



在農曆除夕，地方社會有放炮竹的傳統，傳說是要驅走「年獸」。在儀式上，炮竹的爆炸聲有一個驅邪的功用。除夕的炮竹標示著新一年的開始。不過，基於炮竹爆炸的危險，香港已禁止燃放炮竹。

On Lunar New Year's Eve, there is a tradition to let off firecrackers, which, legend has it, frightened away a fearsome monster called nian. In ceremonial rituals, the sound of exploding firecrackers is a ritual marker, presaging the dawn of a new year. However, because of safety concerns, firecrackers are banned in Hong Kong today.



人們相信新年時在家中或店舖內擺放花卉，寓意吉祥，帶來好運。歲晚時，香港不同地方都設有臨時之「年宵花市」，售賣年花。盆栽小桔樹，有大吉大利的意思。

Displaying flowers in homes and shops is believed to be auspicious at the passing of the year. Building up to a climax on New Year's Eve, flower markets with trees and plants for sale are open in many places around Hong Kong. Bright green bushes laden with tiny oranges are much sought-after, since its homophones mean "gold" and "lucky".



農曆年初二是「開年」，晚上在維多利亞港舉行之煙花匯演，吸引數十萬人觀賞。

The fireworks display staged in Victoria Harbour on the evening of the second day of Lunar New Year, kainian (beginning of the year), attracts hundreds of thousands of spectators.



1996年開始，市區有花車巡遊活動，慶祝新年，這是2002年巡遊中的京劇面譜花車。

Since 1996, parades of well-decorated floats have been organized to celebrate the Lunar New Year. This is the Peking Opera Masquerade Float at the 2002 parade.



傳統的舞金龍活動是巡遊中的一個重要項目。

The traditional golden dragon dance is a key programme of the annual parade.



每年農曆正月十五日，市區不同地方都舉辦元宵花燈會，把傳統藝術帶到市民眼前，十多米高的花燈與中環的高樓大廈相映成趣。

Held in many places around Hong Kong on the 15th day of the first lunar month, lantern carnivals manifesting traditional paper-crafts have caught on successfully in the city. This 10-metre lantern stands in contrast to the high-rise buildings in the Central District.



桃花樹可以花瓶栽養一段長時間。桃花樹枝茂盛，花蕾眾多，寓意花開富貴。桃花亦寓意姻緣，是流行之年花。

Peach branches can be kept in a vase for a relatively long time. Peach branches are adorned with lots of flower buds which, when they blossom, signify openness to all the good of the New Year. As the peach blossom also heralds love and marriage, it is the favourite plant to buy at Lunar New Year.



農曆正月十五日，鄉村社會舉行點燈儀式，懸掛代表新添男丁的花燈。花燈之下，桌面的是添丁家庭供奉神明及祖先之祭品。

On the 15th day of the first lunar month, rural communities hold the Lantern-lighting Ceremony, in which lanterns representing the boys born in the village during the past year are hung in the ancestral hall. Beneath the lanterns are offerings to the deities and ancestors by the new born sons' families.



每一個花燈下面都繫有字條，寫上男丁名字，並繫著帶葉小桔子、柏樹葉、紅封包及古錢等吉祥物品，希望為小孩帶來好運。

Tied to the bottom of each lantern is a paper note, on which the name of the baby boy is written, and auspicious objects including tiny tangerines with leaves, cypress tree leaves, red packets and antique coins.



母親教導小孩欣賞傳統花燈。

A mother with her children at the lantern carnival.



工作人員古裝打扮，為花燈會營造傳統氣氛。

Carnival staff dressed up in period costumes to add a traditional touch to the lantern festival.



新生嬰兒穿上傳統服飾，參加點燈儀式。

The baby boy is dressed in traditional clothes to attend the Lantern-lighting Ceremony.



雖然點燈儀式只為男丁而設，小女孩也穿起傳統服飾參與弟弟的儀式。

Although the Lantern-lighting Ceremony is only held for boys, little girls in traditional costumes also take part in their brothers' celebration.



元朗錦田鄧氏宗族的點燈儀式，以一個懸掛於祠堂中央的大花燈為代表。大花燈內，安放了與新添男丁同等數目的油燈。

The Lantern-lighting Ceremony at the Tang Ancestral Hall of Kam Tin, Yuen Long, is characterized by a large lantern hung at the centre of the hall. The same number of oil lamps as the boys born in the village during the past year is placed inside the large lantern.



祠堂的點燈儀式結束後，男丁的家長將代表新生男嬰的油燈放在米斗內，接回家中。這樣祠堂的香火，便在族人家中延續。

After the Lantern-lighting Ceremony in the ancestral hall, the parents carry the burning oil lamp home by keeping it inside a rice hopper. Then the fire, symbolizing the family line, is being extended from the ancestral hall to individual families.



男丁家人準備精緻的食品供奉祖先。在點燈儀式後，宗族成員一起享用，佐以稀飯，稱為「吃燈粥」。

Families with boys born during the past year are preparing gourmet delicacies for their ancestors. After the Lantern-lighting Ceremony, members of the lineage gather for a special meal served with rice congee.