

小年的温馨时光

每年的腊月二十三或二十四，我家都会忙碌起来，迎接小年的到来。小年在我们家不仅是一个节日，更是家庭团聚和传承习俗的时刻。节前几天，妈妈就开始准备贴春联的纸张和墨汁，而我和妹妹则负责打扫房间。扫尘是小年最重要的准备工作之一，我们要把屋子打扫得干干净净，寓意把一年的晦气都扫出去，为新的一年迎来好运。

小年的当天，家里充满了温馨的氛围。爸爸先拜灶王爷，感谢过去一年家庭平安顺利，然后妈妈会给我们分发灶糖。灶糖甜而粘，寓意“甜甜蜜蜜，团团圆圆”。我们一边品尝灶糖，一边听爸爸讲小时候过小年的故事，每个人的脸上都洋溢着笑容。

贴春联也是小年的重要环节。我们全家一起动手，爸爸贴上横批，妈妈调整对联的位置，而我和妹妹负责整理边角。红彤彤的春联让整个家焕然一新，也把小年的喜庆气息传递到每一个角落。这个过程中，我们不仅是在完成一项任务，更是在体验家庭成员间默契合作的乐趣。

小年的晚上，我们全家围坐在一起，吃着简单却充满仪式感的晚餐，聊着一一年来的点滴与新年的期许。虽然小年的活动不像春节那样热闹，但它的意义在于凝聚家人的感情，提醒我们珍惜当下的团聚时光。通过这些传统习俗，我感受到家庭的温暖，也深深体会到文化的传承与力量。

节后的几天，我常常回忆起小年的情景，心中充满温馨与满足。小年的习俗不仅让我对传统文化有了更深的理解，也让我意识到团圆的重要。无论时代如何变迁，这些小小的仪式总能把家人紧紧联系在一起，让我们在忙碌的生活中找到一份宁静与幸福。

Warm Moments of Little New Year

Every year on the twenty-third or twenty-fourth day of the twelfth lunar month, our family gets busy preparing for the Little New Year. For us, the Little New Year is not just a festival; it is a time for family reunion and passing down traditions. A few days before the festival, my mother begins preparing the red couplets and ink, while my sister and I are in charge of cleaning the house. Cleaning is one of the most important preparations for the Little New Year, as it symbolizes sweeping away the bad luck of the past year and welcoming good fortune for the new year.

On the day of the festival, the house is filled with warmth. My father first worships the Kitchen God, thanking him for the safety and smoothness of the past year. Then, my mother hands out kitchen candy to us. The candy is sweet and sticky, symbolizing sweetness and family reunion. While tasting the candy, we listen to my father's stories about how he celebrated the Little New Year as a child, and everyone's faces are lit up with smiles.

Putting up couplets is also an important part of the celebration. Our whole family participates—my father hangs the horizontal scroll, my mother adjusts the vertical couplets, and my sister and I tidy the edges. The bright red couplets

refresh the entire house and fill it with the festive atmosphere of the Little New Year. This process is more than just a task; it is a joyful experience of cooperation among family members.

In the evening, we gather for a simple yet ceremonial dinner, sharing memories of the past year and hopes for the new one. Although the Little New Year is not as lively as the Spring Festival, its significance lies in bringing the family together and reminding us to cherish these moments. Through these traditional customs, I feel the warmth of family and deeply appreciate the power of cultural heritage.

In the days after the festival, I often recall the scenes of the Little New Year with warmth and satisfaction. The customs not only deepen my understanding of traditional culture but also make me realize the importance of family reunion. No matter how times change, these small rituals always connect family members and allow us to find peace and happiness amidst the busyness of life.