

The Double Seventh Festival, also as known as the Chinese Valentine's Day, brings us a romantic August every year. In this membership news, we would like to tell you more about this traditional Chinese festival.

七夕節，又稱為中國情人節，每年都會為炎熱的八月增添一份甜蜜的氣息。本期會員通訊將為大家介紹一下這個最具浪漫色彩的中國傳統節日。

The Love Story of Niulang and Zhinü 牛郎織女的愛情故事



1. Once upon a time, there was an honest and kind-hearted fellow named Niulang (Cowherd). 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.
很久以前，有一個跟著哥嫂過活的孤兒，既聰明又勤快，大家都叫他牛郎。可狠心的嫂嫂卻把他趕出家門。從此，牛郎白天放牛、砍柴，晚上就和老牛同睡在一間破茅房內。



2. A fairy from heaven Zhinü (Weaver Maid) fell in love with him and came down secretly to earth and married him.
天上的仙子織女欣賞牛郎的忠厚老實、勤勞健壯，私自落到凡間，並與牛郎喜結良緣。



3. The cowherd 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.
兩人男耕女織，互敬互愛。並生下一男一女，生活幸福美滿。



4. Unfortunately, the God of Heaven soon found out about them and ordered the Queen Mother of the Western Heavens to bring the Weaver Maid back.
然而天帝聞知織女下嫁人間，勃然大怒。七月初七，王母奉旨帶著天兵天將捉了織女。



5. The Cowherd chased his wife with his son and daughter to Heaven. At the time when he was about to catch up with his wife, the Queen Mother took off one of her gold hairpins and made a stroke.
悲痛欲絕的牛郎用蘿筐挑著兒女追上天去。眼看追上了，王母拔下金簪一劃，牛郎腳下立刻出現一條波濤洶湧的天河。



6. One billowy river appeared in front of the Cowherd. The Cowherd and Weaver Maid were separated on the two banks forever and could only feel their tears.
肝腸寸斷的織女和肩挑兒女的牛郎，一個在河東一個在河西，遙望對泣。



7. Their enduring love touched the magpies, so tens of thousands of them came to build a bridge for the Cowherd and Weaver Maid to reunite.
哭聲感動了喜鵲，霎時無數的喜鵲飛向天河，搭起一座鵲橋，牛郎織女終於可以在鵲橋上相會了。



8. The Queen Mother was eventually moved by their love and allowed them to meet each year on the 7th day of the 7th lunar month.
王母無奈，只好允許牛郎織女每年的七月初七在橋上相會一次。

The Double Seventh Festival Customs 七夕節習俗



While the customs of this festival vary according to different regions, the most prevalent one is that of girls praying to Zhinü for skillful hands for sewing. Because Zhinü is regarded as a beautiful woman deft at weaving, in the evening of the festival, girls sew some articles to compete with each other. They also prepare some delicious fruits to worship Zhinü in the hope to be endowed with a master sewing skill. Girls will also pray to have sweet love one day.



由於傳說中的織女針織手藝精巧，因此雖然不同地區有著各具特色的七夕節習俗，但最普遍的一個就是女孩們會祈求織女授予她們高超的縫紉技巧。在七夕節的晚上，女孩們會進行縫紉比賽，並準備一些鮮果拜祭織女，期望能被賦予如織女一般精良的針織手藝。同時，她們也期盼能像織女一樣擁有一段甜蜜的愛情。

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