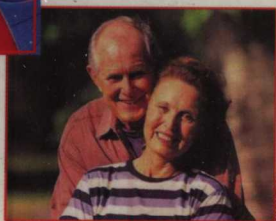


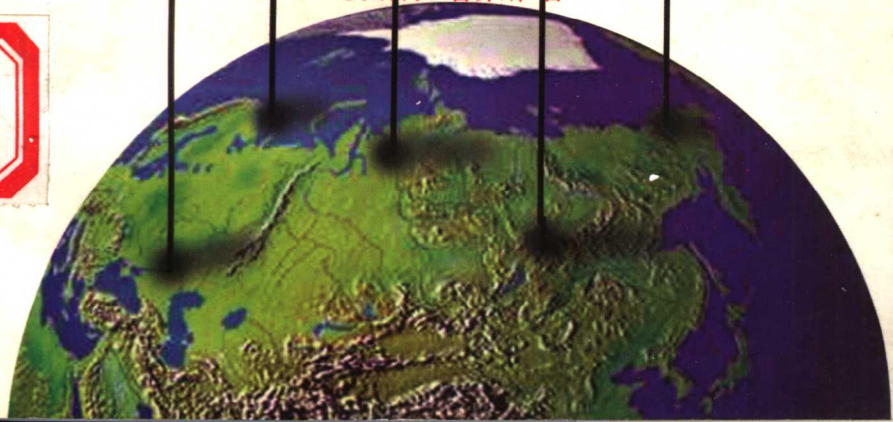
Celebrations for Every Day of the Year  
英语注释读物



# 世界节日趣谈

THE WORLD HOLIDAY BOOK

安纳利·鲁弗斯 著



*The World Holiday Book*

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*Celebrations for Every Day of the Year*

安纳利·鲁弗斯 著  
俞之敦 注

中国对外翻译出版公司

**图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据**

世界节日趣谈/(美)鲁弗斯(Rufus, A.)著;俞之注.  
—北京:中国对外翻译出版公司,1998.6

ISBN 7-5001-0526-6

I. 世… II. ①鲁… ②俞… III. 英语-语言读物  
IV. H 310.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (98) 第 03608 号

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出版发行/中国对外翻译出版公司

地 址/北京市西城区太平桥大街 4 号

电 话/66168195

邮 编/100810

责任编辑/苗 锋

排 版/五一排版厂

印 刷/北京怀柔新华印刷厂

经 销/新华书店北京发行所

规 格/850×1168 毫米 1/32

印 张/12 印张

版 次/1999 年 1 月第一版

印 次/1999 年 1 月第一次

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# introduction

引言

A friend of mine has a favorite story about Passover. 1

There were going to be thirteen at the seder table that year, a fact which filled my friend with superstitious dread. It was asking for bad luck on a holiday already fraught with warnings, omens, outbursts, and plaques. 5

"Couldn't we just not invite the Provines?" my friend pleaded with her mother, brutally targeting the only four nonrelatives on the guest list. "Then we'd be nine."

"Are you crazy?" her mother shrieked indignantly. The three Provine children were fatherless, after all. "This is Passover." 10

Which was funny because on all other nights my friend's mother seethed with a xenophobic fervor, her home a fortress, her table with its three lonely place settings a margarine-redolent sanctum sanctorum to which no magic word on earth could buy the wayfarer an introduction. 15

No magic word, that is, except Passover. At the onset of the holiday, my friend's mother waxed suddenly warm, even jolly, oozing the milk of human kindness the way wooden statues of the Madonna are sometimes said to cry or bleed.

That's what I love about holidays: how they transform us, how they remind us of the things we hold sacred. Holidays affirm our traditions and proclaim our loves as stalwartly as pushpins in a map. Like 20

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1 Passover (犹太人的)逾越节 2 seder 逾越节家宴 12 seethed with a xenophobic fervor 充满了恐惧外人的情绪 13 three...place settings 三份……餐具 13 margarine-redolent 散发着人造黄油香味的 13-14 sanctum sanctorum 私室 14 magic word 咒语, 巫术 14-15 could buy the wayfarer an introduction 能使外人(旅行者)进入 17-18 oozing the milk of human kindness 流露出人类的善良天性 18 Madonna 圣母马利亚 22 stalwartly 坚定地

- 1 body-piercing and canapés, holidays set us apart from other species, turning every celebrant into a vessel for ritual, bonding us with every other celebrant throughout the world and throughout time. Holidays are collective dreams, wishes, fantasies, and myths made glorious  
 5 flesh; and to share other people's holidays is to trade dreams. Holidays—holy days, festivals, feasts, *fiestas*, rites—bring out the best in us: their gongs and hymns and fires bring us back to our sacred selves, our social selves. Even the starkest and most ascetic of holidays, such as fasts and vigils, have an austere beauty that sharpens the senses  
 10 and clears the mind the way horseradish clears the palate.

- And that's why we should celebrate *more* holidays. Lots more. All kinds, from all over, enough to celebrate every day, if you have the energy. Read this book, find the rites that resonate, and *do* them. You can use this book to replace, with sly self-reliance, some of those holi-  
 15 days that you've been coaxed into observing all your life but never felt quite right about. Just being born in a country founded by Puritans doesn't automatically ensure that someone is going to *love* Thanksgiving or sunrise services on Easter morning. In fact, some of the most "American" holiday traditions came from somewhere else. Christmas  
 20 trees came from Germany, via England; Plymouth Plantation's Governor William Bradford, designing the first Thanksgiving feast, used *Sukkot*, the Jewish "feast of the tabernacles," as his model for an outdoor harvesttime repast.

- By including holidays from all over the world, I run the risk of  
 25 yanking them wholesale out of their natural contexts and delivering them naked and quivering, as a cat smugly proffers baby birds stolen from the nest. But I hope they do not look that way to you. I hope the holidays here vibrate with a deep universal humanness, leaping ef-

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1 canapé 餐前开胃薄饼 1 set ...apart from... 将……与……分开 2 a vessel for ritual 进行宗教仪式的器皿 6 fiestas 宗教节日 8 stark 刻板的 8 ascetic 禁欲的 9 vigil (祈祷)守夜 10 horseradish 辣根 13 resonate 起共鸣 16 Puritan 清教徒 (基督教新教徒中的一派) 18 sunrise service 黎明祈祷 20 Plymouth Plantation's Governor 普利茅斯殖民地总督 22 sukkot 住棚节 (犹太教的收割节) 22 tabernacles 棚舍 23 repast 佳肴美食 25 wholesale 不分好坏地 26 smugly 沾沾自喜地 26 proffer 提供、贡献

fortlessly across seas and centuries in their passionate reverence for season and sun and moon, endings and beginnings, animals and miracles and goddesses and gods. One problem in assembling this book was that in adhering to the Gregorian-calendar format, I had to omit a very rich body of holidays that are scheduled according to other timetables: consider the Muslim calendar, the Hindu, the Hebrew, the lunar calendar to which most of Asia adheres. Any holiday plotted according to one of these alternate calendars would fall on a different date every year in the Gregorian calendar. Space permits me to regretfully offer a mere handful of these "moveable feasts"; hundreds more exist, representing diverse cultures.

I for one can never bear it when a holiday ends, when the last candle gutters out and the last shout or toast or incantation dies trailing away. For then there comes a sad hush, and too soon the clamor of ordinary dailiness closes in, as if to say, "Back to work. Party's over. Gods've gone home." For in a hard-working society, it is rare and even subversive to celebrate too much, to revel and keep on reveling: to stop whatever you're doing and rave, pray, throw things, go into trances, jump over bonfires, drape yourself in flowers, stay up all night, and scoop the froth from the sea.

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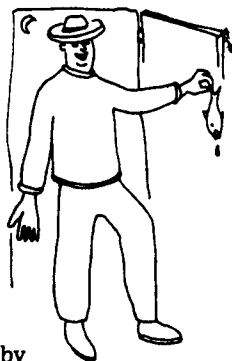
4 Gregorian-calendar 格列高利历 (1582 年颁行的历法, 即目前全世界通用的阳历) 6 Hindu 印度人的 6 Hebrew 犹太人的, 希伯来人的 12 I for one 拿我来说 13 gutter out 渐渐熄灭 13 incantation 咒语 15 dailiness 日常生活 15 close in 降临 17 subversive 颠覆性的, 起破坏作用的 18 rave 胡言乱语 18 go into trances 狂喜 20 scoop the froth from the sea 空谈

# January 1

## New Year's Day

元旦

**S**atisfying (because it indicates having survived the previous year) yet scary (because who knows what the next year will bring), New Year's Day calls for safeguards, augurs, charms, and proclamations. All over the world, people kiss strangers, shoot guns into the air, toll bells, and exchange gifts. In Scotland and northern England, people keenly watch their thresholds to ensure that the "first footer"—the first visitor to come through the door in the new year—is of the propitious kind. Some regions swear by dark-haired men, others by blonde men; no one seems to want a woman. No first



footer worth his salt arrives empty-handed: Preferred gifts are her-  
ring, bread, and fuel for the fire. In Japan, temple bells usher out  
the old year, and then comes the *joyano-kane*—the "night-watch  
bell," a series of exactly 108 peals. These, it is said, free the faithful  
from the 108 "earthly desires" lambasted in the Buddhist canon.  
Bulgarian, Serbian, Macedonian, and Rumanian bells also ring in  
the new year. Paraguayans rearrange the figurines in their Christ-  
mas crèches and address the baby Jesus as *Niño del Año Nuevo*. In  
Greece, January 1 is the feast day of the beloved Saint Basil, who is  
fêted with his own nut-and-lemon-laced cake, the *vasilopita*.  
Swedes, meanwhile, go to church, go to smorgasbords, and drink  
spicy *glögg*.

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4 augur 占卜者 11 propitious 吉祥的 12 swear by... 以……为吉祥  
(人) 14 worth his salt 应受尊敬的 15 usher out 送走 16 joyano-  
kane 除夕之夜 12 点的钟声 17 peal 钟声 18 lambast 严厉批评 20  
Paraguyan 巴拉圭人 21 crèche 基督诞生时马利亚等人围绕着马槽中初  
生基督的塑像 21 Niño del Año Nuevo 新年的孩子(西班牙语) 22 Saint  
Basil 圣巴西勒(约 329~379), 古代基督教希腊教父 23 nut-and-lemon-  
laced 加上果仁和柠檬的 24 smorgasbord 斯堪的纳维亚式自助餐馆  
25 glögg 瑞典热奔趣酒(一种由酒类和香料制成的热饮料)

- 1 **T**he Japanese New Year season begins on January 1 and lasts two weeks. Symbols of the season include pine branches for endurance, paper lobsters for longevity, and *daidai*, a bitter orange whose name is a homonym for "from generation to generation" and "forever." These two weeks are full of *hatsu*, portentous "firsts," all to be savored with acute awareness and a sense of the bitter-sweet, quicksilver nature of first-time-ness. *Hatsu-dori* is the year's first cockcrow, *hatsu-mode* the year's first shrine or temple visit; *goyo-hajime*, the year's first day of business, is traditionally January 4.
- 10 Musicians embark mindfully on *hatsu-geike*, the year's first practice session, and carpenters on *chona-hajime*, the year's first use of an adze.



January 2 is set aside for *kakizome*, "first writing." Each member of the household takes a turn dipping a brush into freshly mixed ink and inscribing a favorite poem or proverb onto a long strip of paper. The goal is to write as beautifully as possible, every brush stroke an *oeuvre*, the characters vivid against a sheet that started out as pure and open as the year ahead. Households, schools, and community organizations sponsor contests in which prizes are awarded for children's best *kakizome*. The poet Issa captured the spirit of one of these contests:

*How he looks and looks at the prize  
For the year's first calligraphy—  
That orange!*

3 *daidai* 一种橙子，音为“代代”。 4 *homonym* 同音异义词 5 *hatsu* 第一次 6 *portentous* 预示未来的，意义重大的 7 *savor* 品味，体验 8 *acute* 敏锐的 9-10 *the bitter-sweet, quicksilver nature of first-time-ness* 苦中有甜、变幻莫测的初次感觉 11 *hatsu-geike* 第一次练习 12 *adze* 扁斧 13 *set aside for* 留给 14 *kakizome* 新春试笔节（日语） 15 *oeuvre* 上笔，意思是“写得好” 16 *Issa* 伊佐（日本诗人） 17 *capture* 捕捉，记录



# January 3

## Saint Genevieve's Day

### Sainte-Geneviève

圣热内维埃夫纪念日

**G**enevieve took the veil at fifteen, but not before an unpleasant tiff with her mother involving the latter's refusal to take Genevieve to church one busy morning. In anger, the girl struck her mother blind. Later, she relented and gave the woman back her sight. As a handmaiden of the Church, Genevieve went to live in Paris, where, we are told, she fasted, prayed, wept for humanity's sins, and worked many miracles.

The most notable of these happened when barbarian hordes were besieging the city. Genevieve not only managed to feed the starving Parisians, but she also convinced the barbarian leader, Childeric, to release the prisoners he had captured. Later Genevieve exerted similar power over Attila the Hun. This plucky saint came to reign as the patron of Paris (as well as of secretaries, actors, and the Women's Army Corps, the WACs). She has been successfully invoked in times of plague, and a fair in her honor has been a longtime tradition in the city.



1 Genevieve 热内维埃夫, 巴黎的女主保圣人 1 take the veil 当修女 2 tiff 怄气 7 worked many miracles 做出很多奇迹 11 Childeric 希尔德里克, 古代法兰克王国墨洛温王朝的国王, 曾打败萨克逊人和阿勒曼尼人 13 Attila the Hun 匈奴阿提拉, 公元5世纪匈奴王, 曾领兵入侵高卢 14 plucky 有胆量的 15-16 Women's Army Corps 陆军妇女队 (简称 WACs) 17 fair 义卖会 17-18 in her honor = in honor of her 为了纪念她

# January 4

## Pilgrimage to Chalma

### Nuestro Señor de Chalma

切尔玛朝圣日

**1** In 1533 two Augustinian friars were evangelizing the Ocuilteco people of Ocuilan, about a hundred miles from Mexico City. The natives were devoted to their own god: They prayed and sacrificed to his idol in a cave.

**5** One day, it is said, the priests and some of their Indian converts marched up to the cave carrying a big wooden cross with which they planned to supplant the idol. When they got there, the idol already lay smashed to bits and in its place stood a crucifix. "A miracle!" they declared. The moribund fellow on the crucifix soon

**10** became known as Our Lord of Chalma, and he was credited with great powers. In 1683, he was moved to a nearby church, to which flock as many as twenty thousand worshipers every year from January 1 through January 7. The pilgrims, which include Zapotecs, Aztecs, and many other native groups, make the last part of the journey through the valley to the shrine on foot. They dance and sing for *el Señor*, perform mystery plays, and leave offerings. A popular good-bye song goes:



*Good-bye, blessed sanctuary, until next year. . .*

*Good-bye, delight of the soul; give me your benediction.*

*Good-bye, Señor de Chalma,*

*divine benefactor . . . adiós, adiós, adiós.*

1 Augustinian friar 奥古斯丁会的修士 1 evangelize 对……宣讲福音 3 sacrifice 献祭. 上供 5 convert 改变信仰的人 8 lay smashed to bits 倒在地上. 已摔成了碎片 9 moribund 垂死的 10 become known as… 被称为…… 10 be credited with… 被认为具有…… 11-12 to which flock … twenty thousand worshipers = twenty thousand worshipers flock to the church (flock v. 聚集) 14 Zapotecs 萨波特克人 (墨西哥印第安人) 14 Aztecs 阿兹特克人 (墨西哥印第安人) 17 el Señor = the Lord 19 go 这样流传着 20 sanctuary 圣殿 23 adiós 再见 (美国西南部用语)

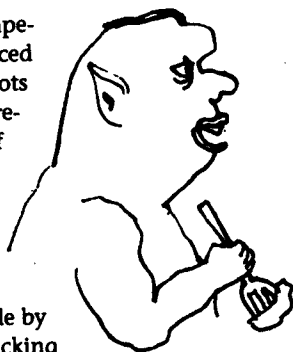
January 5

Epiphany Eve

Kalanda

主显节前夕

The baby-stealing, chicken-riding, shape-shifting, snaggle-toothed, honey-voiced demons called *kalikandjari* come to earth, Cypriots say, at Christmas, and they depart with spiteful reluctance every January 5. Said to be wraiths of children who died unbaptized, *kalikandjari* spend their days on earth hovering around lakes and crossroads making evil plans. They sneak down chimneys and urinate all over freshly bought groceries and defecate into people's hope chests. They insinuate their way inside by tapping on front doors while uncannily mimicking the voices of loved ones. Often, they loiter maliciously on rooftops, berating their mothers for not having had them baptized in time.



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One *Kalanda* custom has the housewife kneading pastry dough at midnight in total silence. This she fries along with some sausages and throws the whole panful onto the roof for the *kalikandjari*. She sings:

*Little piece, piece of sausage,  
Knife with a black handle,  
Piece of pancake:  
Eat and let us go.*

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1 shape-shifting 能改变形状的 2 snaggle-toothed 牙齿凸着的 2 honey-voiced 悦耳的 3 Cypriots 塞浦路斯人 5 wraith 幽灵 6 unbaptized 未受浸礼的 10 defecate 拉屎 11 hope chest 嫁妆 12 uncannily 超人地 13 loved ones 亲人们 14 berate 痛斥 16 knead 揉 18 panful 一满盘

January 6

Epiphany

主显节

- 1 **E**piphan<sup>y</sup>, commemorating Jesus' baptism and the Three Kings' visit to the manger, is one of Christianity's most widely celebrated holidays. In Greece on this twelfth day after Christmas, processions march to the sea, where the priest throws a cross into the water. Local youths dive for the cross and are heaped with gifts and blessings upon its retrieval. Similar rites—echoing ancient propitiations of river gods, sea gods, fishing gods, and storm gods—are *de rigueur* all along the Danube and in Albania, as well as in American and English fishing ports. The Greeks believe this is a day for wearing new clothes and for making wishes, a day on which seawater is sweet enough to drink and on which beasts in the stable may suddenly start to speak.

- 10 In France, the day's main event is a low-slung, butter-rich, shiny-with-egg-yolk cake called the *Galette des Rois*, the Kings' Cake; in England, it is called the Twelfth Cake and is taller, fluffier, and elaborately frosted. The cake has lucky charms baked inside that foretell the destinies of those who eat it: A coin portends wealth, a ring portends marriage. Whoever finds the cake's hidden bean is crowned king- or queen-for-a-day and is urged to choose a consort and to order everyone around. A Mexican variant is the *Rosca de los Reyes*, a crown-shaped cake in which is hidden a tiny china baby. The one who finds the doll in his or her slice must throw a party three weeks hence, on Candlemas Day.



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\* Epiphany 主显节 (亦称显灵节。基督教门徒纪念耶稣显灵的节日) 1-2 the Three Kings 指《圣经》中由东方来朝见初生耶稣的三大圣贤 2 manger (马、牛等的) 食槽 (相传耶稣降生在马槽中) 6 retrieval 意为“复得; 取回”。“its retrieval”指“将十字架捞回” 6 propitiation 抚慰 8 de rigueur 按照风俗习惯 (法语) 13 low-slung 低矮的 15 fluffy 松软的 17 portend 预示 19 king-or queen-for-a-day 一日皇帝或一日皇后 20 consort 配偶 21-22 Rosca de los Reyes 帝王的螺旋形糕饼 (墨西哥糕饼名称) 24 throw a party 举行聚会 25 Candlemas Day 圣烛节 (2月2日。圣母行洁净礼日)

# January 7

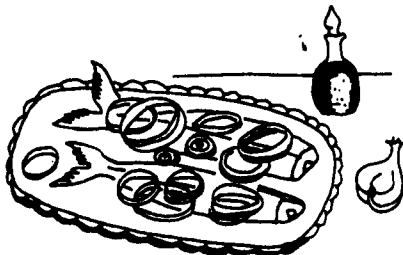
## Ukrainian Christmas

Rizdvo

乌克兰圣诞节

**R**izdvo is steadfastly Christian ... which is only appropriate in the birthplace of Eastern Orthodoxy. It also bears the stamp of ancient earth worship ... appropriate in this land long known as Europe's breadbasket.

The twinkling of the first star in the eastern sky on the Ukrainian Christmas Eve—which is January 6—ushers in Rizdvo. Early evening is for door-to-door caroling, called *koliadki*. Midnight finds everyone attending mass in church. Then in the wee hours of January 7, families hurry home to the *syata vechera*, the “holy supper.” Having fasted the day before, everyone is more than ready for this lengthy repast with its twelve courses to represent the twelve apostles. The dishes are red-meat- and dairy-free. After a candle-lighting ceremony and prayers, the family sits down to a table whose earthy centerpiece is made of hay, garlic, and shiny, braided *kolach* loaves. The first course is *kutia*—a baked wheat-berry pudding with dried fruits, nuts, poppy seeds, and honey—which is an ancient recipe made on this day and this day only. Then come wild mushrooms, grains, fish (salmon, pike, carp-in-aspic), cabbage, potatoes, sauerkraut, and horseradish. Everyone is expected to sample each of the courses. The beloved Christmas cake, *perekladenets*, comprises four layers of yeasted pastry sandwiching three sweet fillings: poppy seed, date, and pureed walnut.



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3 Eastern Orthodoxy 东正教 11 koliadki 圣诞节颂歌 (乌克兰语) 12 wee hours 指凌晨一、二、三点钟 15 twelve apostles (耶稣基督派出传布福音的) 十二个门徒 15 red meat 指牛羊肉和鹿肉 17 earthy centerpiece 餐桌中央朴实的装饰品 18 kolach 挂锁形白面包 (乌克兰语) 18 kutia (乌克兰圣诞节前夕吃的) 蜜饭 (乌克兰语) 21 salmon 鲑、大麻哈鱼 21 pike 狗鱼 21 carp-in-aspic 鲤鱼肉冻 23 sample v. 品尝 24 perekladenets 圣诞饼 (乌克兰语) 25 pureed walnut 核桃泥

# January 8

## Midwives' Day

产婆节

1 A veritable bevy of ancient goddesses watched over mothers-to-be and women in childbirth. And midwives were these goddesses' earthly helpers. Thus, in the mountains of Greek Macedonia, this date was long ago set aside for the honoring—for the 5 the toasting, anointing, propitiating, and venerating—of village midwives.

Nominally dedicated to the obscure Saint Domenika, the day finds all women of childbearing age hastening to the midwife's home, bearing gifts. Most traditional are things she will need for her work: new towels, soap, scissors. Women also bring the midwife festive foods and bottles of wine. Each guest in turn solemnly washes the midwife's hands with warm water—in symbolic anticipation of the day when the midwife will come and assist in the supplicant's own childbirth. The midwife's assistants create a schema, a phallic figure made of a leek or a sausage.



This the guests pass back and forth; they pat and kiss it; some weep. The guests crown the midwife with garlands, streamers, and necklaces made of figs and currants, and then all sit down to a meal 20 during which they tell rude jokes and drink as much as they want, because this is the only day of the year on which women are granted the right to public displays of drunkenness. At days' end, the village women pull their midwife in a flower-decked carriage through the streets to the public fountain, where they sprinkle her 25 most reverently with fresh water.

1 bevy 一群 1 mothers-to-be 孕妇. 即将做母亲的人 7 Saint Domenika 圣多梅尼卡 (希腊神名) 8 women of childbearing age 育龄妇女 9 Most traditional are things...= Things...are most traditional .....物品是传统上最常用的 13-14 in symbolic anticipation of the day when...own childbirth 象征性地预示产婆来给她们自己接生的那一天 15 the supplicant “恳求者”. 即前面的 “Each guest” 16 schema 模式; 模型 16 phallic 男性生殖器的 16 leek 韭葱 18 streamer 飘带 22 the right to public displays of drunkenness 在大庭广众之下公开表现醉态的权利 23 flower-decked 用鲜花装饰起来的

# January 9

## Feast of the Black Nazarene

黑衣耶稣节

**E**ven the pickpockets, local legend has it, come clean on the day of the *Nazareno*. Over a hundred thousand pilgrims throng the Manila streets north of the Pasig River for the year's biggest festival. The *Nazareno* is a life-size statue of the crucified Jesus. Carved of dark wood by Indians in colonial Mexico, the statue was carried across the Pacific to the Philippines in a Spanish galleon during the seventeenth century. Now enshrined in Manila's Quiapo church, the figure is the object of intense devotion. 10

The *Nazareno*, credited with many miracles, draws a thousand visitors each day of the year, and more than that on Fridays.



Every January 9, a local penitent takes it upon himself to haul the huge *Nazareno* on its wheeled *carroza* through the streets of town. He does this barefooted, straining and gasping, protected by a cluster of young male companions. The neighborhood all around them is a swirling, jostling mass of humanity. Everyone struggles to get close enough to touch the *Nazareno* with a towel or handkerchief. Thus imbued, it is believed, the cloth has both the power to heal illness and to dissolve sin, and is effective when rubbed on the body from head to toe. The procession winds slowly along and ends with a mass at the Quiapo church. Filipino tourism officials recommend watching the procession not from street level but from the top of some nearby building. 15

1 local legend has it 在句中作插入语，意思是“根据当地的传说”。“have it”的意思是“说道”。 2 the *Nazareno* 纳扎伦努（指穿黑衣的耶稣） 4 the Pasig River 帕西格河（菲律宾） 5 life-size 与真人（实物）一样大小的 8 galleon 西班牙大帆船 10 Quiapo 奎阿波（菲律宾的一个教堂名称） 11 credited with many miracles 被认为有许多惊人的奇迹 13 take ... upon oneself 承担起……责任 14 *carroza*（菲律宾的一种）彩车 19 imbue 灌注，浸染，充满 21 wind v. 弯弯曲曲地行进 21-22 ends with a mass at... 在……作一次弥撒而结束 23 street level 街面（指街面高度）

January 10

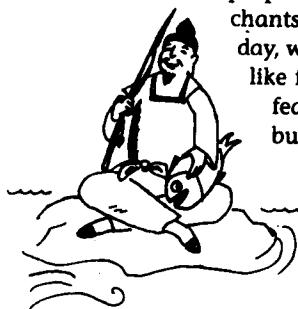
Business God's Day

Ebisu Matsuri

商神节

1 Among Japan's *shikifukujin*, "Seven Lucky Gods," that septet of Buddhist deities who sailed from China in their *takarabune*, or "treasure ship," Ebisu is the god who smiles the most brightly. He is the plump, bearded one with the fishing pole tucked under one arm and a huge sea bream tucked under the other, the one who knows all about credits; debits, algorithms, spreadsheets, loss leaders, and accounts receivable.

A god of commerce as well as of food and fishing, Ebisu is at home with both net profits and drift nets. Thus, he is the businessman's favorite, and many days in the businessman's calendar are dedicated specially to him. January 10's festival, which became a popular tradition during the Edo period, was the year's first, and its purpose was to ask the god for a profitable year. Merchants would gather for New Year's banquets on this day, while the god stood by with rice cakes stacked up like fat coins on his altar. Far fewer of these lavish feasts are held now than a hundred years ago, but businesspeople still buy inexpensive Ebisu posters at New Year's to place, along with rice cakes, on home altars. And many is the shop in modern Japan where a statue of the ebullient god overlooks the transactions, his grin such a part of him that the expression "Ebisu-face" means "happy face."



1 septet 七人小组 3 Ebisu 惠比须 (商神或财神的名字) 5 sea bream 鲷鱼 6 debit 借入 6 algorithm 算法、规则系统 6 spreadsheet 棋盘式对照表 7 loss leader (为吸引顾客的) 亏本销售的商品 7 accounts receivable 应收帐款 8-9 at home with both net profits and drift nets "at home" 熟悉、精通. "net profit" 纯利. "drift nets" (用流网捕鱼的) 流网. 意思是说 "(财神爷惠比须) 既精通生财之道. 又会捕鱼". 12 Edo period 江户时代 (江户 [Edo] 是日本东京的旧称. 1603 年德川加康在此开设幕府. 明治维新 (1868) 时首都迁此. 改称东京) 16 far fewer 少得多 20-21 many is the shop 有许多商店. 又如 many's the time 表示 "常常". many's the tale 表示 "有许多故事". 22 ebullient 兴高采烈的



# January 11

## Carmentalia

送子娘娘节

**C**armenta, a goddess of prophecy and childbirth, was important enough to have one of Rome's portals named for her. The Porta Carmentalis, at the foot of the southern end of the Capitol, stood near the temple where the goddess's special priest, the Flamen Carmentalis, presided. The sacrifices he prepared for the goddess's altar were strictly vegetarian, as Carmenta eschewed all animal hide and flesh from her precincts. Scholars presume that a goddess of birth would naturally abhor any kind of slaughter.

It is reported that, with the exception of the Flamen Carmentalis, no males were permitted to enter the goddess's temple. (One legend suggested that women had even built the temple by themselves.) Midwife as well as sibyl—her name with its root *carmen* implies a spell, a charm, a prophecy, a poem, a song—Carmenta was doubly important to pregnant women and new mothers, who took care to visit the shrine on her festival day. Carmenta's specialty was telling babies' fortunes, and it was said that she did not merely deliver her oracles but sang them. As April was the traditional marriage month among Romans, January found many young Roman women expectant for the first time and in need of an assignation with Carmenta.



1 Carmenta 卡门塔 (送子娘娘的名字) 2 to have one of Rome's portals named for her 将罗马的一个城门以她的名字命名 3 Porta Carmentalis 卡门塔门 3 Capitol 朱庇特神庙 4-5 Flamen Carmentalis 卡门塔的祭司 5 sacrifice 祭品 6 eschew 避开 7 precinct 场地, 院落 9 It is reported that... 据说, 据报道 9 with the exception of ... 除了……以外 12 sibyl 女预言家 12-13 her name with its root Carmen 她的带词根 carmen 的名字 17 telling (babies') fortunes 给 (婴儿) 算命 18 oracle 神的启示 21 expectant for the first time 初次怀孕的 22 in need of an assignation with... 需要与……订约会