	altar
初戀	co1 lyun2	first love
真愛	zan1 oi3	true love
好興	hou2 hing1	popular

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

4	女仔都鍾意浪漫嘅男仔。	neoi5 zai2 dou1 zung1 ji3 long6 maan6 ge3 naam4 zai2。	Girls like romantic boys.
	我已經自己一個人過咗二十年嘅情人節。	ngo5 ji5 ging1 zi6 gei2 jat1 go3I jan4 gwo3 zo2 ji6 sap6 nin4 ge3 cing4 jan4 zit3。	I have been alone for 20 years on Valentine's Day.
	中國係一個多民族嘅國家。	zung1 gwok3 hai6 jat1 go3 do1 man4 zuk6 ge3 gwok3 gaa1。	China is a country of many nationalities.
	為咗抒發我唔開心嘅情緒，我寫咗一篇三千字嘅日記。	wai6 zo2 syu1 faat3 ngo5 m4 hoi1 sam1 ge3 cing4 sei5 , ngo5 se2 zo2 jat1 pin1 saam1 cin1 zi6 ge3 jat6 gei3。	I wrote a 3000 word diary to express my unhappiness.
	唔好亂咁郁神臺嘢。	m4 hou2 lyun2 gam3 juk1 san4 toi2 di1 je5。	Don't touch the things on the altar.
	每個人嘅初戀都好難忘。	mui5 go3 jan4 gei3 co1 lyun2 dou1 hou2 naan4 mong4。	Everyone's first love is really unforgettable.
	真愛並唔係講講下就有。	zan1 oi3 bing6 m4 hai6 gong2 gong2 haa5 zau6 jau5。	True love isn't something you can talk yourself into.
	呢排好興一套電影叫潛行兇間。	ni1 paai4 hou2 hing1 jat1 tou3 din6 jing2 giu3 cim4 hang4 hung1 gaan1。	The movie Inception has been really popular lately.

Cultural Insight

正如在第十六課說過, 香港對七夕也沒有很大的熱情, 最大的原因是因為香港的文化已經西化了, 你們可能想, 七夕和元宵節到底有什麼分別呢? 到底那個中國情人節呢? 其實到現在也沒有一個准確的答案, 在中國, 比較少人贊同把元宵節作"情人節", 但多數商家和情侶更認同七夕為中國情人節。

[Valentine's Day or Lantern Festival?](#)

According to lesson 16, Hong Kong people do not have much passion on Chinese "Valentine's Day" (cat1 zik6). The main reason is that Hong Kong's culture [has already](#) followed the western country. You might think, what is the difference between the Lantern Festival and cat1 zik6? Which one is the Chinese Valentine's Day? In fact, we still don't have an official answer to that. In China, few people agree the Lantern Festival is the Chinese Valentine's Day and most of the businessmen and couples prefer cat1 zik6 as the Chinese Valentine's Day.

