

English:

So Sinterklaas sounds like Santa Claus. But don't be mistaken, it's not the same guy. They're brothers.

Sinterklaas is the brother of Santa Claus. I don't know who's the oldest one. Maybe Sinterklaas is older. I think Sinterklaas must be older. And once a year, he comes to the Netherlands.

Actually, on the 5th of December. And he arrives for boat, and there will be a big celebration in the town. There's a little bit of a strange thing going on because on the 5th of December, actually, he arrives in multiple towns. So the way in which my parents have always explained this to me is that there's one real one then there are some imitators who will go to the other towns, but our town always gets the real one, of course. So we will welcome the Sinterklaas coming into town. And from that moment on, every night, you see a present in your shoe which is positioned next to the chimney.

And actually, in the Dutch tradition, it's not only getting a present in your shoe. It's a bit like the stocking, but now it's a shoe. Right. It's not only getting a present, but there will also be a poem or a little note. And then the interesting thing is that if you read the poems, they're not always only kind.

They're also a little bit often a moment of teasing you or a moment of telling you something that otherwise couldn't be told. So the letters that I typically received are the poems that I typically would receive in my shoe.

They would really try to provoke me. And so, I would, for instance, I would come downstairs and I was in the morning, and I would find the entire living room being turned into a big, chaotic scene with all the chairs upside down and even beer bottles in the room. And I would be shocked. Then I would find a letter, and it would be spelling mistakes in the letter. And I would be very you know I was a very good good student, and I would care about the proper language use.

So I would be upset about those spelling mistakes. But all of that was actually to kind of like in the end to tease me, to kind of like show an topsy turve world, like an upside down world. And so in the end, of course, I got my present, but I also got a little lesson. And that was actually, I think, very fun. Now when you grow older, you start making poems for each other within the family, and it can also be among friends.

And again, that's the moment of actually teasing each other or telling the truth to each other that you otherwise won't hear. And I think that's a very creative touch that goes beyond how people celebrate Christmas or what happens when Santa Claus comes to your living room.

Yeah, I think the tradition has become also really a hot topic of debate and controversial because of the helpers of Sinterklaas .

I have actually what is called black face. And so this is something that I find easier to actually talk about, I guess, in English because we know this kind of we know the debate from how foreigners have reflected

on it. But Dutch people themselves, they find it hard to reflect on it. They find it hard to admit that this is maybe not a good tradition and she maybe should not make the helpers of Sinterklaas look like black people in a way that might be offensive to them.

In more recent years there have been all kinds of colorful helpers, like pink faces, or purple faces. And I think that's a good solution, but it is, for some reason, after even I would say now about 15 years of intense debate, this is still not accepted in Dutch society. And so it is for me a mixed a very mixed feeling to think about this tradition when I'm abroad because I know what foreigners and I fully agree with the critique, but I also have my own memory of the childhood experience which was actually my favorite holiday of the year. And for me, really a moment in which there was a lot of laughter and teasing and creativity and the rumors turned into a big mess, as I just explained and it was all fair big surprises all the time. So it's hard to reconcile the cherished memory and the critical perspective on that tradition, but that's really necessary.

That's what people need to do.

Simplified Chinese

Sinterklaas 听起来像是 Santa Claus（圣诞老人）。但不要误会，他们不是同一个人。他们是兄弟。

Sinterklaas 是圣诞老人的兄弟。我不知道谁是最年长的。也许圣诞老人年纪大些。但我认为 Sinterklaas 年纪大。他每年来荷兰一次。

12月5日，他乘船抵达荷兰，镇上将举行盛大的庆祝活动。但发生了一些奇怪的事情，因为实际上在12月5日，他在多个城镇出现。父母对我解释的一直是，其中有一个真实的，然后其他模仿者会去其他城镇，当然，来到我们的城镇那位是最真实的。那天，我们将欢迎圣诞老人进城。从那一刻起，每天晚上，你都会在放在烟囱旁边的鞋子里看到一件礼物。

实际上，在荷兰的传统中，它不仅仅是在你的鞋子里放礼物。有点像长袜，但现在鞋子。不仅能得到礼物，还会有一首诗或一个小便条。然后有趣的是，如果你仔细读一下，就会发现有时是一个恶作剧，或是在取笑你，或者是告诉你一些否则无法告诉你的事情。我通常会收到诗。

他们有时会试图激怒我。例如，早上下楼，发现整个客厅非常混乱，所有的椅子都倒过来了，甚至房间里还有啤酒瓶。我会感到震惊。然后我会发现一封充满拼写错误的信。我会，你知道我是一个非常优秀的学生，我非常在乎正确的语言使用。

我会对那些拼写错误感到不安。但实际上，这一切最终有点像是在取笑我，有点像是展示了一个颠倒的世界，就像一个颠倒的世界。所以最后，当然，我得到了我的礼物，但我也得到了一点教训。我认为这实际上非常有趣。现在长大了，就开始在家里互相作诗，也可以在朋友之间。

那是真正互相取笑或互相说出你不会听到的真相的时刻。我认为这是一种非常有创意的触感，它超越了人们如何庆祝圣诞节或圣诞老人降临的传统方式。

是的，我认为这个传统也因为圣诞老人的助手而成为争论和争议的热门话题。

我其实有所谓的黑脸。所以这是我觉得用英语更容易实际谈论的事情，因为我们知道这种辩论，我们知道外国人如何反映的辩论。但是荷兰人自己，他们发现很难反思。他们发现很难承认这可能不是一个好的传统，也许不应该让圣诞老人的助手看起来像黑人，这可能会冒犯他们。

最近几年出现了各种各样的彩色帮手，比如粉红色的脸，或者紫色的脸。我认为这是一个很好的解决方案，但出于某种原因，即使我现在要说大约 15 年的激烈辩论，荷兰社会仍然不接受这种做法。所以当我在国外时想到这个传统对我来说是一种非常复杂的感觉，因为我知道外国人和我完全同意这个批评，但我对童年经历也有自己的记忆，这实际上是我一年中最喜欢的假期。对我来说，真的是一个充满笑声、戏弄和创造力的时刻，谣言变成了一团糟，正如我刚刚解释的那样，这一直都是公平的大惊喜。所以很难调和珍贵的记忆和对该传统的批判性观点，但这确实是必要的。

这就是人们需要做的。

Traditional Chinese

Sinterklaas 聽起來像是 Santa Claus（聖誕老人）。但不要誤會，他們不是同一個人。他們是兄弟。

Sinterklaas 是聖誕老人的兄弟。我不知道誰是最年長的。也許聖誕老人年紀大些。但我認為 Sinterklaas 年紀大。他每年來荷蘭一次。

12 月 5 日，他乘船抵達荷蘭，鎮上將舉行盛大的慶祝活動。但發生了一些奇怪的事情，因為實際上在 12 月 5 日，他在多個城鎮出現。父母對我解釋的一直是，其中有一個真實的，然後其他模仿者會去其他城鎮，當然，來到我們的城鎮那位是最真實的。那天，我們將歡迎聖誕老人進城。從那一刻起，每天晚上，你都會在放在煙囪旁邊的鞋子裡看到一件禮物。

實際上，在荷蘭的傳統中，它不僅僅是在你的鞋子裡放禮物。有點像長襪，但現在是鞋子。不僅能得到禮物，還會有一首詩或一個小便條。然後有趣的是，如果你仔細讀一下，就會發現有時會是一個惡作劇，或是在取笑你，或者是告訴你一些否則無法告訴你的事情。我通常會收到詩。

他們有時會試圖激怒我。例如，早上下樓，發現整個客廳非常混亂，所有的椅子都倒過來了，甚至房間裡還有啤酒瓶。我會感到震驚。然後我會發現一封充滿拼寫錯誤的信。我會，你知道我是一個非常優秀的學生，我非常在乎正確的語言使用。

我會對那些拼寫錯誤感到不安。但實際上，這一切最終有點像是在取笑我，有點像是展示了一個顛倒的世界，就像一個顛倒的世界。所以最後，當然，我得到了我的禮物，但我也得到了一點教訓。我認為這實際上非常有趣。現在長大了，就開始在家裡互相作詩，也可以在朋友之間。那是真正互相取笑或互相說出你不會聽到的真相的時刻。我認為這是一種非常有創意的觸感，它超越了人們如何慶祝聖誕節或聖誕老人降臨的傳統方式。

是的，我認為這個傳統也因為聖誕老人的助手而成為爭論和爭議的熱門話題。

我其實有所謂的黑臉。所以這是我覺得用英語更容易實際談論的事情，因為我們知道這種辯論，我們知道外國人如何反映的辯論。但是荷蘭人自己，他們發現很難反思。他們發現很難承認這可能不是一個好的傳統，也許不應該讓聖誕老人的助手看起來像黑人，這可能會冒犯他們。

最近幾年出現了各種各樣的彩色幫手，比如粉紅色的臉，或者紫色的臉。我認為這是一個很好的解決方案，但出於某種原因，即使我現在要說大約 15 年的激烈辯論，荷蘭社會仍然不接受這種做法。所以當我在國外時想到這個傳統對我來說是一種非常複雜的感覺，因為我知道外國人和我完全同意這個批評，但我對童年經歷也有自己的記憶，這實際上是我一年中最喜歡的假期。對我來說，真的是一個充滿笑聲、戲弄和創造力的時刻，謠言變成了一團糟，正如我剛剛解釋的那樣，這一直都是公平的大驚喜。所以很難調和珍貴的記憶和對該傳統的批判性觀點，但這確實是必要的。

這就是人們需要做的。