

《关于清明节的中国古诗 (I) Qingming Festival in ancient Chinese poems (I)》



[Photo/IC]

The Qingming Festival, or Tomb-Sweeping Day (清明节, q ī ng m í ng ji é), is an important festival in China when people offer sacrifices to their ancestors (祭祖, j ì z ǔ). It falls on April 4 this year.

In ancient times, the festival prompted poets to compose about their grief regarding the lingering cold in spring and emotional moments while mourning the deceased (哀悼逝者, ā i d à o sh ì zh ě).

Here are some famous lines from poems in the Tang and Song Dynasties (618-1279) remembering the day. The English translations used in this article are from noted Chinese translator Xu Yuanchong (许渊冲, x ū yu ā n ch ō ng).



《清明》

杜牧

清明时节雨纷纷，路上行人欲断魂。
借问酒家何处有？牧童遥指杏花村。

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The Mourning Day

The Mourning Day, written by famed Tang Dynasty poet Du Mu (803-852), is one of the most well-known poems relating to the Qingming Festival. It reads:

A drizzling rain falls like tears on the Mourning Day;

The mourner's heart is going to break on his way.

Where can a wine shop be found to drown his sad hours?

A cowherd points to a cot 'mid apricot flowers.

q ī ng m í ng

清明

táng · dù mù
唐 · 杜牧

qīng míng shí jié yǔ fēn fēn,
清明时节雨纷纷，
lù shàng xíng rén yù duàn hún。
路上行人欲断魂。
jiè wèn jiǔ jiā hé chù yǒu,
借问酒家何处有，
mù tóng yáo zhǐ xìng huā cūn。
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