

小年的团圆仪式

每到腊月二十三，我们家就开始迎接一年一度的小年。小年虽然不像春节那样隆重，但它承载着对家庭团聚的期待，也让我们有机会重新感受传统习俗的魅力。节前几天，妈妈就会带着我和妹妹准备扫尘的工具和春联纸张。我最喜欢扫尘的环节，因为它不仅让家里焕然一新，还充满了游戏般的乐趣，我们总是会把灰尘吹得到处都是，然后再笑着收拾干净。

小年的早晨，爸爸会先祭拜灶王爷，家里弥漫着淡淡的香火味。妈妈则会准备灶糖，糖果甜蜜香软，我们小孩围在旁边，嘴角总是沾上糖粉。吃灶糖的同时，爸爸会讲述灶王爷上天汇报人间的故事，让我们明白小年的文化意义，也激发了我对传统节日的兴趣。

贴春联是我最期待的环节。我们全家齐心协力，红色的春联在门上显得格外喜庆。妈妈告诉我，每一副春联都是对新年的祝福，而我们每一个动作都是对家人情感的传递。小年的整个过程虽然简单，但每个细节都体现了家庭的温暖与爱意。

夜晚，我们围坐在餐桌旁，简单的家常菜也因为小年的仪式感而显得特别美味。大家一边吃饭，一边回忆一年的点滴，讨论来年的计划和愿望。小年不仅是家庭活动的集中体现，更是文化传承的纽带，让每一个家庭成员在互动中感受到彼此的重要性。

节后，我常常怀念这段温暖的时光。小年的习俗提醒我，不管生活多忙碌，团圆和传承是我们永远不应忘记的部分。正是这些小小的仪式，让家变得更加有意义，让我们在传统文化中找到归属感和幸福感。

Reunion Rituals of Little New Year

Every year on the twenty-third day of the twelfth lunar month, our family begins preparing for the Little New Year. Although it is not as grand as the Spring Festival, it carries the expectation of family reunion and offers us a chance to re-experience the charm of traditional customs. A few days before the festival, my mother prepares cleaning tools and couplets with my sister and me. I especially enjoy the cleaning part because it not only refreshes the house but also feels like a playful game; we often scatter dust everywhere and then laugh while cleaning it up.

On the morning of the Little New Year, my father first worships the Kitchen God, filling the house with a faint incense aroma. Meanwhile, my mother prepares kitchen candy. We children gather around, our lips sticky with sugar. While eating the candy, my father tells the story of the Kitchen God reporting to heaven, helping us understand the cultural significance of the festival and sparking my interest in traditional holidays.

Putting up couplets is my favorite part. The whole family works together, and the red couplets on the door look particularly festive. My mother explains that every couplet is a blessing for the new year, and every action we take conveys our love for

each other. Although the Little New Year is simple, each detail reflects the warmth and affection of family.

In the evening, we sit around the dinner table. Even simple home-cooked dishes feel special because of the ceremonial atmosphere. We share memories of the past year and discuss plans and wishes for the new year. The Little New Year is not only a concentration of family activities but also a bond of cultural heritage, allowing each family member to feel the importance of each other through interaction.

After the festival, I often recall this warm time. The customs of the Little New Year remind me that no matter how busy life gets, reunion and heritage are things we should never forget. It is these small rituals that make home more meaningful and help us find a sense of belonging and happiness in traditional culture.