

Qi Xi (Double Seventh Festival), Chinese Valentine's Day



Culture tips:

Double Seventh Festival

(Chinese Valentine's Day)

Dàn yuàn rén cháng jiǔ , qiān lǐ gòng chán juān 。
但愿人长久，千里共婵娟。

May we all be blessed with longevity though far apart,
we are still able to share the beauty of the moon together.

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七夕，中国的情人节

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七夕，中國的情人節

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The Double Seventh Festival, on the 7th day of the 7th lunar month, is a traditional festival full of romance. It often goes into August in the Gregorian calendar

节，也有人称之为“乞巧节”或“女儿节”，这是中国传统节日中最具浪漫色彩的一个节日，也是过去姑娘们最为重视的日子。

在晴朗的夏秋之夜，天上繁星闪耀，一道白茫茫的银河横贯南北，争河的东西两岸，各有一颗闪亮的星星，隔河相望，遥遥相对，那就是牵牛星和织女星。

相传在很早以前，南阳城西牛家庄里有個聰明、忠厚的小伙子，父母早亡，只好跟着哥哥嫂子度日，嫂子馬氏為人狠毒，經常虐待他，逼他干很多的活。一天，天上的织女和諸仙女一起下凡遊戲，在河裡洗澡，牛郎在老牛的幫助下認識了織女，二人互生情意，後來織女便偷偷下凡，來到人間，做了牛郎的妻子。男耕女織，情深意重，他們生了一男一女兩個孩子，一家人生活得很幸福。但是好景不長，這事很快便讓天帝知道，王母娘娘親自下來，強行把織女帶回天上，恩愛夫妻被拆散。

牛郎上天無路，想起老牛臨死前說

節，也有人稱之為“乞巧節”或“女兒節”，這是中國傳統節日中最具浪漫色彩的一個節日，也是過去姑娘們最為重視的日子。

在晴朗的夏秋之夜，天上繁星閃耀，一道白茫茫的銀河橫貫南北，爭河的東西兩岸，各有一顆閃亮的星星，隔河相望，遙遙相對，那就是牽牛星和織女星。

相傳在很早以前，南陽城西牛家莊里有個聰明、忠厚的小伙子，父母早亡，只好跟著哥哥嫂子度日，嫂子馬氏為人狠毒，經常虐待他，逼他幹很多的活。一天，天上的織女和諸仙女一起下凡遊戲，在河裡洗澡，牛郎在老牛的幫助下認識了織女，二人互生情意，後來織女便偷偷下凡，來到人間，做了牛郎的妻子。男耕女織，情深意重，他們生了一男一女兩個孩子，一家人生活得很幸福。但是好景不長，這事很快便讓天帝知道，王母娘娘親自下來，強行把織女帶回天上，恩愛夫妻被拆散。

牛郎上天無路，想起老牛臨死前說

This festival is in mid-summer when the weather is warm and the grass and trees reveal their luxurious greens. At night when the sky is dotted with stars, and people can see the Milky Way spanning from the north to the south. On each bank of it is a bright star, which see each other from afar. They are the Cowherd and Weaver Maid, and about them there is a beautiful love story passed down from generation to generation.

Long, long ago, there was an honest and kind-hearted fellow named Niu Lang (Cowhand). His parents died when he was a child. Later he was driven out of his home by his sister-in-law. So he lived by himself herding cattle and farming. One day, a fairy from heaven Zhi Nu (Weaver Maid) fell in love with him and came down secretly to earth and married him. The cowhand farmed in the field and the Weaver Maid wove at home. They lived a happy life and gave birth to a boy and a girl. Unfortunately, the God of Heaven soon found out the fact and ordered the Queen Mother of the Western Heavens to bring the Weaver Maid back.

With the help of celestial cattle, the Cowhand flew to heaven with his son and daughter. At the time when he was about to catch up with his wife, the Queen Mother took off one of her gold hairpins

过，碰到紧急的事，就披上他的皮。牛郎披上老牛的皮，拉着自己的儿女，一起腾云驾雾上天去追织女，眼见就要追到了，岂知王母娘娘拔下头上的金簪一挥，一道波涛汹涌的天河就出现了，牛郎和织女被隔在两岸，只能相对哭泣流泪。他们的忠贞爱情感动了喜鹊，千万只喜鹊飞来，搭成鹊桥，让牛郎织女走上鹊桥相会，王母娘娘对此也无奈，只好允许两人在每年七月七日于鹊桥相会。

七夕乞巧，这个节日起源于汉代，东晋葛洪的《西京杂记》有“汉彩女常以七月七日穿七孔针于开襟楼，人俱习之”的记载，这便是我们于古代文献中所见到的最早的关于乞巧的记载。后来的唐宋诗词中，妇女乞巧也被屡屡提及，唐朝王建有诗说“阑珊星斗缀珠光，七夕宫娥乞巧忙”。据《开元天宝遗事》载：唐太宗与妃子每逢七夕在清宫夜宴，宫女们各自乞巧，这一习俗在民间也经久不衰，代代延续。

直到今日，七夕仍是一个富有浪漫色彩传统节日。但不少习俗活动已

過，碰到緊急的事，就披上他的皮。牛郎披上老牛的皮，拉著自己的兒女，一起騰雲駕霧上天去追織女，眼見就要追到了，豈知王母娘娘拔下頭上的金簪一揮，一道波濤洶湧的天河就出現了，牛郎和織女被隔在兩岸，只能相對哭泣流淚。他們的忠貞愛情感動了喜鵲，千萬隻喜鵲飛來，搭成鵲橋，讓牛郎織女走上鵲橋相會，王母娘娘對此也無奈，只好允許兩人在每年七月七日於鵲橋相會。

七夕乞巧，這個節日起源於漢代，東晉葛洪的《西京雜記》有“漢彩女常以七月七日穿七孔針於開襟樓，人俱習之”的記載，這便是我們於古代文獻中所見到的最早的關於乞巧的記載。後來的唐宋詩詞中，婦女乞巧也被屢屢提及，唐朝王建有詩說“闌珊星斗綴珠光，七夕宮娥乞巧忙”。據《開元天寶遺事》載：唐太宗與妃子每逢七夕在清宮夜宴，宮女們各自乞巧，這一習俗在民間也經久不衰，代代延續。

直到今日，七夕仍是一個富有浪漫色彩傳統節日。但不少習俗活動已

and made a stroke. One billowy river appeared in front of the Cowhand. The Cowhand and Weaver Maid were separated on the two banks forever and could only feel their tears. Their loyalty to love touched magpies, so tens of thousands of magpies came to build a bridge for the Cowhand and Weaver Maid to meet each other. The Queen Mother was eventually moved and allowed them to meet each year on the 7th of the 7th lunar month. Hence their meeting date has been called "Qi Xi" (Double Seventh).

Scholars have shown the Double Seventh Festival originated from the Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD220). Historical documents from the Eastern Jin Dynasty (AD371-420) mention the festival, while records from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) depict the grand evening banquet of Emperor Taizong and his concubines. By the Song (960-1279) and Yuan (1279-1368) dynasties, special articles for the "Qi Xi" were seen being sold on markets in the capital. The bustling markets demonstrated the significance of the festival.

Today some traditional customs are still observed in rural areas of China, but have been weakened or diluted in urban cities. However, the legend of the Cowhand and Weaver Maid has taken root in the hearts

<p>弱化或消失，惟有象征忠贞爱情的牛郎织女的传说，一直流传民间。</p>	<p>弱化或消失，惟有像徵忠貞愛情的牛郎織女的傳說，一直流傳民間。</p>	<p>of the people. In recent years, youths have celebrated it as Valentine's Day in China. As a result, owners of flower shops, bars and stores are full of joy as they sell more commodities for love.</p>
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