

# Cantonese Short Story

nung<sub>4</sub> lik<sub>6</sub> san<sup>-1</sup> nin<sub>4</sub>  
農曆新年

nung<sub>4</sub> lik<sub>6</sub> san<sup>-1</sup> nin<sub>4</sub> zau<sub>6</sub> dou<sup>-3</sup> laa<sup>-1</sup> so<sup>-2</sup> ji<sub>5</sub> ngo<sub>5</sub> dei<sub>6</sub> gam<sup>-1</sup> jat<sub>6</sub> gaai<sup>-3</sup> siu<sub>6</sub> haa<sub>5</sub>  
農曆新年就到啦，所以我哋今日介紹吓

nei<sup>-1</sup> go<sup>-3</sup> zit<sup>-3</sup> jat<sub>6</sub>  
呢個節日。

hai<sup>-2</sup> hoeng<sup>-1</sup> gong<sup>-2</sup> nung<sub>4</sub> lik<sub>6</sub> san<sup>-1</sup> nin<sub>4</sub> hai<sub>6</sub> jat<sup>-1</sup> nin<sub>4</sub> jap<sub>6</sub> min<sub>6</sub> kei<sub>4</sub> zung<sup>-1</sup> jat<sup>-1</sup> go<sup>-3</sup>  
喺香港，農曆新年係一年入面其中一個

zeoi<sup>-3</sup> jit<sub>6</sub> naau<sub>6</sub> zeoi<sup>-3</sup> zung<sub>6</sub> jiu<sup>-3</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup> zit<sup>-3</sup> jat<sub>6</sub>  
最熱鬧、最重要嘅節日。

「san<sup>-1</sup> nin<sub>4</sub> zi<sup>-2</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup> hai<sub>6</sub> san<sup>-1</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup> jat<sup>-1</sup>」  
「新年」指嘅係新嘅一

nin<sub>4</sub> gam<sup>-2</sup> me<sup>-1</sup> hai<sub>6</sub> nung<sub>4</sub> lik<sub>6</sub> ne<sup>-1</sup> nung<sub>4</sub>  
年。咁咩係農曆呢？「農」

hai<sub>6</sub> nung<sub>4</sub> man<sub>4</sub> waak<sub>6</sub> ze<sup>-2</sup> nung<sub>4</sub> jip<sub>6</sub> lik<sub>6</sub> hai<sub>6</sub>  
係農民或者農業，「曆」係

jat<sub>6</sub> lik<sub>6</sub> ji<sub>5</sub> cin<sub>4</sub> ge<sup>-3</sup> jan<sub>4</sub> zyu<sup>-2</sup> jiu<sup>-3</sup> kaau<sup>-3</sup> gaang<sup>-1</sup> tin<sub>4</sub>  
日曆。以前嘅人主要靠耕田

sang<sup>-1</sup> wut<sub>6</sub> keoi<sub>5</sub> dei<sub>6</sub> wui<sub>5</sub> gun<sup>-1</sup> caat<sup>-3</sup> jyut<sub>6</sub> loeng<sub>6</sub> ge<sup>-3</sup> bin<sup>-3</sup> faa<sup>-3</sup> tung<sub>4</sub> maai<sub>4</sub> taai<sup>-3</sup> joeng<sub>4</sub> ge<sup>-3</sup>  
生活，佢哋會觀察月亮嘅變化同埋太陽嘅

wai<sub>6</sub> zi<sup>-3</sup> lai<sub>4</sub> kyut<sup>-3</sup> ding<sub>6</sub> gei<sup>-2</sup> si<sub>4</sub> zung<sup>-2</sup> je<sub>5</sub> gei<sup>-2</sup> si<sub>4</sub> sau<sup>-1</sup> got<sup>-3</sup> nei<sup>-1</sup> zung<sup>-2</sup> gan<sup>-1</sup>  
位置，嚟決定幾時種嘢、幾時收割。呢種根



geoi-3 jyut-6 loeng-6 zau-1 kei-4 gai-3 jat-6 zi-2 ge-3 fong-1 faat-3 zau-6 hai-6 nung-4 lik-6  
 據月亮週期計日子嘅方法，就係「農曆」。

nung-4 lik-6 san-1 nin-4 zik-1 hai-6 jung-6 nung-4 man-4 lik-6 gai-3 san-1 jat-1 nin-4 ge-3  
 「農曆新年」即係用「農民曆」計，新一年嘅

hoi-1 ci-2 nung-4 lik-6 san-1 nin-4 mui-5 nin-4 ge-3 jat-6 zi-2 dou-1 m-4 tung-4 tung-1 soeng-4 hai-2  
 開始。農曆新年每年嘅日子都唔同，通常喺

sai-1 lik-6 dik-1 jat-1 jyut-6 mei-5 dou-3 ji-6 jyut-6 zung-1  
 西曆的一月尾到二月中。

ceoi-4 zo-2 hoeng-1 gong-2 zi-1 ngoi-6 hou-2 do-1 aa-3 zau-1 gwok-3 gaa-1 dou-1 wui-5 gwo-3 nei-1  
 除咗香港之外，好多亞洲國家都會過呢

go-3 zit-3 jat-6 lai-6 jyu-4 hon-4 gwok-3 jyut-6 naam-4 san-1 gaa-3 bo-1 tung-4 maa-5 loi-4  
 個節日，例如：韓國、越南、新加坡同馬來



sai-1 aa-3 ji-4 gaa-1 sai-3 gaai-3 gok-3 dei-6 jau-5 waa-4  
 西亞。而家世界各地，有華

jan-4 ge-3 dei-6 fong-1 hou-2 ci-5 leon-4 deon-1 nau-2  
 人嘅地方，好似倫敦、紐

joek-3 do-1 leon-4 do-1 ge-3 tong-4 jan-4 gaai-1 dou-1 wui-5  
 約、多倫多嘅唐人街，都會

jau-5 daai-6 jing-4 ge-3 hing-3 zuk-1 wut-6 dung-6  
 有大型嘅慶祝活動。

nung-4 lik-6 san-1 nin-4 m-4 hai-6 zing-3 jat-2 sin-1 hoi-1 ci-2 gwo-3 gaa-3 san-1 nin-4 cin-4  
 農曆新年唔係正日先開始過嘍，新年前

zau-6 ji-5 ging-1 jiu-3 zou-6 hou-2 do-1 zeon-2 bei-6 wut-6 dung-6 gaa-3 laa-1  
 就已經要咁多準備活動嘍。

hai<sup>-2</sup> hoeng<sup>-1</sup> gong<sup>-2</sup> ngo<sup>5</sup> dei<sup>-6</sup> jau<sup>5</sup> jat<sup>-1</sup> go<sup>-3</sup>  
 喺香港，我哋有一個

zaap<sup>-6</sup> zuk<sup>-6</sup> giu<sup>-3</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> jaa<sup>-6</sup> baat<sup>-3</sup> sai<sup>-2</sup> laat<sup>-6</sup>  
 習俗叫：「年廿八，洗邋

taat<sup>-3</sup> sai<sup>-2</sup> laat<sup>-6</sup> taat<sup>-3</sup> zik<sup>-1</sup> hai<sup>-6</sup> daai<sup>-6</sup>  
 邋」。 「洗邋邋」即係大

sou<sup>-3</sup> ceoi<sup>-4</sup> ngo<sup>5</sup> dei<sup>-6</sup> gok<sup>-3</sup> dak<sup>-1</sup> jiu<sup>-3</sup> hai<sup>-2</sup> san<sup>-1</sup>  
 掃除。我哋覺得要喺新



nin<sup>-4</sup> cin<sup>-4</sup> zoeng<sup>-1</sup> nguk<sup>-1</sup> kei<sup>-2</sup> cit<sup>-3</sup> dai<sup>-2</sup> sai<sup>-2</sup> gon<sup>-1</sup> zeng<sup>-6</sup> gam<sup>-2</sup> joeng<sup>-2</sup> sin<sup>-1</sup> ho<sup>-2</sup> ji<sup>5</sup> zoeng<sup>-1</sup>  
 年前將屋企徹底「洗乾淨」，咁樣先可以將

gau<sup>-6</sup> nin<sup>-2</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup> sei<sup>-1</sup> hei<sup>-3</sup> sai<sup>-2</sup> zau<sup>-2</sup> jing<sup>-4</sup> zip<sup>-3</sup> san<sup>-1</sup> jat<sup>-1</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup> hou<sup>-2</sup> wan<sup>-6</sup>  
 舊年嘅「衰氣」洗走，迎接新一年嘅好運。

daai<sup>-6</sup> gaa<sup>-1</sup> wui<sup>5</sup> hai<sup>-2</sup> nei<sup>-1</sup> jat<sup>-6</sup> zap<sup>-1</sup> nguk<sup>-1</sup> maat<sup>-3</sup> coeng<sup>-1</sup> sou<sup>-3</sup> dei<sup>-6</sup> dang<sup>-2</sup> dang<sup>-2</sup> daan<sup>-6</sup> hai<sup>-6</sup>  
 大家會喺呢日執屋、抹窗、掃地等等。但係

jiu<sup>-3</sup> gei<sup>-3</sup> zyu<sup>-6</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> co<sup>-1</sup> jat<sup>-1</sup> hai<sup>-6</sup> m<sup>-4</sup> ho<sup>-2</sup> ji<sup>5</sup> sou<sup>-3</sup> dei<sup>-6</sup> gaa<sup>-3</sup> jan<sup>-1</sup> wai<sup>-6</sup> wui<sup>5</sup> zoeng<sup>-1</sup>  
 要記住：年初一係唔可以掃地㗎，因為會將

di<sup>-1</sup> hou<sup>-2</sup> wan<sup>-6</sup> sou<sup>-3</sup> zau<sup>-2</sup> saai<sup>-3</sup>  
 啲好運掃走晒！

gwo<sup>-3</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> cin<sup>-4</sup> gei<sup>-2</sup> jat<sup>-6</sup> hoeng<sup>-1</sup> gong<sup>-2</sup> hou<sup>-2</sup> do<sup>-1</sup> dei<sup>-6</sup> fong<sup>-1</sup> dou<sup>-1</sup> jau<sup>5</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> siu<sup>-1</sup>  
 過年前幾日，香港好多地方都有「年宵



si<sup>5</sup> coeng<sup>-4</sup> ngo<sup>5</sup> dei<sup>-6</sup> wui<sup>5</sup> zoeng<sup>-1</sup> haang<sup>-4</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup>  
 市場」，我哋會將行年

siu<sup>-1</sup> si<sup>5</sup> coeng<sup>-4</sup> nei<sup>-1</sup> go<sup>-3</sup> wut<sup>-6</sup> dung<sup>-6</sup> giu<sup>-3</sup>  
 宵市場呢個活動叫

haang<sup>-4</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> siu<sup>-1</sup> waak<sup>-6</sup> ze<sup>-2</sup> haang<sup>-4</sup> faa<sup>-1</sup>  
 「行年宵」或者「行花

市」。si<sub>5</sub> faa<sup>-1</sup> si<sub>5</sub> jap<sub>6</sub> min<sub>6</sub> jau<sub>5</sub> hou<sup>-2</sup> do<sup>-1</sup> faa<sup>-1</sup> maai<sub>6</sub> mui<sub>5</sub> jat<sup>-1</sup> zung<sub>3</sub> faa<sup>-1</sup> dou<sup>-1</sup> jau<sub>5</sub>花市入面有好多花賣，每一種花都有

特別嘅意思，例如：年桔代表「大吉大利」；  
dak<sub>6</sub> bit<sub>6</sub> ge<sub>3</sub> ji<sub>3</sub> si<sup>-1</sup> lai<sub>6</sub> jyu<sub>4</sub> nin<sub>4</sub> gat<sup>-1</sup> doi<sub>6</sub> biu<sup>-2</sup> daai<sub>6</sub> gat<sup>-1</sup> daai<sub>6</sub> lei<sub>6</sub>

桃花代表會有「桃花運」，即係會識到新朋  
tou<sub>4</sub> faa<sup>-1</sup> doi<sub>6</sub> biu<sup>-2</sup> wui<sub>5</sub> jau<sub>5</sub> tou<sub>4</sub> faa<sup>-1</sup> wan<sub>6</sub> zik<sup>-1</sup> hai<sub>6</sub> wui<sub>5</sub> sik<sup>-1</sup> dou<sup>-2</sup> san<sup>-1</sup> pang<sub>4</sub>

友或者另一半；富貴竹代表富貴，賺到錢。  
jau<sub>5</sub> waak<sub>6</sub> ze<sup>-2</sup> ling<sub>6</sub> jat<sup>-1</sup> bun<sub>3</sub> fu<sub>3</sub> gwai<sub>3</sub> zuk<sup>-1</sup> doi<sub>6</sub> biu<sup>-2</sup> fu<sub>3</sub> gwai<sub>3</sub> zaan<sub>6</sub> dou<sup>-2</sup> cin<sup>-2</sup>

就算你唔買嘢，去花市「迫吓人」，感受吓  
zau<sub>6</sub> syun<sub>3</sub> nei<sub>5</sub> m<sub>4</sub> maai<sub>5</sub> je<sub>5</sub> heoi<sub>3</sub> faa<sup>-1</sup> si<sub>5</sub> bik<sup>-1</sup> haa<sub>5</sub> jan<sub>4</sub> gam<sup>-2</sup> sau<sub>6</sub> haa<sub>5</sub>

個種熱鬧嘅氣氛，都係香港新年嘅特色。  
go<sup>-2</sup> zung<sup>-2</sup> jit<sub>6</sub> naau<sub>6</sub> ge<sub>3</sub> hei<sub>3</sub> fan<sup>-1</sup> dou<sup>-1</sup> hai<sub>6</sub> hoeng<sup>-1</sup> gong<sup>-2</sup> san<sup>-1</sup> nin<sub>4</sub> ge<sub>3</sub> dak<sub>6</sub> sik<sup>-1</sup>

新年前嘅最後一晚係「年三十晚」，喺  
san<sup>-1</sup> nin<sub>4</sub> cin<sub>4</sub> ge<sub>3</sub> zeoi<sub>3</sub> hau<sub>6</sub> jat<sup>-1</sup> maan<sub>5</sub> hai<sub>6</sub> nin<sub>4</sub> saam<sup>-1</sup> sap<sub>6</sub> maan<sub>5</sub> hai<sup>-2</sup>

呢日，大家會同屋企人聚埋一齊食一餐豐富  
nei<sup>-1</sup> jat<sub>6</sub> daai<sub>6</sub> gaa<sup>-1</sup> wui<sub>6</sub> tung<sub>4</sub> nguk<sup>-1</sup> kei<sup>-2</sup> jan<sub>4</sub> zeoi<sub>6</sub> maai<sub>4</sub> jat<sup>-1</sup> cai<sub>4</sub> sik<sub>6</sub> jat<sup>-1</sup> caan<sup>-1</sup> fung<sup>-1</sup> fu<sub>3</sub>

嘅晚飯，呢餐就叫做「團年飯」。香港人食  
ge<sub>3</sub> maan<sub>5</sub> faan<sub>6</sub> nei<sup>-1</sup> caan<sup>-1</sup> zau<sub>6</sub> giu<sub>3</sub> zou<sub>6</sub> tyun<sub>4</sub> nin<sub>4</sub> faan<sub>6</sub> hoeng<sup>-1</sup> gong<sup>-2</sup> jan<sub>4</sub> sik<sub>6</sub>

飯好講「意頭」，即係嘢食嘅名要  
faan<sub>6</sub> hou<sup>-2</sup> gong<sup>-2</sup> ji<sub>3</sub> tau<sub>4</sub> zik<sup>-1</sup> hai<sub>6</sub> je<sub>5</sub> sik<sub>6</sub> ge<sub>3</sub> meng<sup>-2</sup> jiu<sub>3</sub>

好聽、吉利。例如：魚代  
hou<sup>-2</sup> teng<sup>-1</sup> gat<sup>-1</sup> lei<sub>6</sub> lai<sub>6</sub> jyu<sub>4</sub> jyu<sub>4</sub> doi<sub>6</sub>

表「年年有餘」，即係  
biu<sup>-2</sup> nin<sub>4</sub> nin<sub>4</sub> jau<sub>5</sub> jyu<sub>4</sub> zik<sup>-1</sup> hai<sub>6</sub>

每年都有錢剩；生菜代  
mui<sub>5</sub> nin<sub>4</sub> dou<sup>-1</sup> jau<sub>5</sub> cin<sup>-2</sup> sing<sub>6</sub> saang<sup>-1</sup> coi<sub>3</sub> doi<sub>6</sub>



biu<sup>-2</sup> sang<sup>-1</sup> coi<sup>-4</sup> zik<sup>-1</sup> hai<sup>-6</sup> zaan<sup>-6</sup> hou<sup>-2</sup> do<sup>-1</sup> cin<sup>-2</sup>  
表「生財」，即係賺好多錢。

nin<sup>-4</sup> saam<sup>-1</sup> sap<sup>-6</sup> maan<sup>-5</sup> gwo<sup>-3</sup> zo<sup>-2</sup> sap<sup>-6</sup> ji<sup>-6</sup> dim<sup>-2</sup> zau<sup>-6</sup> hai<sup>-6</sup> san<sup>-1</sup> jat<sup>-1</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> dai<sup>-6</sup> jat<sup>-1</sup>  
年三十晚過咗十二點就係新一年，第一

jat<sup>-6</sup> giu<sup>-3</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> co<sup>-1</sup> jat<sup>-1</sup> dai<sup>-6</sup> ji<sup>-6</sup> jat<sup>-6</sup> giu<sup>-3</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> co<sup>-1</sup> ji<sup>-6</sup> jyu<sup>-4</sup> ci<sup>-2</sup> lei<sup>-6</sup> teoi<sup>-1</sup>  
日叫年初一、第二日叫年初二，如此類推。

dou<sup>-3</sup> zo<sup>-2</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> co<sup>-1</sup> jat<sup>-1</sup> siu<sup>-2</sup> pang<sup>-4</sup> jau<sup>-5</sup> tung<sup>-4</sup> mei<sup>-6</sup> git<sup>-3</sup>  
到咗年初一，小朋友同未結

fan<sup>-1</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup> sing<sup>-4</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> jan<sup>-4</sup> zau<sup>-6</sup> ho<sup>-2</sup> ji<sup>-5</sup> hoeng<sup>-3</sup> git<sup>-3</sup> zo<sup>-2</sup>  
婚嘅成年人就可以向結咗

fan<sup>-1</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup> zoeng<sup>-2</sup> bui<sup>-3</sup> dau<sup>-6</sup> lai<sup>-6</sup> si<sup>-6</sup> lai<sup>-6</sup>  
婚嘅長輩「逗利是」。「利

si<sup>-6</sup> zik<sup>-1</sup> hai<sup>-6</sup> jung<sup>-6</sup> lai<sup>-6</sup> si<sup>-6</sup> fung<sup>-1</sup> zong<sup>-1</sup> zyu<sup>-6</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup>  
是」即係用利是封裝住嘅

cin<sup>-2</sup>  
錢。



gam<sup>-2</sup> git<sup>-3</sup> zo<sup>-2</sup> fan<sup>-1</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup> jan<sup>-4</sup> wui<sup>-5</sup> m<sup>-4</sup> wui<sup>-5</sup> jau<sup>-5</sup> gei<sup>-1</sup> wui<sup>-6</sup> dau<sup>-6</sup> lai<sup>-6</sup> si<sup>-6</sup>  
咁結咗婚嘅人會唔會有機會「逗利是」

ne<sup>-1</sup> git<sup>-3</sup> zo<sup>-2</sup> fan<sup>-1</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup> jan<sup>-4</sup> dou<sup>-1</sup> ho<sup>-2</sup> ji<sup>-5</sup> dau<sup>-6</sup> lai<sup>-6</sup> si<sup>-6</sup> ge<sup>-2</sup> hou<sup>-2</sup>  
呢？結咗婚嘅人都可以「逗利是」嘅。好



do<sup>-1</sup> gung<sup>-1</sup> si<sup>-1</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup> lou<sup>-5</sup> baan<sup>-2</sup> waak<sup>-6</sup> ze<sup>-2</sup> soeng<sup>-6</sup> si<sup>-1</sup>  
多公司嘅老闆或者上司，

dou<sup>-1</sup> wui<sup>-5</sup> hai<sup>-2</sup> san<sup>-1</sup> nin<sup>-4</sup> hau<sup>-6</sup> faan<sup>-1</sup> gung<sup>-1</sup> ge<sup>-3</sup> dai<sup>-6</sup> jat<sup>-1</sup>  
都會喺新年後返工嘅第一

jat<sup>-6</sup> paai<sup>-3</sup> lai<sup>-6</sup> si<sup>-6</sup> bei<sup>-2</sup> haa<sup>-6</sup> suk<sup>-6</sup>  
日派利是俾下屬。

jyü<sub>4</sub> gwo<sup>2</sup> nei<sub>5</sub> hai<sup>2</sup> san<sup>1</sup> nin<sub>4</sub> ge<sup>3</sup> si<sub>4</sub> hau<sub>6</sub> sau<sup>1</sup> dou<sup>2</sup> lai<sub>6</sub> si<sub>6</sub> gei<sup>3</sup> dak<sup>1</sup> jiu<sup>3</sup>  
 如果你喺新年嘅時候收到利是，記得要

hoeng<sup>3</sup> paai<sup>3</sup> lai<sub>6</sub> si<sub>6</sub> ge<sup>3</sup> jan<sub>4</sub> gong<sup>2</sup> jat<sup>1</sup> di<sup>1</sup> zuk<sup>1</sup> fuk<sup>1</sup> ge<sup>3</sup> syut<sup>3</sup> waa<sub>6</sub> lai<sub>6</sub> jyu<sub>4</sub>  
 向派利是嘅人講一啲祝福嘅說話，例如：

gung<sup>1</sup> hei<sup>2</sup> faat<sup>3</sup> coi<sub>4</sub> san<sup>1</sup> tai<sup>2</sup> gin<sub>6</sub> hong<sup>1</sup> gei<sup>3</sup> dak<sup>1</sup> lo<sup>2</sup> lai<sub>6</sub> si<sub>6</sub> ge<sup>3</sup>  
 「恭喜發財」、「身體健康」。記得攞利是嘅

si<sub>4</sub> hau<sub>6</sub> jiu<sup>3</sup> jung<sub>6</sub> loeng<sub>5</sub> zek<sup>3</sup> sau<sup>2</sup> zip<sup>3</sup> gam<sup>2</sup> joeng<sup>2</sup> sin<sup>1</sup> zi<sup>3</sup> jau<sub>5</sub> lai<sub>5</sub> maa<sub>6</sub> gaa<sup>3</sup>  
 時候要用兩隻手接，咁樣先至有禮貌㗎。

lai<sub>6</sub> si<sub>6</sub> jat<sup>1</sup> bun<sup>1</sup> paai<sup>3</sup> dou<sup>3</sup> nin<sub>4</sub> sap<sub>6</sub> ng<sub>5</sub> so<sup>2</sup> ji<sub>5</sub> gwo<sup>3</sup> zo<sup>2</sup> nin<sub>4</sub> sap<sub>6</sub>  
 利是一般派到年十五，所以過咗年十

ng<sub>5</sub> daai<sub>6</sub> gaa<sup>1</sup> caak<sup>3</sup> zo<sup>2</sup> lai<sub>6</sub> si<sub>6</sub> nung<sub>4</sub> lik<sub>6</sub> san<sup>1</sup> nin<sub>4</sub>  
 五，大家拆咗利是，農曆新年

zau<sub>6</sub> zing<sup>3</sup> sik<sup>1</sup> jyun<sub>4</sub> git<sup>3</sup> laa<sup>3</sup>  
 就正式完結喇。

nei<sup>1</sup> dou<sub>6</sub> tai<sub>4</sub> zou<sup>2</sup> zuk<sup>1</sup> daai<sub>6</sub> gaa<sup>1</sup> san<sup>1</sup> nin<sub>4</sub>  
 呢度提早祝大家新年

faai<sup>3</sup> lok<sub>6</sub> sam<sup>1</sup> soeng<sup>2</sup> si<sub>6</sub> sing<sub>4</sub> aa<sup>3</sup>  
 快樂、心想事成呀！



faan<sup>-1</sup> jik<sup>-6</sup>  
 翻譯 Translation

## Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is almost here, so today, let's introduce this festival.

In Hong Kong, the Lunar New Year is one of the liveliest and most important festivals of the year.

"New Year" refers to the start of a new year. But what is the "Agricultural Calendar" (Lunar Calendar)? The character "Nung" (農) refers to farmers or agriculture, while "Lik" (曆) means calendar. In the past, people mainly relied on farming for a living. They would observe the changes of the moon and the position of the sun to decide when to plant crops and when to harvest. This method of calculating days based on the moon's cycle is the "Agricultural Calendar" (or Lunar Calendar). Therefore, "Lunar New Year" is the beginning of the new year calculated by this "Farmers' Calendar." The date of the Lunar New Year changes every year, usually falling between late January and mid-February in the Western (Gregorian) calendar.

Besides Hong Kong, many Asian countries also celebrate this festival, such as Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, and Malaysia. Nowadays, in places all over the world where there are Chinese communities—like the Chinatowns in London, New York, and Toronto—there are large-scale celebrations.

The Lunar New Year doesn't just start on the actual day; there are many preparatory activities that must be done well before the New Year arrives.

In Hong Kong, we have a custom called: "Wash away the dirt on the 28th." "Washing away the dirt" refers to a major spring cleaning. We believe that thoroughly cleaning the home before the New Year washes away the "bad luck" (or stale energy) of the past year and welcomes good fortune for the new one. On this day, everyone tidies up their houses, cleans windows, sweeps floors, and so on. However, remember: you cannot sweep the floor on the first day of the New Year, because that would sweep away all the good luck!

In the few days leading up to the New Year, there are "Lunar New Year Fairs" in many places across Hong Kong. We call the activity of visiting these markets "Walking the Lunar New Year Fair" or "Walking the Flower Market." There are many flowers for sale in the flower markets, and each type has a special meaning. For example: Mandarin orange trees represent "great luck and prosperity"; Peach blossoms represent "romance luck" (meaning meeting new friends or a significant other); Lucky Bamboo represents wealth and making money. Even if you don't buy anything, going to the flower market to "squeeze through the crowd" and experience the bustling atmosphere is a unique characteristic of Hong Kong's New Year.

The last night before the New Year is "New Year's Eve" (the 30th night). On this day, everyone gathers with their family to eat a sumptuous dinner; this meal is called the "Reunion Dinner." Hong Kong people place great importance on "symbolism" when eating—meaning the names of the dishes must sound pleasant and auspicious. For example: Fish represents "abundance every year" (because the word for fish sounds like surplus); Lettuce sounds like "generating wealth," meaning earning a lot of money.

Once it passes midnight on New Year's Eve, it is the new year. The first day is called the First Day, the second is the Second Day, and so on. On the first day, children and unmarried adults can ask married elders for "Lai See" (red packets). "Lai See" refers to money wrapped in red envelopes.

So, do married people have a chance to receive "Lai See"? Married people can receive "Lai See" too. Many company bosses or supervisors will distribute red packets to their subordinates on the first day back at work after the New Year.

If you receive a red packet during the New Year, remember to say some blessings to the person giving it, such as "Kung Hei Fat Choy" (Wishing you prosperity) or "Body Health" (Wishing you good health). Remember to use both hands when receiving the red packet; that is the polite way to do it.

Red packets are generally distributed until the 15th day of the New Year. So, after the 15th, when everyone opens their red packets, the Lunar New Year officially comes to an end.

Here, I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year in advance, and may all your wishes come true!