

I would like to introduce some yearly rituals in Zhanjiang city which is in the Western part of the Guangdong Province. Actually, such rituals are not that usual all over China. So maybe some of its contents or shows are quite stunning, because actually I did this introduction part of the yearly rituals in Zhanjiang city when I was a freshman in college. That got my classmates and teachers stunned, surprised, and also astonished a bit. So I'd like to get into it.

我想介紹一下位於廣東省西部的湛江市的一些習俗。我曾在大一時介紹過這些在中國不常見的習俗，或許是因為其內容或節目十分驚人，當時老師和全班同學都目瞪口呆，感到驚訝萬分。

我想介绍一下位于广东省西部的湛江市的一些习俗。我曾在大一时介绍过这些在中国不常见的习俗，或许是因为其内容或节目十分惊人，当时老师和全班同学都目瞪口呆，感到惊讶万分。

Firstly, I would like to introduce Zhanjiang city more, because the background, the geographical location of Zhanjiang city has something to link with these rituals. Because Zhanjiang is a coastal city, so it's famous for its seafood. And that's why some of its religious beliefs also relate to the goddess of the ocean. Something like that, I'm not sure about the exact translation for that word. That should be Tian Hou, that's in Mandarin.

首先，我想多介紹一下湛江市，因為湛江市的背景、地理位置與這些習俗有一定的聯繫。湛江是沿海城市，以海鮮聞名，因此其宗教信仰也與海洋女神有關。我不太確定她的名稱的確切英文翻譯。用普通話說，叫做“天后”。

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These religious beliefs make people living in Zhanjiang believe that every year they should hold some rituals to show their respect to the goddess and wish for a better year coming forward. Actually the yearly rituals are used, here it's correspondent to the Chinese word Měinián de, that means the rituals shall be held and organized every year, especially at the beginning of the spring. So it's a very important custom in our spring festival celebration. 生活在湛江的人們都非常相信這些宗教信仰，每年都會通過舉辦一些儀式來表達對女神的尊重，並希望來年更美好。這個儀式被稱為“年例”，漢語是“Měinián de”，意思是每年都要舉行的祭祀，尤其是在立春的時候。所以在春節慶祝活動中，年例是當地的一個非常重要的習俗。

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For your information, actually the yearly rituals were listed into some cultural heritage of Guangdong Province as well, but that's years ago. I'm not sure about the TV show's name but actually they reported it and make it known to more people. Let's talk about what things are included in such yearly rituals. Actually, it is divided into the start, some celebrations, and it has an end as well.

幾年前，“年例”被列入廣東省文化遺產之一，曾在某電視節目中提及過。年例包括開始、慶祝及結束三部分。

几年前，“年例”被列入广东省文化遗产之一，曾在某电视节目中提及过。年例包括开始、庆祝及结束三部分。

For the start, actually it is the welcoming of the god or goddess. It's like some rituals they would organize at a... It's not a Buddhist temple, but it's a temple that has the ancestors of the villagers. They will start the rituals there, and then there will be a parade parade with childrens wearing some costumes like opera things, and also they wear heavy makeups. You cannot recognize them at all. Then they are fixed on a wooden stage, and there were lots of children fixed on the stage and then they just get the parade because the car can move.

開始，即迎接女神，但不是在佛教寺廟舉行，而是在村民的祖先寺廟中。當天遊行隊伍中的孩子們穿著戲服，畫著濃妝，根本認不出誰是誰。他們站在汽車上方的木製舞台上，隨著車隊遊遍大街小巷。

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In Chinese term it's piāo sè. When it is seen from a far distance, it's like some colors are floating. That's basically the ritual meaning of piāo sè. And the most important section of these rituals is the villagers. Mostly they will organize these events in the form of a village or another village. The villagers just invite their guests to have a big lunch together.

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So normally there will be more than 100 100 people I guess, because they think the more guests come, the more better the next year will be. So when we speak of spring festivals, we often related to red packets. But when the guests come to such events, actually they don't need to pay anything, they don't need to prepare the red packet at all. So I guess that's the most important spirit and the attraction point of this event. And the end part is quite

similar to the start, they just send the god or goddess back to where they were. So that will be mostly the introduction of this festival.

我猜通常會有超過 100 人，因為村民們認為客人越多，來年就會越興旺。說起春節，我們常常會聯想到紅包。但是客人來參加這樣的活動，其實是不需要付錢的，而且根本不需要準備紅包。所以我想這就是活動最重要的精神和吸引點。而結尾部分和開始很相似，只是恭送神或女神。以上就是這個節日的主要介紹。

我猜通常会有超过 100 人，因为村民们认为客人越多，来年就会越兴旺。说起春节，我们常常会联想到红包。但是客人来参加这样的活动，其实是不需要付钱的，而且根本不需要准备红包。所以我想这就是活动最重要的精神和吸引点。而结尾部分和开始很相似，只是恭送神或女神。以上就是这个节日的主要介绍。