

Valentine's Day and Adulthood Ceremony — Tradition and Current Custom of the Seventh Eve (Chi-Hsi) in Taiwan

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Abstract

In this speech, I will first introduce the origin and development of the custom on the Seventh Eve (Chi-Hsi) and related folk activities in modern Taiwan society, then elaborate on their significances. The origin of The Seventh Eve is associated with the love story between the Cowherd and the Girl Weaver. In ancient China, on the Seventh Eve, the females participate in “the Festival to Plead for Skills”

(Chi-Chiao-Whei) . In the Tang and Sung Dynasties, it involves the pleading for marriage and children from the Goddess Weaver. After the Ming and Ching Dynasties, Min-nan and Taiwan start having the custom to worship “Seventh Maiden Goddess” (Chi-Niang- Ma) and “coming-of-sixteen” (“adulthood ceremony” in folk custom) on the Seventh Eve . In Taiwan, the Seventh Eve is developed creatively to “Chinese Valentine’s Day” and “coming-of-sixteen”. “Chinese Valentine’s Day” in Yilan County and “Art Festival of the Seventh Eve and coming-of-sixteen” in Tainan City are two best examples. Since these two cities promote the customs on the Seventh Eve with efforts, other cities also follow their examples. Thus, the Seventh Eve in Taiwan is exciting and interesting.

Keywords: Taiwan, Chinese Valentine’s Day, the Seventh Eve, the Cowherd and the Girl Weaver, Seventh Maiden Goddess, Festival to Plead for Skills, coming-of-sixteen, Valentine’s Day, adulthood ceremony, art festival

情人節與成年禮——台灣七夕習俗的傳統與現況
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摘要：

在這個演講中，我將介紹七夕習俗的起源和演變，以及現在台灣社會在七夕這一天的民俗活動，並且討論它的意義。七夕的起源，和牛郎織女的愛情故事有關。中國古代的七夕習俗，以女性參加的「乞巧會」為主，到唐宋時代，又增加了向織女神祈求婚姻與子嗣的意涵。明清時代以後，閩南和台灣開始流傳七夕拜「七娘媽」和「做十六歲」（民間的「成年禮」儀式）的習俗。在台灣，「七夕情

人節」和「做十六歲」的習俗都有很創新的發展，可以用宜蘭縣的「七夕情人節」和台南市的「七夕十六歲藝術節」作代表。因為這兩個縣市努力推廣七夕的民俗文化，所以其他縣市也都分別跟進，使台灣七夕的節日氣氛非常熱鬧，活潑有趣。

關鍵字：台灣 七夕 七月七日 牛郎織女 七娘媽 乞巧會 做十六歲 情人節
成年禮 藝術節