

文化解析

Honoring the Dead

A: What did you do during Tomb Sweeping Festival?

B: I went tomb sweeping with my family.

A: What traditions does your family observe during tomb sweeping?

B: We sweep our ancestors' burial grounds and clean their tombs. Afterwards, we place offerings such as food and tea as well as burn incense and paper money in front of their graves. What about you? Did you also go tomb sweeping?

A: Yes, but not on Tomb Sweeping Festival. Some of our relatives already had other plans on that day, so we visited our ancestors' graves the weekend before. However, the traditions we observe are different from yours. We pray for our ancestors and bring them flowers instead.

B: Oh, how interesting! On that day, we also eat *lumpia* (潤餅), or fresh spring rolls, which contain shredded vegetables, meat, omelet and chopped peanuts wrapped in thin crepe-like skins.

A: Oh yes, I love to eat those too. I wonder why we have this tradition of eating *lumpia* during Tomb Sweeping Festival.

B: It is said that during the chaos of the Taiping Rebellion (太平天國), many people could not prepare food offerings for their ancestors, so they came up with the idea of wrapping whatever food they had into wheat flour skins to serve as offerings.

A: Is that so?

B: Yes, and this became a tradition that continues to the present day. Also, after