



Advanced Audio Blog S1

The Winter Festival in the Cantonese World

22

Traditional	2
Jyutping	2
English	3
Vocabulary	3
Grammar Points	4
Cultural Insight	5

Traditional Chinese

過冬

有句老話——冬大過年。意思就是說，過冬比過年還要重要。我也不知道這句話的由來是甚麼，雖然在現在，這句話也不一定應驗，大多也是嘴上說說，但是可以從中看出冬至在廣東人的歷史地位有幾重要，我記得父輩的公司到了過冬這一天還都會特地放假，連小時候的學校也會提早放學，讓大家早早回家食飯團聚。

過冬的一般習俗同廣東人其它節日的習俗一樣，吃雞吃鴨，加菜團聚——一切都離不開吃。21號是冬至，也即是正式過冬。廣東人在這天都會拜神、拜祖先，晚上一家人吃個飯，雞、魚都少不了，有些還會飯後吃幾個湯圓。冬至的那頓飯很有意思，我媽媽說必須是很豐富，意味著來年的豐收，為新年做準備。從小在廣東人的圈子裡就覺得過冬很有氣氛，還有“過完冬至就過年”一說，其實說白了就是為過年做好準備的吧！

Jyutping

gwo1 dung1

jau5 geoi3 lou5
waa6

dung1 daai6 gwo3 nin4 。 ji3 si1 zau6 si6 syut3 ， gwo3 dung1 bei2 gwo3 nin4 waan4 jiu3 zung6 jiu3 。 ngo5 jaa5 bat1 zi1 dou3 ze2 geoi3 waa6 dik1 jau4 loi4 si6 sam6 mo1 ， seoi1 jin4 zoi6 jin6 zoi6 ， ze2 geoi3 waa6 jaa5 bat1 jat1 ding6 jing3 jim6 ， daai6 do1 jaa5 si6 zeoi2 soeng6 syut3 syut3 ， daan6 si6 ho2 ji5 cung4 zung1 hon3 ceot1 dung1 zi3 zoi6 gwong2 dung1 jan4 dik1 lik6 si2 dei6 wai6 jau5 gei2 zung6 jiu3 ， ngo5 gei3 dak1 fu2 bui3 dik1 gung1 si1 dou3 liu5 gwo3 dung1 ze2 jat1 tin1 waan4 dou1 wui5 dak6 dei6 fong3 gaa3 ， lin4 siu2 si4 hau6 dik1 hok6 haau3 jaa5 wui5 tai4 zou2 fong3 hok6 ， joeng6 daai6 gaa1 zou2 zou2 wui4 gaa1 sik6 faan6 tyun4 zeoi6 。

gwo3 dung1 dik1 jat1 bun1 zaap6 zuk6 tung4 gwong2 dung1 jan4 kei4 taa1 zit3 jat6 dik1 zaap6 zuk6 jat1 joeng6 ， hek3 gai1 hek3 aap2 ， gaa1 coi3 tyun4 zeoi6 — jat1 cai3 dou1 lei4 bat1 hoi1 hek3 。 ji6 sap6 jat1 hou4 si6 dung1 zi3 ， jaa5 zik1 si6 zing3 sik1 gwo3 dung1 。 gwong2 dung1 jan4 zoi6 ze2 tin1 dou1 wui5 baai3 san4 、 baai3 zou2 sin1 ， maan5 soeng6 jat1 gaa1 jan4 hek6 go3 faan6 ， gai1 、 jyu5 dou1 siu2 bat1 liu5 ， jau5 se1 waan4 wui5 faan6 hau6 hek6 gei2 go3 tong1 jyun2 。 dung1 zi3 dik1 naa5 deon6 faan6 han2 jau5 ji3 si1 ， ngo5 maa4 maa1

CantoneseClass101.com

Learn Cantonese with **FREE** Podcasts

syut3 bit1 sei1 si6 han2 fung1 fu3 , ji3 mei6 zoek3 loi4 nin4 dik1 fung1 sau1 ,
wai6 san1 nin4 zou6 zeon2 bei6 。 cung4 siu2 zoi6 gwong2 dung1 jan4 dik1 hyun1
zi2 lei5 zau6 gok6 dak1 gwo3 dung1 han2 jau5 hei3 fan1 , waan4 jau5 “ gwo3
jyun4 dung1 zi3 zau6 gwo3 nin4 ” jat1 syut3 , kei4 sat6 syut3 baak6 liu5 zau6 si6
wai6 gwo3 nin4 zou6 hou2 zeon2 bei6 dik1 baa6 !

English

The Winter Festival

There's an old saying which goes -- the Winter Festival is bigger than New Years. The meaning of this is that this holiday is more important than Chinese New Year. I don't know where this saying comes from, and it may not even be true at present (most sayings like this are just talk) but it shows you how important winter has been to Cantonese people through our history. I remember when I was young my father's company would always give him this day off, and we'd even get out of primary school early, so that everyone could go home to eat together as a family.

When Cantonese people celebrate the Winter Festival we like to celebrate it like any other holiday we eat chicken or duck and lots of other foods and we eat them together with others -- everything is about eating. This holiday takes place on the 21st of December in the traditional lunar calendar. That is the winter solstice. Cantonese people will go to the temple that day. In the evening, they will dine on chicken, fish and maybe even dumplings. The meal at Winter Solstice is very meaningful. My mother always insisted that it had to be sumptuous so that next years harvest would be plentiful, and also so as to prepare for the Chinese New Year. Cantonese people always think there is a great atmosphere at winter. And the saying "Having New Year after Winter" really means preparing for the New Years holiday with a great Winter Festival!

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
由來	jau4 loi4	history (origin)
應驗	jing3 jim6	to come true
嘴上說說	zeoi2 soeng6 syut3 syut3	to talk without meaning sth
飯後	faan6 hau6	after a meal
豐富	fung1 fu3	abundant
豐收	fung1 sau1	a plentiful harvest
圈子	hyun1 zi2	circles

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

非洲血鑽嘅由來非常之唔人道。 。	fei1 zau1 hyut3 zyun3 ge3 jau4 loi4 fei1 soeng4 zi1 m4 jan4 dou6.	African blood diamonds have an inhumane history.
估唔到我隨口講嘅嘢嘢日應驗 咗。	gu2 m4 dou3 ngo5 ceoi4 hau2 gong2 ge3 je5 cam4 jat6 jing3 jim6 zo2.	I can't believe the things I said yesterday came true.
佢成日話請食飯都只係嘴上說 說。	keoi5 sing4 jat6 waa6 ceng2 sik6 faan6 dou1 zi2 hai6 zeoi2 soeng6 syut3 syut3.	He always says he'll buy us dinner, but he's just talking.
飯後唔好即刻運動。	faan6 hau6 m4 hou2 zik1 hak1 wan6 dung6.	Do not exercise directly after a meal.
我間房充滿咗豐富嘅顏色。	ngo5 gaan1 fong2 cung1 mun5 zo2 fung1 fu3 ge3 ngaan4 sik1.	My room is filled with rich and abundant colors.
今年天氣好，所以大豐收。	gam1 nin2 tin1 hei3 hou2 , so2 ji5 daai6 fung1 sau1.	The weather this year was good, so we have a plentiful harvest.
你嘅圈子太細喇，快啲去識多 啲朋友！	nei5 ge3 hyun1 zi2 taai3 sai3 laa6 , faai3 di1 heoi3 sik1 do1 di1 pang4 jau5 !	Your circle is too small, get out and make some friends!

Grammar Points

Cultural Insight

冬至的意思就是冬天到了,也是指在一年之中,晚上黑夜時間最長的一天。根據中國的傳統,農民和漁夫在秋天收成後,都會把食物儲存好以渡過嚴寒的冬天。所以在這個重要節日,每家都會提早歸家聚在一起,好好吃一頓豐富晚飯过节。

[The Winter Festival](#)

The Winter Festival celebrates the arrival of winter. It's the day, within a year, when the night lasts longest. According to the Chinese convention, after farmers and fishmen have their harvest in autumn, they store the food for the winter. So at this very special holiday, everyone comes home early to have a nice gathering and a wonderful dinner with their families.