



徐侨俏
Laney Xu

Spring Festival

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CONGRATULATIONS!

祝贺中国春节
列入联合国教科文组织
《人类非物质文化遗产代表作名录》

China's Spring Festival inscribed as
UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage
of Humanity



环球时报

GLOBAL
TIMES

环球网
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公众号：亲子爱阅读

“Nian”年

- It is said that in ancient China there was a monster called "Nian". It had tentacles on its head and was extremely ferocious.
- "Nian" lived deep in the sea for many years, and only crawled ashore on New Year's Eve to devour livestock and harm human lives.



“Nian”年

- Therefore, on New Year's Eve, people in every village and village helped the elderly and children to flee to the mountains to avoid the harm of the "Nian" beast.
- On New Year's Eve of this year, the people of Taohua Village were helping the elderly and children to take refuge in the mountains.



“Nian”年

- An old beggar came from outside the village. He was seen leaning on a cane, with a bag on his arm, a flowing silver beard, and bright eyes.
- Some villagers sealed windows and locked doors, some packed their luggage, and some drove cattle and sheep. There were people shouting and horses neighing everywhere, and there was a scene of haste and panic.
- At this time, who still had the heart to care for this begging old man?



公众号

“Nian”年

- Only an old woman at the east end of the village gave the old man some food and advised him to go up the mountain to avoid the "Nian" beast.
- "The old man stroked his beard and smiled, "If the old woman lets me stay at home for one night, I will definitely drive the "Nian" beast away."
- The old woman looked at him carefully with surprise and saw that he had white hair and a youthful face, was energetic and extraordinary.
- But she continued to persuade him, and the beggar smiled and said nothing.



“Nian”年

- The old woman had no choice but to leave her home and go up the mountain to take refuge.



“Nian”年

- In the middle of the night, the "Nian" beast broke into the village.
- It found that the atmosphere in the village was different from previous years: the old woman's house at the east end of the village had big red paper on the door and candles were bright in the house.



“Nian”年

- The "Nian" beast trembled all over and screamed strangely.
- "Nian" glared at the old woman's house for a moment, then rushed over with a wild cry.





“Nian”年

- When it was close to the door, there was a sudden "bang bang bang" explosion in the yard. "Nian" trembled all over and dared not move forward.
- It turns out that "Nian" is most afraid of red, fire and explosions.
- At this time, the door of the grandmother's house opened wide, and an old man in a red robe was seen laughing in the yard.
- "Nian" was shocked and fled in a panic.

“Nian”年

- The next day, the people who returned from the refuge were surprised to see that the village was safe and sound.
- At this time, the old woman suddenly realized and hurriedly told the villagers about the promise of the beggar.



公众号 · 宝

“Nian”年

- The villagers rushed to the old woman's house, only to see red paper pasted on the door of the grandmother's house, a pile of unburned bamboo in the yard was still "popping", and a few red candles in the house were still glowing...
- The ecstatic villagers changed into new clothes and hats to celebrate the arrival of auspiciousness, and went to their relatives and friends to congratulate and greet.



“Nian”年

- This incident soon spread to the surrounding villages, and people all knew how to drive away the "Nian" beast.
- From then on, every New Year's Eve, every family would post red couplets and set off firecrackers; every house would light candles and stay up to welcome the new year.
- Early in the morning of the first day of the new year, people would visit relatives and friends to congratulate them.
- This custom spread more and more widely and became the most solemn traditional festival of the Chinese people, "Chinese New Year".





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- Spring Festival combines various aspects such as getting rid of the old and welcoming the new, worshipping gods and ancestors, praying for good fortune and warding off evil spirits, family reunions, festive entertainment, and food culture.



- On the 23rd day of the 12th lunar month (Xiaonian), it is regarded as the day when the Kitchen God goes to heaven. People have the custom of sacrificing to the Kitchen God, hoping that he will report good deeds in heaven and protect the peace of the world when he comes back.



尘 vs. 陈

- On the 24th day of the 12th lunar month, every household conducts a thorough cleaning, aiming to sweep away the bad luck of the past year and welcome the new year. Since "dust" is homophonic with "old" in Chinese, cleaning also means "removing the old and making way for the new".



- On the 25th day of the 12th lunar month, traditionally, it is the day to grind beans and make tofu. There is also a saying that the Jade Emperor will come down to inspect the world, and people eat bean curd residue to show their simplicity and thrift, which implies being diligent and thrifty in running a household.



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- On the 26th day of the 12th lunar month, people start to prepare New Year goods, such as killing pigs and cutting meat, to get ready for a sumptuous meal during the New Year.



- On the 28th day of the 12th lunar month, people make New Year cakes and steam buns, prepare various festival foods, and at the same time, paste window flowers and New Year pictures to add to the festive atmosphere.



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- On the 29th day of the 12th lunar month, people visit the graves to worship their ancestors, invite the ancestors to come home for the New Year, and prepare sumptuous offerings to express their remembrance and respect for the ancestors.



- On New Year's Eve:
People paste Spring
Festival couplets, the
character "Fu", and door
gods on the gates, walls,
and lintels, expressing
their longing for a happy
life and praying for peace
and good luck.



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- Before the New Year's Eve dinner, people hold the ceremony of worshipping ancestors and gods, praying for favorable weather, a good harvest, and the safety of the family in the coming year. The whole family gets together to enjoy a sumptuous New Year's Eve dinner. The dishes usually have auspicious meanings, such as fish (meaning having more than enough every year), dumplings (meaning bringing in wealth), and New Year cakes (meaning rising higher year by year).



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- On New Year's Eve, families sit around together, staying up all night, waiting for the arrival of the new year, which means saying goodbye to the old and welcoming the new, and embracing new hopes and happiness.



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- Elders give lucky money to the younger generation, which is meant to drive away evil spirits and protect them, and also shows the blessings and expectations for the children in the new year.



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- At midnight, every household sets off firecrackers to bid farewell to the old year and welcome the new year with the crackling sound, symbolizing good luck. However, in recent years, for environmental and safety reasons, setting off firecrackers has been banned in many places.

yuán rì

元日

sòng wáng ān shí
(宋) 王安石

bào zhú shēngzhōng yī suì chū
爆竹声中一岁除

chūn fēng sòng nuǎn rù tú sū
春风送暖入屠苏

qiān mén wàn hù tóng tóng rì
千门万户曈曈日

zǒng bǎ xīn táo huàn jiù fú
总把新桃换旧符



过年好

过年

GUO NIAN HAO

Happy New Year













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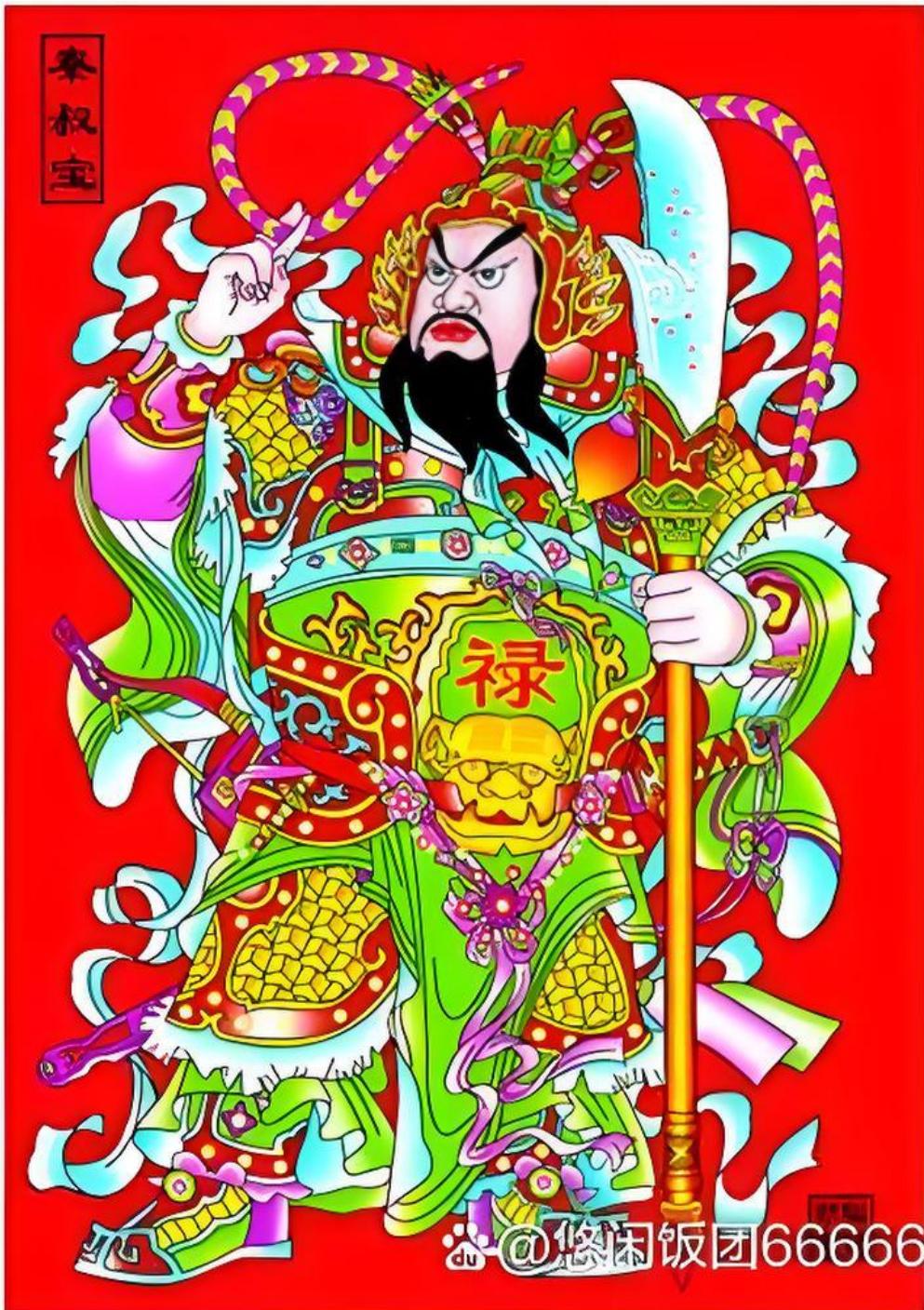
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秦瓊







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